Town of Oneonta
TOWN BOARD
Town Board Meeting
July 08, 2026
07:00 PM

Call to Order, Roll Call was taken, a quorum was established, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
The meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on July 08, 2026, with the following members present:

Town Supervisor	William Rivera Jr.	(WRJ)	(EXCUSED)
Deputy Town Supervisor	Patricia Riddell Kent	(PRK)	
Town Board Member	Teresa DeSantis	(TD)	
Town Board Member	Joseph M. Camarata	(JMC)	
Town Board Member	Brett D. Holleran	(BDH)	

Others present: Ryan F. Pereira, Town Clerk; Chris McIlven, Attorney for the Town; Richard Thomas; Caroline Williams, SUNY Oneonta; Patricia Jacob; Rich Harlem; Dale Webster; Eamon Hinchey; Sharon Corrado; Gordon Huckins.

Privilege of the floor

Sharon Corrado shared with the board, ongoing challenges in her neighborhood regarding pest and property maintenance concerns. Ms. Corrado reports significant pest infestations and property neglect at specific addresses. Also, concerns raised regarding health hazards, property damage, and lack of code enforcement. Ms. Corrado states she has contacted the DEC about the matter as well. Board advised the resident to continue working with the DEC and to file a formal written complaint (with photos) with the code enforcement office.

Richard Thomas asked about plans to resurface Stillwater Road and about "UD" utility markings painted on the road. Cody Schmitt, Highway Superintendent, responded: two roads are scheduled for paving this year; Stillwater and Youngs Road are being prepped (ditching, shoulder work, brush clearing) ahead of resurfacing, expected to be complete within about 2 months.

Highway, Water & Sewer Report

Thanks extended to Highway crew (Cody and team) for storm damage cleanup and routine operations.
Woodland Water Project: Committee met; hydrants being flushed weekly by staff (Jared); no current complaints. Water sample testing available for residents through the Town Hall office (Nicole).
Draft RFP (Part 1 — problem diagnosis) prepared by engineer Alex Herman, to be circulated to the board and brought for consideration at the August meeting.
Paving update: Prepping/shoulder work underway on Stillwater; crack sealing planned to preserve good roads.
Resident inquiry about road striping — Cody to follow up (crews are typically dispatched region-wide, sometimes with fast turnaround).
East Street Culvert: Survey work begun by Kevin Yeardon, Surveyor, and Alex Herrmann Engineering; preliminary proposal expected within about 2 weeks. Precast culvert market is currently backlogged 6—8 months.
MOTION PASSED (roll call): Approved $24,190 for a 12" isolation valve insertion at the Woodland well house (funded through remaining grant money; covers valve plus-15% engineering/administration fee).

MOTION PASSED (roll call): Approved $2,700 to AquaLogics for chemical feed pump control wiring modifications, intended to simplify future pump maintenance/replacement and reduce costs.
Sidewalk update (Teresa): Continuing to seek additional bids for the West Onoenta sidewalk section (Reinhart to Forrest Lane) within budget range.
New town dump truck noted/shown off (ordered several years ago; recently delivered).

Climate Smart Report (Pat Jacob)
Grant opportunities identified:
Biking/walking infrastructure grant (up to $200,000 max / $10,000 min) — possible fit for West End sidewalks.
Greenhouse gas mitigation / reduced vehicle-miles-traveled grant.
Discussion on solar installation at the highway garage and rehabilitation of the Old Town Hall. Fortin Park was deemed not a viable location per Solar Liberty engineer.
Town may qualify for a higher match rate (up to —80%) due to socioeconomic status; typical match is 50%, with in-kind labor/equipment/engineering counting toward the town's share.
Grant application deadline: end of July — a Town Board resolution must be passed before that deadline. A special meeting may be needed to pass supporting resolutions once details are finalized. Equipment must be installed by December 2027.
Sidewalk grant which had been discussed for the West Oneonta area, is complicated by requirements for tree plantings/bioswales given limited right-of-way space; considering a homeowner tree-planting option.
Also discussed: funding for Old Town Hall rehabilitation (possible community hall use —needs chimney, sidewalk work), and a pedestrian/bike pathway along County Highway 8 (county-controlled road; will need county involvement).
Recognition: Dale Webster volunteered to paint the old Town Hall schoolhouse — board thanked him and praised the work. A board member raised a liability/lead-paint concern about volunteer work on town property; suggested Mr. Webster sign a liability waiver going forward. Town Clerk noted a waiver request had already been made previously.
Ms. Jacob placed emphasis on securing resolutions for grant applications to meet upcoming deadlines.

