Executive Committee
Robert Sauer, *Chair*
Thomas McDonald, *Vice-Chair*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*
Pamela Dibble, *Director*

Municipal Projects Coordinator
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NOCCOG
NORTHERN ONEIDA COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

MINUTES

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026, 12:30 pm
Prospect Free Library

Present: Chair, Bob Sauer (BS), Vice-Chair, Tom McDonald (TM), Director, Larry Mierek (LM), Director Pam Dibble (PD), Associate Municipal Advisors, Joe Rowlands (JR), Lisa Belliger (LB), and Mike Thompson (MT), THC Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, Jen Harvill (JHa), Tug Hill Commission Chair, Gerry Ritter (GR), Tug Hill Commissioner, Bob Keller (BK), and Municipal Projects Coordinator, John Healt (JH).

The meeting was called to order at 12:39 pm by Chair, BS.

BS started the meeting with asking if the lunch meeting time is still favorable with the Board and guests- it was noted the earlier time seems to work better. BS also mentioned that Betsy Mack hasn't been feeling well and was unable to attend today's meeting. He requested that a card from NOCCOG be sent to her. BS also thanked Tug Hill Commissioners Gerry and Bob for taking the time to attend the meeting. BS also thanked PD for attending and representing NOCCOG at the Camden Senior Awards Night. BS also made note that GPS mapper Mark Clark is scheduled for a rather serious surgery and may have a long recovery. Also mentioned were the recent editorials in the Queen Central New regarding data centers- something that the newspaper became aware of as the NOCCOG municipal advisors promoted the Commission's upcoming webinar on data centers.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by TM seconded by LM to approve the March 19, 2026, executive board meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report

Fiscal Officer, Betsy Mack, was unable to attend, but it was reported that the invoices to the villages had been sent. Also noted was the Oneida County signed agreement was received for the full $7,500 requested, but no checks have been received to date. Motion by LM, seconded by TM to approve the fiscal officer's report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

In the bookkeeping update, JH noted that Bonnie Allen, administrator for the Remsen town supervisor, has agreed to take on the role of NOCCOG bookkeeper. JH has met with Bonnie a couple of times- she understands the Excel spreadsheet and the check writing program.

JH reported that TM can log in to NYCLASS, and will get with BS soon, so he will be able to, as well. The $10k investment is still agreeable from the board.

Tug Hill Commission Updates

JHa reported and updated the board on:

- Local Government Conference for 2027 is currently in negotiations with the Turning Stone. There was very positive feedback from this year's conference.
- COG Chair Meeting was held 3/25, in Rodman. Regional issues discussed included:
  - Growth of COGs
    - Currently 10 outside-region municipalities belong to a council of governments (Wilna, Deferiet, Carthage, Pulaski, Watson, Croghan, Richland, Greig, Croghan, Sandy Creek (T)). Richland, Greig, Croghan and Sandy Creek joined after the commission adopted its outside region policy. Total population of outside region municipalities equals 21,360 (2020 census), vs region population 102,409 (2020 census).
    - Resolutions supporting an increase in the commission's budget to address staffing needs related to COG growth could be passed by COGs and individual towns and villages. Salmon River and North Shore municipal advisor, Heidi Tompkins, is collecting passed resolutions already.
    - Energy initiatives (solar, transmission, battery storage, nuclear)
    - Emergency services and challenges faced by local departments. The Commission has applied for numerous fire fighting grants on behalf of local fire departments.
- Laird Petrie budget workshop is scheduled for June 18 & 19, at the Tailwater Lodge.
- Data Centers Webinar is June 25th. This is what started the editorials in the Camden newspaper. JHa reiterated the fact the Commission neither for nor against in these issues, but is there to inform our municipalities so they can make the best decision for their community,
- Planning work
  - COMP PLANS:
    - Floyd - is interested- waiting to hear back from them re int
    - Ava - final public hearing in July
    - Boonville - assisted consultant with plan
    - Remsen - assisting with consultant
    - Annsville - starting soon
    - Western - assisting with survey
- ZONING
  - Holland Patent - assisting with updates, starting update in July
  - Vienna - assisting with updates
- Grants and Projects -
  - Annsville - Coal Hill bridge - working with Oneida County, various partners, congress, senate, etc.
  - Trenton - Town of Trenton Infrastructure Committee & NY Forward Planning
  - Village Remsen - dissolution committee is meeting
- Super COG meeting is scheduled for September 22, at the Redfield FD. This includes every representative from all 5 councils of governments.
- 2026 Annual Dinner is scheduled for October 8, which includes a sendoff for long-time commissioner Leona C., at the Adams Country Club.
- Camden Wire historical presentation seems to be on hold.
- CFAs are now open with a July 31 deadline, meaning much of the Watertown staff will be busy working on funding opportunities. There was a discussion about how the Commission promoted when funding is awarded on grants where they assisted. It was noted that grants awarded are always mentioned in the Tug Hill Times, and press releases are sent to local newspapers.

