



**Legislative Committee Meeting: Monday, January 5, 2026
(Next Meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026, 4:30 pm.)**

Minutes

Town of Oneonta

Town Board

Legislative Committee

Monday January 5, 2026

Present for the Legislative Committee Meeting:

Town Board Members Present: Will Rivera- Town Supervisor, Patricia Riddell-Kent- Town Council Member, Brett Holleran- Town Council Member, Teresa DeSantis- Town Council Member

Excused: Joe Camarata

Members of the Public: Dave Koehn

The Town of Oneonta Town Board- Legislative Committee- Regular Meeting opened at 5:53 PM. For this opening meeting of the year, Town Supervisor Will Rivera led the discussion.

The following items were proposed by the Town Supervisor for discussion and consideration:

- Short-term rentals**
- Email Letter dated 1-2-26 from Justice Sean Farrell regarding short-term rental**
- Proposal to start a Housing Commission/Housing Committee**
- Zoning/Code -Potential Updates**
- Proposal to start a Budget Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee.**
- Creation of the Town Board Regular Meeting Agenda and Town Board meeting rules.**
- Proposal to have all Town Board Members as a group conduct the monthly expense audit of the payment of the bill vouchers.**
- Training updates and training procedures**



Short Term Rentals:

Town Supervisor Will Rivera noted that the Town has been working on the topic of Short Term Rentals for quite some time. An Ad-Hoc Committee, headed up by Town Board Member Kim Fierke, met last year for at least 6 months to consider the topic. This culminated in a public presentation of the report summary by Ms. Fierke in the November 12, 2025 Town Board meeting. Mr. Rivera noted that an email letter of concern dated 1-2-26 regarding short term rentals was sent to the Town Board by Justice Sean Farrell. A long discussion followed on the presence of short term rentals in the Town, and their effect on the community as a whole. One idea brought up by Town Board Member Brett Holleran was to provide a list of the owners and contact information for short term rentals and make it available on the Town's Website. This way, if a neighbor had a noise complaint or concern on a short term rental, they could look it up using the Town Website. This would provide more transparency to the public. It was concluded that the topic of Short Term Rentals was an important topic and should be given priority concern in the coming year.

On Other Legislative Concerns:

Town citizen and resident David Koehn, who was in attendance at the Committee meeting, mentioned his and the Town citizen's interest that the Town Board follow up on reviewing and updating the regulations concerning campgrounds in the Town's Zoning Code.

Proposal to start a Housing Commission/Housing Committee:

Town Supervisor Will Rivera proposed setting up a Housing Commission or Housing Committee. A discussion followed over what would be the scope of the committee. Will proposed a wide scope for the committee, but Brett felt that a more narrow scope for the committee would work better. Teresa mentioned her interest in helping the Town create new housing and affordable housing units. It was agreed that the most pressing issue at this time is Short Term Rentals, and



this should be dealt with first. Town Board Member Patricia Riddell- Kent mentioned that she had sent the background summary data to the Short Term Rental report composed by Ms. Fierke to the Town Board Members earlier in the day. Town Supervisor Will Rivera also sent over a powerpoint from NYS DOS on Short Term Rentals for Board members to review. It was agreed that Town Board members should review this data over the coming days and it will be discussed again once the data it has been fully reviewed and digested by the Town Board Members.

Zoning/Code -Potential Updates:

Town Supervisor Will Rivera proposed the general topic of Zoning/Code and potential updates, as something for the Committee members to think about.

Proposal to start a Budget Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee:

Town Supervisor Will Rivera proposed the starting of a Budget Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee. The Budget Committee would help the Town gain further input and guidance into the Town's budget process. He felt it would streamline the process. Town Board member Teresa DeSantis expressed some hesitancy, stating that if the Town Board itself started work on the budget process earlier- starting in August- it would alleviate the problem of the last minute Budget rush.

Town Supervisor Will Rivera also suggested the creation of a new Citizen's Advisory Committee. He felt that it would help the Town Board gain input and insight from its citizens into key issues and concerns in the Town.

Town Board Regular Meeting Agenda and Town Board meeting rules:

The Town Supervisor also proposed improving the process of generating the Town Board Meeting Agenda and the generation of Town Board meeting rules/guidelines.

Proposal to have all Town Board Members as a group conduct the monthly expense audit of the payment of the bill vouchers:

Town Supervisor Will Rivera proposed that all the Town Board members as a whole conduct the monthly audit of the bills and payment of the vouchers. Right



now, there is a rotating team of two Town Board members that audits the vouchers on a monthly basis.

Some Town Board members expressed hesitancy. Town Board Member Teresa DeSantis felt this was a good idea, as she has seen this method work effectively in other Towns she has worked at.

Training updates and training procedures:

The importance of sending Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board members to training, and the general importance of training for Town Officials and Town Employees was discussed. The Town supports the training of its Officials and Employees. The importance of going to training, and tracking training hours was discussed. Note that many good training opportunities are coming up this spring with the Association of Towns, OSC (Office of the State Comptroller), New York Planning Federation, and Otsego County Planning Department that Town representatives can take advantage of.

The Town of Oneonta Legislative Committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted- Teresa DeSantis Town of Oneonta- Town Council Member