



**Town of Oneonta
TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
February 12, 2025
07:00PM**

The regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on February 12, 2025, with the following members present:

Interim Supervisor:	Brett Holleran	(BH)
Town Board Member:	Kim Fierke	(KF)
Town Board Member:	Joseph M. Camarata	(JCM)
Town Board Member:	Patricia Riddell Kent	(PRK)
Town Clerk:	Ryan F. Pereira	
Town Attorney:	Robert Panasci	

Others present: Gordon Hockins; Sharon Corrado; Theresa Cyzeski; Dave DeClue; Caroline Williams, SUNY Oneonta; Danielle Basso, Steamstress & Co.; Walt Schmitt; David Koehn; Dale Webster.

After the pledge of allegiance, Interim Supervisor Brett Holleran, announced Supervisor Randal Mowers’ resignation citing medical concerns, as Mr. Holleran will be assuming duties of the position until the end of the year. Mr. Holleran referenced an article in the Daily Star, highlighting Mr. Mowers’ accomplishments.

“Privilege of the floor”

Danielle Basso, Steampunk EXPO Event at Fortin Park

- The 2023 Steampunk EXPO was a success, attracting 1200 consumers, 100 vendors, 7 food vendors, and 5 musical acts.
- The event organizer plans to repeat the event on May 10th, aiming for warmer weather and hoping to build on the previous year's success.
- Collaborations with Destination Oneonta and the Otego Fire Department auxiliary are being explored for the upcoming event.

Public Hearing – IOXUS CDBG GRANT – Jody Zakrevsky, Otsego NOW; the purpose of which, hearing public comments on the Town of Oneonta’s community development needs, and to discuss the status of the IOXUS CDBG Grant. The CDBG program is administered by the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$15 million for the 2024/5 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income persons. The hearing will provide further information about the CDBG program and will allow for citizen participation in the development of any proposed grant applications and/or to provide technical assistance to develop alternative proposals. Comments on the CDBG program or proposed project(s) will be received at this time. The hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 570.486, Subpart I of the CFR and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

RESOLUTION 2025-0023 (07:15) Motion by PRK, seconded by JCM;

Whereas the Town Board votes to open public hearing of the CDBG grant;
Whereas the grant awarded to IOXUS, requires a second public hearing;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	_X_	___
Kim Fierke	Board Member	_X_	___
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	_X_	___
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	_X_	___

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-0024 (07:17) Motion by BH, seconded by JCM;

Whereas the Town Board votes to close public hearing of the CDBG grant;

Whereas the grant awarded to IOXUS, requires a second public hearing;
 Now therefore be it resolved;
 The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	_X_	___
Kim Fierke	Board Member	_X_	___
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	_X_	___
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	_X_	___

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

Michelle Catan, County Representative, speaking on behalf of Otsego NOW, highlighted the \$750,000 IOXUS CDBG grant’s proposed goal of retaining 21 existing jobs and creating 30 new positions; 31 new positions were actually created. A second public hearing is required to report the project's success, which involved job creation and provides grant closure.

Initial Resolution from March 9, 2022 meeting:

2022-23 ~ Motion was made by Holleran, seconded by Thompson to approve the resolution to authorize submission of application.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0

BH

ST

Motion Carried

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE SUBMISSION OF A CDBG SMALL CITIES GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF SYSTEMATIC POWER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta has held a public hearing to solicit comments on the Town of Oneonta's community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant {CDBG} applications for the 2022 program year; and

WHEREAS, Systematic Power Systems (dba loxus) is looking to expand its manufacturing operations in the Town of Oneonta and would provide additional employment at it Oneonta facilities which would be made available to persons of low and moderate income; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board fully supports Systematic Power Systems' (loxus) efforts; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Oneonta Board authorizes the submission of a grant application to the NYS Division of Homes and Community Renewal in the amount of \$750,000 for the expansion of Systematic Power Systems (loxus); and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor and Otsego Now are hereby authorized to act on all matters related to the submission of the grant application on behalf of the Town.