Administrative Items

- Membership - as noted in the fiscal report, all village membership invoices have been mailed.
- Annual Dinner Meeting - scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at the McConnellsville Golf Course. A speaker has yet to be determined, but there was some discussion regarding the Chobani growth or possibly someone from Oneida County, citing the poor relationship that some legislators have with the municipalities they represent.
- By-Law proposed revision - copies with proposed revisions, including listing and defining the fiscal agent, for board review at the previous meeting.
- IMA renewal and proposed revision - IMAs renewal is needed for 2027. Revisions will include listing the fiscal agent. A motion was made by LM, seconded by TM, to present both the revised by-laws and revised IMA to the membership for approval at the annual dinner meeting. All approved. Motion carried.
- Bookkeeper search - as noted in the Bookkeeper's report, Bonnie Allen has agreed to be the bookkeeper. A motion was made by BS, seconded by LM, to offer Bonnie a $200 annual stipend, payable in December. All approved. Motioned carried.

Program Updates

- Training/Workshops - JH is hoping to work with MVEDD to organize an economic forum to take place in Oneida County sometime this fall.
- Town/Village Updates - still being compiled and sent.
- GPS Program - MT noted that he has been busy. He has been in contact with Floyd, plans to get with Annsville's new water people, and Remsen's new highway super. He reported that there has been a large change in personal in the municipalities, and retraining for those towns and villages is needed. He also noted that he is mapping many different "layers" and that working "offline" when collecting data keeps data points more accurate. Discussions included sharing this information with other councils of governments, and the value of mapping water and sewer.
- Scholarship Program - 2026 recipients were:
  - Camden- Cody Piersall
  - Remsen- Ethen Karis
  - Holland Patent- Madeline Snider
  - Adirondack- Olivia Healt
    - JH reminded the board that the schools choose the awardees and neither he nor NOCCOG has a say in who is chosen. PD and JH attended and presented at the Camden awards night, and JH attended and presented at the Holland Patent awards ceremony.
- Website - still being updated.
- Local Government Conference - BS, MT and Mark Clark all staffed the NOCCOG table at the conference. They noted many of the people who stopped by the table were not from NOCCOG. Discussed was the possibility of getting a banner that lists the names of the municipalities NOCCOG serves. JH will research. BK noted that NOCCOG having a booth at the conference is beneficial. Also mentioned was the poor acoustics of the main room where the vendors are set up and meals are served.

Other Items

- Projects for 2026- BS noted that ideas are still encouraged, even if funding is tight. Discussed was "What Can NOCCOG Do for You?" A session on seasonal roads in Steuben, a session on everchanging wetland regulations, and a master list of what our communities are doing/working on.
- Meet with Oneida County Planning - JH reported that he's not getting anywhere with setting up a training/work session with OC Planning, and maybe NOCCOG can do a 1 page "Steps to Take" regarding non-compliant properties. JH would could come up with a draft and send it to OC Planning for their input.
- Meet with Oneida County Finance - JH has an email out asking about enforcement, penalties, etc.
- Address the Oneida County Legislators - JH addressed the legislators on May 13 and thought it went well. It was discussed as to why the other councils of governments do not do the same. Noted was that NOCCOG is

the only council that requests a financial contribution from the county, and other councils are in more than one county.

- Meet with the Town of Trenton - JH and Betsy Mack met with Michael Bennison and Rachel Poland-Bunker to clarify the Town of Trenton's role of fiscal agent. JH reported they understood and had no issues with the town staying in that role. JH noted it was later presented to the Trenton Town board, and approved.
- Oneida County Town Clerk's Association - JH reported that he couldn't attend their last lunch meeting, and their group has scheduled a couple of clerk related trainings this summer, which NOCCOG is helping to promote. The next is June 29th on fraud.
- Other - discussed was the possible dissolution of the Village of Remsen.

Associate Municipal Advisors Reports

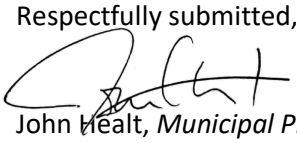
Mentioned were the recent uptick in FOIL requests for building permits and the theft of brass veteran grave markers in Camden and surrounding areas.

Next Meeting of the Board

- Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in person at the Town of Remsen Municipal Offices

Motion to adjourn made by TM, seconded by PD. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Healt, *Municipal Projects Coordinator*