Otsego County Representative Report (Eamon Hinchey)
Written report circulated by email (with links).
Otsego County items: Southern Transfer Station approved by county board, to be bond-funded (—$6.5M); Solid Waste is the only county department that runs a surplus.
County approved a contract with Decker Technologies — a platform that identifies unregistered/non-tax-compliant short-term rentals; cited a neighboring county that doubled registered STRs using the platform. County code office expected to bring reports to the town.
Comprehensive Plan application submitted as part of the CFA.
Ongoing outreach with Town of Milford regarding a new boating site/launch.
Sales tax "preemption" research: county currently preempts (keeps) roughly 24% of local sales tax before disbursing the remainder to municipalities; research shows only 10 NY counties don't preempt, with an average preemption around 28%. Analysis suggests that even a population-based redistribution of the retained share could bring the town roughly $360,000 more per year than it currently receives.
Considering forming a task force / drafting a resolution and letter (with legal input) to formally request a review of the preemption agreement, citing outdated terms (e.g., sales tax now collected through areas under town rather than city jurisdiction).
Related note: need for more civil engineering/traffic studies given growth.

Town Clerk Report (Ryan F. Pereira)

Park pavilion reservations steady; recurring issue of furniture (tables) being moved between rental sites without authorization — no way to identify responsible parties, no action taken beyond periodic conversations with renters.

Public Safety

Speed trailer (Sheriff's Office) being rotated along Old South Side Drive in response to resident traffic complaints.

Brush/weed clearing planned near the trailer park to improve visibility.

Legislative Committee (Teresa)

Short-Term Rental Advisory Committee met; a resident (Pete Hansen, Country Club board member, 52 Country Club Rd.) attended to raise concerns after receiving notice of a neighboring STR application, and about Country Club impacts from visiting sports teams.

Discussed a proposed 100-ft buffer requirement around properties, using county GIS mapping tools (training provided by county GIS staff).

Discussed possibly raising the STR cap to around 3.5%.

Residents encouraged to file formal complaints with the code office (or police if code office is closed) rather than only raising issues informally.

PUBLIC HEARING opened and closed on proposed Local Law repealing and replacing Chapter 31 (Town Code Ethics Code), updated using the NYS Comptroller's model ethics code. No public comment offered.

MOTION PASSED (roll call): Adopted the local law repealing and replacing Chapter 31 (Ethics Code).

Reviewed July 6 legislative committee minutes (5 pages). Proposed a special meeting for Wednesday, July 22 at 5:00 PM to advance grant-related resolutions (comprehensive plan, MVEDD/Climate Smart applications).

Priority list of pending legislative items flagged for triage: code office "shopping cart" ordinance suggestion, a court-referred item that would allow unpaid fines to be levied onto property, ownership/financial disclosure protections, and the data center moratorium.

Brief update on a Cooperstown All-Star Village (CASV) zoning matter involving a parcel that spans two separate lighting districts — attorney reviewing SEQR/zoning map amendment considerations; noted as time-sensitive since the applicant hopes to break ground by fall to be ready for the following season. Separately, lighting district and fire district processes are being worked through with the town's engineer/attorney, as well as, the county.

Historic 1965 and 1973 comprehensive plans located, scanned, and uploaded to the public record (eCode).

Data center moratorium: update requested from the town attorney; draft revision still needed, including justification language. Noted a possible state-level moratorium pending the Governor's action, which could affect/extend timing.

Facilities, Technology & Parks

Pool: Opened for the season after resolving a Dept. of Health compliance issue (depth signage correction, additional lifeguard required); praised the Regional DOH director for expediting the permit late Friday to allow Saturday opening.

MOTION PASSED (roll call): Approved $4,650 for fencing around the pool's water holding tank/cover for child safety.

Pool grand opening: Thursday, July 24, 5:30-7:00 PM, DJ (from the code office), popcorn, giveaways/sunglasses; partly funded by a $1,000 county grant.
RFP for reconstruction of the Fortin Grove Pavilion to be posted; specs being finalized with engineer.
Portable ADA pool lift: Resident inquiries received; quotes obtained ($8,900-$9,899 range); a portable unit is required rather than permanent due to bonding/plan and code specification issues. Storage (shed) also under discussion. Targeted for board consideration/approval in August.

