

Town Board Meeting Minutes

Town of Onondaga

October 6, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Onondaga met at a regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2025, at the Town of Onondaga Town Hall, 5020 Ball Road, Syracuse, New York.

Present:	Supervisor	John P. Mahar
	Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi
	Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin
	Councilor	Mary K. Ryan
	Councilor	John Wheatley
	Town Attorney	Richard Andino
	Town Engineer	Bill Perrine
	Town Clerk	Janet Hillery

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Town Historian - Natalie Dardaris

Town Historian Natalie Dardaris was present and reported that drones may be spotted throughout the Town of Onondaga for the creation of a video that will be based on ***James Tracy's 1998 Bicentennial Tour***. She wanted to make everyone aware that the drones are being used for this purpose, and not to be alarmed. James Tracy's original video tour will be updated and will include current and lost hamlets. Ms. Dardaris also stated that it will include vintage photos and videos, and they even have their own song "The Onondaga Song", which was written by a local acquaintance. This video will include dialogue that highlights old diaries, letters and newspaper articles that were found. The drones will be traveling over Pleasant Valley, Split Rock, Veteran's Cemetery, Beak and Skiff, and other areas throughout the Town. Ms. Dardaris stated that 13 Curves has already been filmed using a GoPro. Ms. Dardaris also stated that she and the crew may need to come into her office after normal work hours to record voices and compile the video. She also said that the project should take 6-8 months to complete.

3. Onondaga County Legislator Rich McCarron - Leading Lead Program

Onondaga County Legislator Rich McCarron reported that October 19-25th is National Lead Prevention Week. He pointed out that in Onondaga County, we have increasingly high numbers of children who are testing positive for elevated blood levels (EBL's) of lead, which can lead to learning disabilities and long-term medical problems. In the Town of Onondaga, the highest concentration of homes with lead-based paint is in the Nedrow community, as a large concentration of those homes were built prior to 1978, before the lead-based paint restrictions were in effect. Legislator McCarron said that he and the Town of Onondaga Town Board decided to do a program called "Leading on Lead", on October 22nd from 4-6 p.m. The event is being hosted generously by the Nedrow Fire Department and will be partnering with the Onondaga County Health Department's *Lead Poisoning Prevention Division*. There will be information on home lead inspections, grant programs, training opportunities, and the new *Lead Registry*. He also said that there will be specific categories for homeowners, renters and landlords. There will be games and pumpkin painting for the kids, with help from some of the OCS students. Legislator McCarron expressed his appreciation for assistance from OCS Superintendent Robert Price, and the Town Board for taking the initiative on this and getting ahead of a potential crisis in our community.

4. Walnut Grove Cemetery Update – Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin

Town Councilor Lisa Goodwin reported that recently she received a letter from the Walnut Grove Cemetery Association that she wanted to share. She said that five years ago, the Walnut Grove Cemetery was on the verge of being turned over to the Town, but fortunately never had to cross that bridge. A meeting was held with the NY State Division of Cemeteries, and a board was formed. After five years of working on this and compiling information, they recently met with the accountant of the NYS Division of Cemeteries, and they passed overwhelmingly. However, it was discovered they did not have an EIN in place, were *not* considered a not-for-profit, and did not have a 501C3. They are awaiting getting their EIN, then they can apply for the 501C3. Two years ago, the Cemetery Association was awarded \$64,000 of grant money from the NYS Division of Cemeteries for restoration and resetting of 78 leaning, loose monuments, many of which have been restored and secured. They are hoping to apply for another grant in 2026. **Town Historian Natalie Dardaris** informed everyone of an upcoming event "**Cemetery 101**", to be held at the Town Hall in the rear expansion room on 10/14 from 4-7:30 in conjunction with the NYS Division of Cemeteries. The event will provide information on cemetery

associations, forming an association, recordkeeping, and everything that goes along with managing a cemetery. Discussion took place about publicizing the information.

5. Highway Superintendent’s Report

Town Supervisor John Mahar provided a report on behalf of Highway Superintendent John Smith, as he was excused from the meeting. Supervisor Mahar reported that the last two weeks of fall cleanup are underway, and a full numbers report will be provided at the end of the season. The second round of mowing is complete, and they are continuing with tree trimming and sign work. Concrete and drainage work are being completed and will continue weather permitting.

6. Codes Officer’s Report

Codes Office Director, Jeff Herrick, was present and reported that since the last report in September, 20 new permits were issued for pools, decks and houses, and there have been 21 calls for service - mostly inspections. There have been 6 fire inspections, one of which was Van Duyn Nursing Home, which was a very large project, and credits Codes Officer John Raflowski and Codes Inspector Tucker Geiss, who spent two weeks getting that done. Mr. Herrick also reported that the Town Hall was inspected last week and there were no major violations, other than some out-of-date fire extinguishers, and said that they will be going over to the Parks and Highway Departments next. He also reported that Doyle Security will be here on 10/15 and 10/16 for their annual inspections as part of their contractual agreement.