Public Hearing – Blighted Properties Legislation – regarding a proposed Local Law to address blighted properties, as it is the intention of the Town Board of Oneonta to protect the public health, safety and welfare by authorizing the establishment of procedures to identify, abate and eliminate the presence of blight upon properties throughout the Town.

RESOLUTION 2025-0025 (07:18)

Motion by KE, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to open public hearing;
 Whereas the Town Board will hear public comment regarding the proposed legislation addressing blighted properties;
 Now therefore be it resolved;
 The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	_X_	___
Kim Fierke	Board Member	_X_	___
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	_X_	___
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	_X_	___

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

Blighted Properties Legislation Public Hearing Discussion

The legislation aims to address issues with properties that the community and board members find problematic.

The proposed law resulted from community frustration and a lack of sufficient existing codes to handle such properties.

Resident Rich Harlem spoke in favor of the proposed legislation, while another, David Koehn urged caution and concern with areas of the proposed legislation. The board agreed more time was necessary to discuss potential changes to the legislation and decided to leave the public hearing comment period open for public comment.

RESOLUTION 2025-0026 (07:57)

Motion by PRK, seconded by KF;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve Plains Water & Sewer rates;

Whereas the Town Board will hear public comment regarding the proposed legislation addressing blighted properties;

Now therefore be it resolved;

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

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

Town of Oneonta Plains Water District		
Type	Year	Rate
Residential		
\$387 Minimum / 37,000 Gallons	2025	0.0115
	2024	0.0092
	Difference	0.0023 increase
Commercial		
\$1,158 / 37,000 Gallons	2025	0.0313
	2024	0.0200
	Difference	0.0113 increase

Water Meter Replacement Update

- A grant-funded water meter replacement project is underway, with work completed in Plains and ongoing in Woodland districts.
- The project is currently at the halfway point.

Water Line and Tank Update

- A contractor will cap a pipe from the old Woodland water tank, potentially resolving brown water issues.
- Additional capping required at the open pump outside the old pump house.

Truck Procurement and Compliance Agreement

- A letter was signed to confirm that town highway vehicles are being used for road plowing and are not eligible for electric vehicle programs.
- The agreement signing was necessary to proceed with current planned truck purchase.
- The truck purchase was delayed until the compliance agreement was signed.

Shared Services - GIS System

- A shared services meeting with the City of Oneonta, showcased a comprehensive GIS system mapping infrastructure, including gas, water, sewer lines, and streetlights, accessible via mobile devices.

RESOLUTION 2025-0027 (08:02)

Motion by KF, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve of contracts for B&L AND NYS DOT Contract#Do41483 Bridge NY Winney Hill Over Butler Creek 9755.91;

Now therefore be it resolved contracts to be submitted concurrently;

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

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	_____
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	_____
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	_____
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	_____

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

A resolution authorizing the implementation and funding 100% of the costs of a transportation project, of which qualified costs will be reimbursed from Bridge NY funds.

WHEREAS, a project for the culvert replacement on Blanchard Avenue over Butler Creek tributary, Town of Oneonta, County of Otsego, P.I.N. 9755.53 (the "Project") is eligible for reimbursement of qualified costs from Bridge NY funding that calls for the post-reimbursement apportionment of the qualified costs to be borne at the ratio of 100% Bridge NY funds and 0% non-Bridge NY funds; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta will design, let, and administer all phases of the Project.

