

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

August 15, 2014

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Samuel Dyer, Area 3, Chairperson  
John Gallagher, Area 9  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
Harry McManus, Area 1  
Colin Read, Area 4  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: James Langley, Jr., Area 7

ALSO PRESENT: Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator  
James Coffey, County Attorney  
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Dyer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown conducted roll call. Legislator Langley had asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the July 23, 2014 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 9-0-1).

Chairperson Dyer stated tonight there is a public hearing regarding Clinton Community College's 2014-2015 budget request. He asked Mr. Brown to read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Legislator Beach motioned to open the public hearing at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1). There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to close the public hearing at 7:06 p.m., seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Jessica Dulle, the Executive Director of the Strand Center for the Arts, introduced herself and noted she has been in her position for approximately three months. Ms. Dulle reported the Strand Center for the Arts received its Absolute Charter in May, 2014. The buildings at 23 Brinkerhoff and 25 Brinkerhoff Streets are now one legal entity. Ms. Dulle noted the Strand Center for the Arts has received a substantial amount of funding from both the public and private sectors. Legislator Read had conducted an economic impact study for the Strand, and it is projected \$4.1 million annually will be brought into the County. The Strand Center for the Arts will be a great economic driver, bringing top quality entertainment to Clinton County.

Legislator Read stated of the \$4.1 million, a sizable amount comes back in the form of sales taxes, occupancy taxes and real property taxes. The County made a sizable investment in the Strand Center for the Arts, and he is confident that sizeable investment will pay multiple dividends.

Ms. Dulle stated she would like to provide the Legislature with a private tour of the facility in September. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Dulle to contact him or Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, to schedule a date and time for the tour.

There being no one further to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer called for standing committee and liaison reports.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met earlier today. Resolution #584 on the agenda will authorize a contract with the New York State Unified Court System for court cleaning and minor repairs for the third floor of the Government Center.

## **County Operations Committee – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported Resolutions #524 through #531 are included on the agenda for the Legislative Office and the Weights and Measures, Information Technology and Planning Departments.

Legislator Read reported Stacey Pratt, the County Historian, provided an update on the progress of the Historical Sign Project. The Committee discussed a real property tax exemption for solar and wind power residential properties and the proposed County Government-Wide Managed Print/Copy Services system. Legislator Read reported all Legislators have received a copy of the proposed Tobacco Funding Policy. The Policy will give the Committee and the Legislature a bit of latitude and will send a clear message to applicants to uniformly provide data, the type of project requested and the long-term benefit for the County.

## **Finance Committee – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. He reported the 2013 audit by Lumsden & McCormick came out favorably. Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, provided results from the recent tax auction. Resolutions #532 through #534 are included on the agenda for the Treasurer's Office and Clinton Community College.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Health Committee – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee met Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, presented Resolutions #539 through #542 which are included on the agenda. Ms. Reid discussed potential travel for September, 2014. She reported Clinton County is in the running for one of the top five communities to be chosen through the Health Initiative Coordinating Council in a healthy community contest. Clinton County's official site visit will take place on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. If chosen, Clinton County will receive technical support, recognition and assistance to evaluate measures it has been working on to make a difference in community health.

The Committee reviewed the Health Department's Report for the Board of Health meeting of July 21, 2014, the Director's Report for June, 2014, Quarterly Grant Reports and the July, 2014 Quality Corner Newsletter.

Resolutions #535 through #538 are included on the agenda for Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Human Services Committee – Legislator Keenan**

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, discussed the use of Varin's Ambulance Service when transporting a resident to an appointment and needing assistance in getting onto a gurney. Varin's Ambulance Service needs to be used when the Patient Care Plan requires the patient get onto a stand lift or mechanical lift in order to get on the gurney if the doctor's office does not have one.

Resolutions #543 and #544 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Crystal Carter, the Director of Office for the Aging, reported Clinton County, through New York Connects, will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$250,000 that will serve Medicaid recipients in Clinton County. Resolutions #545 through #549 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans' Service Agency, reviewed monthly statistics. He discussed issues at the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He asked for the support of the Legislature in the establishment of a Veterans' Court. Mr. Bowman provided information in regards to therapy/service dog training being provided for veterans. Mr. Bowman was recognized as the American Legion Service Officer of the Year for 2014 at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Albany. He also accepted the position of Vice Chairperson for the Medical Task Force in the American Legion Department of New York.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m.

#### **Personnel Committee – Legislator Gallagher**

Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Resolutions #550 through #560 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. The resolutions consist of one reclassification, two new part-time positions, and nine backfills.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall reported the Public Safety Committee met Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of the Child Advocacy Center, presented Resolution #568 which is included on the agenda.

Resolutions #565 through #567 are included on the agenda for the Sheriff's Department.

Justin Meyer, the Administrator of Legal Defense of Indigent Defendants, discussed the following items: a potential Immigration Grant; Financial Standards of Indigence to be used as part of the Assigned Counsel Plan; updates for the Assigned Counsel Plan; and a proposal by the Rural Law Center regarding representation for local Appeals. Legislator Hall stated the Committee is very impressed with the job Justin Meyer's is doing.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Liaison Reports**

##### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee met recently. He stated not only is the Visitors' Bureau very aggressively marketing the tourism region with the Occupancy Tax, there is also a greater sense of urgency in realizing some of the various goals of the Destination Master Plan. The Committee will move into the next phase of the Destination Master Plan in early 2015.

### **Cooperative Extension – Legislator McManus**

Legislator McManus reported Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> are the proposed dates for the Cooperative Extension's Agriculture Tour.

### **Soil and Water – Chairperson Dyer**

Chairperson Dyer reported the ag balers continue to be well utilized. The next meeting of Soil and Water will be scheduled for later this month.

### **Grievance Committee – Legislator Gallagher**

Legislator Gallagher reported a Grievance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

### **Staff Reports**

#### **County Attorney – James Coffey, Esq.**

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person, the potential sale of real property, Castine vs. Zurlo, Turtle Island Trust, Dan's Hauling and Paul and Rachel Risetto.

#### **Deputy Chairperson's Report**

Mr. Brown stated he had no report.

#### **Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Dyer reported a large group of people gathered at the front entrance to the Government Center on Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> for a very impressive presentation regarding the Way to Wellville, an initiative of the Health Initiative Coordinating Council. He stated the presentation showed how committed Clinton County is to the health and wellbeing of the community.

Mr. Brown reported a follow-up meeting focused on community health and school lunches. He stated hopefully the Council went away with the feeling that Clinton County is working to improve community health, but is somewhat limited due to the cost. He further stated he is certain the Council was impressed by the Clinton County officials. An announcement will be made on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup> naming the five communities chosen from the ten communities visited.

The following Resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #522 through #583 were approved.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Beach. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #584 and #585 were approved.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person and the potential sale of real property and other issues, seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #586 titled, "Rejecting Bids Received at Public Auction and Authorizing Refund of Deposits" was motioned by Legislator Dame, seconded by Legislator Read. A roll call vote was taken. Carried (8-1-1). Legislator Hall voted no.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Keenan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Lemieux". To the right of the signature, there are initials "KLB" written in a similar cursive style.

Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer