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

DRAFT MINUTES

Northern Oneida County Council of Governments
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026, 12:00 pm
Town of Remsen Municipal Offices

Present: Chair, Bob Sauer (BS), Vice-Chair, Tom McDonald (TM), Director, Larry Mierek (LM), Director Pam Dibble (PD), Associate Municipal Advisor & GPS Mapper, Mike Thompson (MT), THC Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, Jen Harvill (JHa), Tug Hill Commission Chair, Gerry Ritter (GR), and Municipal Projects Coordinator, John Healt (JH).

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by Chair, BS.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by LM seconded by TM to approve the June 18, 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 village dues have been received from all but one. Also noted was the contribution from Oneida County has yet to be received. JH emailed and called the county budget office. He hopes to hear more from them, soon.
The bookkeeping update was presented.
JH reported that TM can log in to NYCLASS, and will get with BS soon.
Draft copies of 2027 budget were provided. After review and discussion, it was decided to present the draft budget to the membership for approval at the upcoming dinner meeting.

Tug Hill Commission Updates

JHa reported and updated the board on:

- Local Government Conference for 2027 is scheduled for April 26 and 27. Discussed were a few of the proposed topics, including data centers and local rule.
- Workshops
  - Providing Fire Protection in NYS, 10/27 in West MonroeCOG Chair Meeting was held 3/25, in Rodman. Regional issues discussed included:
- Planning work

- COMP PLANS:
  - Floyd - still waiting to hear back from them
  - Ava - adopted
  - Boonville - assisted consultant with plan
  - Remsen - assisting with consultant
  - Annsville - underway
  - Western - assisted with survey
  - Trenton - starting soon
- ZONING
  - Holland Patent - underway
  - 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, bringing the Town of Trenton and OC Planning into the discussion
- 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.

Administrative Items

- Membership - as noted in the fiscal report, all but 1 village has paid.
- Annual Dinner Meeting - scheduled for Thursday, October 29, at the McConnellsville Golf Course. JH stated that invitations have been emailed to the municipalities, local officials, and other groups such as MVEDD, MV Edge. Speaker is James Genovese. He will be focusing on the housing report, housing handbook, and the county's agenda with regard housing. It was agreed to cover the cost of past advisors and directors, should they decide to attend.
- By-Law proposed revision - proposed revisions will be sent to the membership prior to the annual meeting, and will be available at the meeting. Revisions will be voted on at the dinner meeting.
- IMA renewal and proposed revision - the IMA needs to be renewed by each member municipality in 2027. Proposed revisions include fiscal agent clarification. Copies will be emailed prior to, and available at, the annual meeting for approval. The IMA covers 5 years, unless there are changes with membership or with the IMA itself.

Program Updates

- Training/Workshops - JH is hoping to work with MVEDD to organize a 4 session workshop series, possibly focused on funding, to take place in Oneida County in 2027.
- Town/Village Updates - still being compiled and sent.
- GPS Program - MT noted that he has been busy. He has been working with Western on a century old, possibly privately owned, water line. He mentioned with staff turnover in municipalities, he's trying to retrain new staff, and assist, such as with the Camden Group who now manages Annville's water and sewer, when possible. MT also plan on working with Mark Clark this spring.
- Scholarship Program - may be discontinued or reduced depending on the 2027 budget
- Website - still being updated. It was discussed if it would be worthwhile to list funding opportunities on the website, something like a grants calendar.

Other Items

- Projects for 2026- budget constraints may limit additional NOCCOG sponsored programs
- Meet with Oneida County Planning - JH reported the county recently provided a draft paper addressing vacant, blighted, zombie properties, copies of which were provided for review.
- Meet with Oneida County Finance - JH called the finance commissioner as a potential speaker for the dinner meeting, which was declined. JH is hoping he can now reach back out and ask about meeting and discussing the county's short-term registry.
- Oneida County Town Clerk's Association - JH plans to attend their December lunch meeting.
- Forestport Community Expo - September 30, 10am-2pm. JH and MT will attend.
- Other - discussed was the Municipal Reference Guides, and if more needed to be included, or if the guide is complete. Additional chapters will be discussed further.

Associate Municipal Advisors Reports

Mentioned was the lack of county legislators at certain municipal meetings, and the Ava tax assessments and school taxes.

Next Meeting of the Board

- Thursday, December 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. in person, at the Village of Camden Municipal Offices

Motion to adjourn made by TM, seconded by PD. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

John Healt, *Municipal Projects Coordinator*