Codes Director Herrick also reported that all required board approvals have been granted for the **Castlebar Circle Project**, and they are ready for site plan approval from the Town Board to allow the issuance of a building permit. Supervisor Mahar stated that there is a condition that needs to be included in the site plan approval, pertaining to the revised site plan set of documents as there are still engineering comments that need to be addressed, as well as the FEMA study of the creek. The following resolution resulted:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Wheatley who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Goodwin to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board grant site plan approval and authorize the Supervisor to sign the site plan documents, conditioned upon the Town Engineer’s review and approval of outstanding items, including but not limited to revised site plan drawings, a full SWPPP, revised drainage report, and FEMA analysis of Hopper Brook; to Tim O’Connell for the Castlebar Circle project.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

It was discussed that the proposed date of construction would be April 1, 2026.

Town Engineer Bill Perrine stated that the Town Code allows the Codes Office to act as flood plain administrator which may result in the need for a permit. Codes Director Herrick said he would get the information to Mr. Perrine for review.

Codes Director Herrick also reported that Bob Lavine, owner of **Boom Boom Mex Mex**, was present and is requesting Town Board approval for a sign. Mr. Herrick stated that Ch. 285-34 E(2) of the Town Code requires that any sign larger than 25 sq. ft. needs Town Board approval. Mr. Levine plans to update his sign that is mounted on the east side of the building with a digital sign upgrade. Mr. Herrick stated that he inspected it and it meets the Code for a mounted sign. It is an electronic non-flashing sign

with dimensions of 25" X 176", which equates to a little over 30 sq. ft. Town Board discussion took place about whether an electronic sign is allowed for anyone other than emergency services. Supervisor Mahar said that this will need to be tabled until consultation with counsel takes place, as a local law was passed by this existing Town Board stating that only **emergency services** are allowed to have electronic signs.

Codes Director Herrick reported that he is waiting for three quotes for installation of bullards to be installed in front of the EV charging stations, which provide a barrier to prevent cars from running into the charging stations. Discussion took place about whether to open these up for use before the bullards are installed and it was determined it would be best to wait until they are installed to prevent damage. Mr. Herrick also reported that per Judy DeGarie at the energy consortium, we pay \$.14 per kilowatt hour, and our charge will be \$.40 per kilowatt hour. The Town will make roughly \$4/hr., only when in use. After 30 days of usage, we will revisit the plan. Apps will be utilized such as PlugShare, Powerflex Charging, Apple Charge, and Google Charging App, and that Most EV users are attached to Plug Share. Mr. Herrick stated that the entity that will be collecting the money is Powerflex, and they will send us a quarterly check. Councilor Goodwin asked if there would be a charge when not in use, and Mr. Herrick said that there would not be.

Mr. Herrick also reported that the "petting zoo" issue on West Roswell Road in Nedrow has resolved itself. The only animal remaining on the property is a pig. The homeowner says he is a pet and has his own sleeping quarters in the house.

7. Parks and Recreation Director’s Report

Parks and Recreation Director Charry Lawson reported that the light in the back parking lot of the Senior Center was recently installed by Myriad Electric. Ms. Lawson said she received a check for projects from 2023 in the amount of \$6,655.96 from the County, and received a check from projects initiated in 2024 in the amount of \$33,884.00.

Parks Director Lawson requested the following resolution:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Goodwin and seconded by Councilor Ryan to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board approve the contract with Bruce Electric to complete the Santaro Park lighting project for the bathrooms and some of the parking lot lights, in the amount of \$6,827.66 as part of this year’s Community Development projects.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Parks Director Lawson also pointed out that the supplier to Bruce Electric is women owned, which aids in meeting our compliance requirements. Ms. Lawson also reported that they are in the process of trying to get the Senior Center dining room hardwood floors refinished but she is having a hard time getting quotes. Supervisor Mahar stated that he would try and get her some names.

8. Engineer’s Report

Town Engineer Bill Perrine reported that the binder course and gutters are complete in Crown Point Ext. 4, and they are looking at installing the top course of Sec. 5A this week. Mr. Perrine stated that he will coordinate with counsel to begin the one-year warranty period, which will be presented at an upcoming Town Board meeting. He also reported that they are still working on finishing the punch list for Woodridge Heights and Green Hills Manor, and are likely trying to get the infrastructure approval complete before January 2026. Lastly, he said that he will coordinate CHIPS funding with Highway Superintendent John Smith and counsel. Right now, the only subdivision to be entered this year is Crown Point Extension Section 5B. Velasko Village Section 2 may also be added.

