

MADISON COUNTY FINANCE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda - Thursday, October 23, 2025

Call Meeting to Order

The Committee convened at 9:00 AM in the Supervisors' Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, NY. Supervisor Roberts, Supervisor Corbin, Supervisor Cavanagh (9:01 AM) and Chairman Cunningham

OTHERS PRESENT:

FWM Secretary Jennifer Cossette, Finance Director Lou Anne Randall, Clerk to the Board of Supervisors Emily Burns, County Treasurer Cindy Edick, Deputy Treasurer Ryan Chaires, County Clerk Michael Keville, Supervisor Pinard, Public Information Officer Samantha Field, Supervisor Daviau, County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith, Second Assistant County Attorney Melissa Felton, Acting District Attorney Robert Mascari, County Attorney Intern Michael Mariani, Budget Analyst Susan McConnell, Supervisor Walrod, Assistant Finance Director Keith Lummis and County Administrator Mark Scimone.

A quorum being present, Chairman Matthew Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes

1. September 25, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes
2. October 16, 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

On motion by Supervisor Corbin, seconded by Chairman Cunningham, the motion was made to approve the September 25, 2025 and October 16, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was passed.

Finance/Payroll

Lou Anne Randall, Finance Director

Open enrollment begins on November 3, 2025.

Jennifer Keville started this week as the Payroll Specialist and Tracy LaGoy starts next Monday to fill the accountant role. The department is looking forward to having both roles filled. They are also gearing up for year end.

Treasurer/Budget Officer

Cindy Edick, Treasurer

1. Sales Tax Report

The Sales Tax Report is for the first three quarters of the year. We are still ahead of last year by nearly 7%. The last quarter was not quite as favorable as the first two quarters.

Budget Update

We had another committee meeting last week related to the budget. Since that

meeting, Budget Analyst Susan McConnell has been working very hard on the draft budget. The total countywide tax levy is at \$49,785,000, with an increase of \$1.5 Million or about 3.1%. That is within the tax cap by about \$13,000. The budget includes about \$7 Million from the General Fund, which is roughly \$100,000 more than the 2025 adopted budget. There was a reduction to the initial draft budget of \$8.2 Million through a combination of cuts and increase to revenue. Among the cuts, were significant cuts to Highway Department, including \$1,869,000 for equipment alone. A resolution is in the packet that would restore about \$1,018,000 for the Highway Department if the sales tax cap is authorized at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. A question that is often asked is what would the tax increase be on a house assessed at \$100,000. Using DeRuyter as an example, the County tax would increase by \$35. Of course, this figure will be different for each municipality because of the equalization rate.

Susan McConnell then shared the summary version of the draft 2026 budget.

Real Property Tax Services

Deputy Treasurer Ryan Chaires

The Treasurer's Office has begun collecting unpaid village taxes and will begin collecting unpaid school taxes next month.

To date, two requests for surplus monies from the auction have been received. There will likely be many more as the owners of record have three years to request the surplus funds. At the end of the three years, any unclaimed surplus funds are swept to the County.

Michael Keville, County Clerk, added that he learned on a committee call with Pat Cummings of NYSAC, that there is a pending lawsuit that could negatively affect counties when it comes to tax foreclosure auctions. In the case a property was sold at auction far below value and then quickly resold for a much higher price. The creditors are suing for the equity. At this point, it seems the Court will rule against the counties making it necessary to get a fair value at auction or more regulations on how auctions are run.

County Clerk's Office / DMV

Michael Keville, County Clerk, presented the County Clerk/DMV Update

The Numbers:

DMV

MTD - \$80,597.59; 5% Increase

YTD - \$1,257,627.59; 17% Increase

W/Online thru July - \$1,401,145.18; 16% Increase

Transactions - MTD - 7,991; 3% Decrease

YTD - 129,105; 22% Increase

Recording Clerk

Recording Fees

MTD - \$42,058.50; 3% Increase
YTD - \$540,284.35; 3% Increase

Mortgage Tax
MTD - \$36,209.00; 36% Increase
YTD - \$514,726.35; 23% Increase

Transfer Tax
MTD - \$62,872.00; 9% Increase
YTD- \$881,666; 15% Increase

Records Management: High density shelving from the Courts have been relocated to the building 4 remote storage spaces, increasing our capacity in the basement. Met with Finance and Personnel to initiate a project to save needed data from a DOS computer. Continuing the back-scanning of Mortgage Book records in the clerks office to increase remote accessibility to our land records.

DMV: Taft Rd. is expected to remain open for another 10 years. The enhancement of our office will still allow us to more quickly serve the public and "go fishing" for more dealer and fleet business. One of our Facebook videos spawned a very favorable article in the Rome Sentinel. The reformatting of the counters and additional machines is just about complete.

Clerk's Office: NYSACC Conference next week. Key pushes include adjustments to TODD law and Judicial Security Act. Invited to discuss Deed Fraud at Hunt Realty in Manlius.

Historian: Extremely well attended, hosted conference and Matt Urtz, County Historian, received a statewide award.

Resolutions

1. Authorizing the Chairman to Accept a Victim Assistance Program Grant Award from the New York State Office of Victim Services for FY 2025-2028 & Modifying the 2025 Adopted County Budget
2. Accepting the Tentative Budget as Filed by the Budget Officer
3. Appointing a Committee to Review the 2026 Tentative Budget
4. Authorizing Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for Clockville Water District for 2026
5. Authorizing Public Hearing on the Tentative County Budget for Fiscal Year 2026
6. Adopting Budgets for the County of Madison for Fiscal Year 2026

7. Apportionment of County Taxes
8. Appropriation for Conduct of County Government for Fiscal Year 2026
9. Levying Unpaid Central School District Taxes
10. Levying Unpaid Village Taxes
11. Authorizing the County Chairman and the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors to Sign, Seal and Deliver Tax Warrants for Fiscal Year 2026
12. Authorizing the Chairman to Enter an Agreement with the NYS Department of State, Division of Local Government Services Countywide Shared Code Enforcement Grant and Modifying of the 2025 Adopted County Budget
13. Authorizing the Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget (District Attorney)
14. Authorizing the Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget (Sewer System)
15. Authorizing the Modification of the 2025 Adopted County Budget (Clockville Water District)
16. Authorizing the Disbursement GAP Elimination Funds to Madison County Towns and Villages
17. Approval of Mortgage Tax Report Fall 2025
18. Authorizing the Modification of the 2026 Tentative County Budget (Sales Tax/ Tentative Budget Mod)

On motion by Chairman Cunningham, seconded by Supervisor Cavanagh, the motion was made to approve Resolutions 1-18. The motion was approved.

Other Committee Business

Preferred Agenda

It was the consensus of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee to allow any eligible resolutions from today's meeting to be added to the preferred agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee will be on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM in Chambers.

Adjourn

On motion by Supervisor Cavanaugh seconded by Supervisor Corbin, the Finance, Ways and Means Committee adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Cossette on behalf of Chairman Matthew Roberts.