RESOLUTION 2026-0107 (07:32) Motion by TD, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve quote for an insertion valve at Fortin Park; and
Whereas $24,190 will be spent towards further infrastructure improvement;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0108 (07:35) Motion by PRK, seconded by TD;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve quote for chemical pump wiring; and
Whereas Aqualogics shall be contract and paid $2,700;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0109 (07:42) Motion by PRK, seconded by JMC;

Whereas the Town Board votes to open public hearing for proposed local law repealing and replacing Chapter 31 of the Town Code, Ethics Code;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0110 (07:55) Motion by JMC, seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to close public hearing for proposed local law repealing and replacing Chapter 31 of the Town Code, Ethics Code;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0111 (07:56) Motion by PRK, seconded by TD;

Whereas the Town Board votes approve proposed local law repealing and replacing Chapter 31 of the Town Code, Ethics Code;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0112 (08:11) Motion by PRK, seconded by TD;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve additional fencing for the Town Pool at Greater Plains School; and
Whereas the amount shall not exceed $4,650 as quoted;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0113 (08:17) Motion by PRK; seconded by TD;

Whereas the Town Board votes to accept the minutes; and
Whereas the minutes of both June 08 and June 22 meetings;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE AYES (4)				MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-0114 (08:18) Motion by TD; seconded by PRK;

Whereas the Town Board votes to approve payment of the bills and budget modifications; and
Whereas in accordance with the abstract attached to the end of this document;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE	AYES (4)			MOTION CARRIED

Privilege of the floor (08:19)

Eamon Hinchey raised a concern about the proposed Watershed Protection Law's approach of banning campgrounds outright; suggested a more comprehensive "green belt" buffer (e.g., 150 ft setback from streams) would better protect the watershed than a campground-specific ban, noting a well-run campground has less impact than residential development.

Patricia Jacob thanked the town for keeping the pool free for children, noting the financial benefit to West End families.

Rich Harlem thanked Joe and Nicole for storm cleanup efforts.

RESOLUTION 2026-0115 (08:23) Motion by BH; seconded by JMC;

Whereas the Town Board votes to adjourn;
Now, therefore be it resolved;
Whereupon the resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

		AYE	NAY	
Teresa DeSantis	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Joseph M. Camarata	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Brett D. Holleran	Board Member	__X__	_____	
Patricia Riddell Kent	Board Member	__X__	_____	
William Rivera Jr.	Supervisor	_____	_____	(EXCUSED)
VOTE	AYES (4)			MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan F. Pereira

Town Clerk

Abstract #	**7**	Dates 6/12/26-7/8/26				
		Friday - Wednesday				
General Checking						
Fund		**PrePaid**	**To Be Paid**	**Total PrePaid/To Be Paid**		
General	**1**	$ -	$ 66,663.30	$ 66,663.30		
Highway	**3**	$ -	$ 234,059.55	$ 234,059.55		
St Lights #1	**7**	$ -	$ 2,126.24	$ 2,126.24		
St Lights #2	**14**	$ -	$ 237.10	$ 237.10		
St Lights #3	**15**	$ -	$ 840.93	$ 840.93		
St Lights #4	**16**	$ -	$ 48.83	$ 48.83		
St Lights #5	**17**	$ -	$ 243.03	$ 243.03		
Butler Creek-Blanchard Capital	**28**	$ -	$ -	$ -		
Butler Creek-Winney Hill Capital	**29**	$ -	$ 5,523.46	$ 5,523.46		
Fire Protection	**25**	$ -	$ -	$ -		
Subtotal		$ -	$ 309,742.44	$ 309,742.44		
District Checking						
WESD	**8**	$ -	$ 1,550.71	$ 1,550.71		
WSSD	**9**	$ -	$ 376.60	$ 376.60		
SSD	**10**	$ -	$ 2,389.20	$ 2,389.20		
WWD	**11**	$ -	$ 2,153.41	$ 2,153.41		
PWD	**12**	$ -	$ 338.72	$ 338.72		
SSWD	**21**	$ -	$ 8,600.48	$ 8,600.48		
District Subtotal		$ -	$ 15,409.12	$ 15,409.12		
Trust and Agency Checking						
T & A	**99**	$ 67.24	$ 166.27	$ 233.51		
		$ 67.24	$ 166.27	$ 233.51		
CDBG						
CDBG Grants	**26**	$ -	$ -	$ -		
		$ -	$ -	$ -		
Totals		$ 67.24	$ 325,317.83	$ 325,385.07		
Clerk:		Approved Expenses / Voucher #2026-354 to 2026-413				
		General	$ 66,663.30			
		Highway	$ 234,059.55			
		St Lighting	$ 3,496.13			
		Blanchard Ave-Butler Crk	$ -			
		Butler Creek-Winney Hill Capital	$ 5,523.46			
		Fire Protection	$ -			
		WESD	$ 1,550.71			
		WSSD	$ 376.60			
		SSD	$ 2,389.20			
		WWD	$ 2,153.41			
		PWD	$ 338.72			
		SSWD	$ 8,600.48			
		T&A	$ 233.51			
		CDBG	$ -			
			$ 325,385.07			
			$ 325,385.07			
			$ -			
		I have reviewed/audited the PrePaid Invoices.				
		I have reviewed/audited and approve for payment the invoices to be paid				
		Town Supervisor				Date
		Town Board Member				Date
		Town Board Member				Date