9. Committee Reports

Fire and Safety Committee member Mary Ryan requested a resolution for a retired FDNY member who is returning to the Howlett Hill Fire Department where he began his firefighting career. A letter was sent to the Town from the Howlett Hill Fire Department President, Frank Valls, stating that Mr. Boyle would provide a wealth of knowledge, experience and inspiration to youth Cadet Program members, and that the department would like to accept him as a social member. The following resolution resulted:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Ryan** who moved its adoption, seconded by **Councilor Fedrizzi** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Onondaga Town Board approve the following new member who was accepted into membership by the **Howlett Hill Fire Department**:

Name	Address	Status
Joseph Boyle	Manor Hill Drive, Syr	Social

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

10. Budget Modifications

Town Supervisor John Mahar requested the following budget modifications:

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by **Councilor Goodwin** and seconded by **Councilor Ryan** to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board authorize the following budget transfers and budget modifications:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	
A1990.4 Contingency	A1110.102 Chief Judicial Clerk	\$ 4,283	
A1990.4 Contingency	A1220.103 Supervisors Secretary	\$ 1,612	
A1990.4 Contingency	A5010.103 Highway Secretary	\$ 2,655	
A1990.4 Contingency	A8810.4 Cemetery Maint & Repair	\$ 50	
A1990.4 Contingency	A3650.402 High Vegetation	\$ 1,700	
A3620.2 Equipment	A3650.402 High Vegetation	\$ 210	
A1420.403 General Litigation	A8810.401 Zoning Board Legal Fees	\$ 10,000	
A599 Appropriated Fund Balance	A1440.403 Special Projects Engineering	40,000.00	Comprehensive Plan
A599 Appropriated Fund Balance	A1620.403 Repair & Maintenance	26,101.20	LED Lighting Project
		66,101.20	

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

11. Minutes Approval – 9/15/25

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Councilor Wheatley and seconded by Councilor Fedrizzi to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board approve the meeting minutes of the 9/15/25 Town Board meeting, as prepared by the Town Clerk.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

12. Public Hearing Local Law D-2025 – Tax Levy Limit Override

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Mahar and seconded by Councilor Wheatley to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board open the Public Hearing pertaining to proposed Local Law D -2025.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

No one was in attendance to provide comment on proposed Local Law D-2025. Town Attorney Richard Andino provided an overview stating that this will provide the option, if necessary, to exceed the existing tax levy limit.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Mahar and seconded by Councilor Goodwin to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onondaga Town Board close the Public Hearing pertaining to proposed Local Law D -2025.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

TOWN OF ONONDAGA
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

October 6, 2025

TOWN OF ONONDAGA LOCAL LAW NO. D OF 2025

(“A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established
in General Municipal Law § 3-C in the Town of Onondaga”)

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Mahar who moved its adoption, seconded by Councilor Ryan , to wit:

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law, a proposed local law titled Local Law No. D-2025, “A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c in the Town of Onondaga,” was presented and introduced at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga held on September 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on such proposed local law on this 6th day of October, 2025, by the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga and proof of publication of notice of such public hearing, as required by law, having been submitted and filed, and all persons desiring to be heard in connection with said proposed local law having been heard, and said proposed local law having been in the possession of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga in its final form in the manner required by Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of Local Law No. D-2025 has previously been determined to be an unlisted action and will have no significant effect on the environment thus concluding the SEQR review process; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to enact said Local Law No. D-2025.
NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga, Onondaga County, New York, does hereby enact Local Law No. D-2025 as Local Law No. 2-2025 as follows:

“TOWN OF ONONDAGA
LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2025

A LOCAL LAW OVERRIDING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTABLISHED
IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 3-C IN THE TOWN OF ONONDAGA

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Onondaga as follows:

SECTION 1. **LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

It is the intent of this local law to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Town of Onondaga, County of Onondaga pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, and to allow the Town of Onondaga to adopt a Town budget for (a) Town purposes; (b) fire protection districts; and (c) any other special or improvement district governed by the Town Board for the fiscal year 2026, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by the General Municipal Law § 3-c.

SECTION 2. **AUTHORITY**

This local law is adopted pursuant to Subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law § 3-c, which expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

SECTION 3. **TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE**

The Town Board of the Town of Onondaga, County of Onondaga, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2026 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the limit specified in General Municipal Law § 3-c.

SECTION 4. **SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operations to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section, article, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

SECTION 5. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.”

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

13. Abstract Approval

The following Abstracts were audited and approved for payment on 10/06/25:

- All General Fund Accounts, Abstract No 19, numbers 885 through 954 inclusive, totaling \$73,446.54.
- All Highway Fund Accounts, Abstract No. 19, numbers 395 through 414 inclusive, totaling \$434,941.05.
- All Parks Fund Accounts on Abstract No. 19, numbers 153 through 164 inclusive, totaling \$2,835.40.
- All Sewer Accounts on Abstract No. 16, numbers 27 through 28 inclusive, totaling \$1,529.39.
- All Consolidated Drainage Accounts on Abstract No. 13, numbers 22 through 24 inclusive, totaling \$6,165.00.
- All Trust & Agency Accounts on Abstract No. 11, totaling \$18,439.18.

TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION

The following resolution was offered by Supervisor Mahar and seconded by Councilor Wheatley to wit:

BE IT RESOLVED, that there being no further business to come before the Town of Onondaga Town Board, the *Regular Meeting* of the Town Board be adjourned.

The question of the enactment of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilor	Kathy Fedrizzi	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Lisa M. Goodwin	Voted	Yes
Councilor	Mary K. Ryan	Voted	Yes
Councilor	John Wheatley	Voted	Yes
Supervisor	John P. Mahar	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

The Regular Meeting of the Town of Onondaga Town Board adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Janet J. Hillery
Town Clerk