WHEREAS, the Town of Oneonta desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the costs of the Preliminary Engineering/Design, Right-of-Way Incidentals, Right-of-Way Acquisition and Construction/Construction Support/Construction Inspection work for the Project or portions thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board, duly convened does hereby

RESOLVE, that the Town Board hereby approves the Project; and it is hereby further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town of Oneonta to pay 100% of the cost of the Preliminary Engineering/Design, Right-of-Way Incidentals, Right-of-Way Acquisition and Construction/Construction Support/Construction Inspection work for the Project or portions thereof, with the understanding that qualified costs will be reimbursed from Bridge NY funding; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$1,332,000 is hereby appropriated from the Highway Fund and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby agrees that the Town of Oneonta shall be responsible for all costs of the Project, including costs which exceed the amount of the reimbursement available from the NY Bridge Funding awarded to the Town of Oneonta; and it is further

RESOLVED, that in the event the costs of the Project exceed the amount appropriated above, the Town Board shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the Town Supervisor of the Town of Oneonta; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby agrees that the Town of Oneonta hereby commits that construction of the Project shall begin no later than twenty-four (24) months after award and the construction phase of the Project shall be completed within thirty (30) months; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor of the Town of Oneonta be and is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests with NYSDOT for State Aid and/or Bridge NY funding on behalf of the Town of Oneonta in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the municipality's funding of the Project costs; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Oneonta will be responsible for all maintenance of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION 2025-0028 (08:15) _____ Motion by PRK, seconded by KF;

Whereas the Town Board votes to pay \$5,500 to the Town of Unadilla for a truck mounted road salter;

Whereas the Town Board votes to accept \$10,000 from Wilber Clark Enterprises;
Whereas the funds will be used for services rendered by Lamont Engineering;
Whereas Lamont will enter into agreement for services with Emmons Farms Estates;
Whereas additional funds will be sought by the board should they be required as per terms in the agreement;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Title, AYE, NAY. Rows include Patricia Riddell Kent, Kim Fierke, Joseph M. Camarata, and Brett D. Holleran.

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.
VOTE AYES (4) AIF MOTION CARRIED

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve of a Request for Proposal;
Whereas the town is seeking to replace the town pool located at Greater Plains School for the coming season;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Title, AYE, NAY. Rows include Patricia Riddell Kent, Kim Fierke, Joseph M. Camarata, and Brett D. Holleran.

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.
VOTE AYES (4) AIF MOTION CARRIED

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve of the Pool Director – Recreation Director job description;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Title, AYE, NAY. Rows include Patricia Riddell Kent, Kim Fierke, Joseph M. Camarata, and Brett D. Holleran.

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.
VOTE AYES (4) AIF MOTION CARRIED

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve excess sick time hold over;
Whereas the Town Board will allow Paul Neske to retain sick leave time;
Whereas time accumulated upon retirement to be used in exchange for town paid health insurance until such time is exhausted.
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Title, AYE, NAY. Rows include Patricia Riddell Kent, Kim Fierke, Joseph M. Camarata, and Brett D. Holleran.

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.
VOTE AYES (4) AIF MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-0036 (08:50)

Motion by KF, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve NYS Community Development Block Grant pre-submission certification form;
Whereas applicant Randy Thorsland, dba/ Southern Comfort Smoke House & Creamery, applying for funding;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-0037 (08:53)

Motion by BH, seconded by JCM;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve the “Expression of Interest”;
Whereas the town will apply for funding through the NYS County Infrastructure Grant;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

Brief Project Description: Town of Oneonta would like to replace the asbestos cement and PVC piping in the Woodland Water District and extend the piping and District across County Rte. 47. The project will support additional senior housing at St. James Manor and promote 10-20 units of housing development across County Rte. 47 along County Rte. 58.

RESOLUTION 2025-0038 (08:54)

Motion by PRK, seconded by BH;

Whereas the Town Board votes to accept the minutes of the January meetings;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-0039 (08:55)

Motion by KF, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to accept payment of the bills;
Now therefore be it resolved;
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote, and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Kim Fierke	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2025-0040 (09:04)

Motion by BH, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to adjourn;

Whereas the Town Board having no further business;

Now therefore be it resolved;

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

		AYE	NAY
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	_X_	___
Kim Fierke	Board Member	_X_	___
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	_X_	___
Brett D. Holleran	Interim Supervisor	_X_	___

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

VOTE AYES (4) AIF

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan F. Pereira
Oneonta Town Clerk