

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

April 29, 2013

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County
Legislature held Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in the Legislative Chambers, 137
Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Robert Butler, Area 6
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3
John Gallagher, Area 9
Robert Heins, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
James Langley, Jr., Chairperson, Area 7
Harry McManus, Area 1
Sara Rowden, Area 4

EXCUSED: Jonathan Beach, Area 2

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
William Favreau, County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Langley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. Legislator Beach asked to be excused.

Legislator Butler offered a motion to accept the minutes of the April 10th Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Dyer. (Carried 9-0-1).

Chairperson Langley invited Legislator Dyer to the podium to present a plaque to the Beekmantown Girls' High School Hockey Team congratulating them on Capturing the New York State Championship.

Chairperson Langley asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Legislature. He asked that individuals raise their hand and state their name and address for the record. In accordance with the Rules of Order, all speakers were limited to five minutes.

There being no one who wished to speak, Chairperson Langley moved onto Committee and Liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Samuel Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported one elevator in the Government Center is currently inoperable. The Buildings and Grounds Department is aware of the situation, and it is anticipated it will be repaired in the very near future.

County Operations Committee – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Committee was polled on Resolutions #305 through #307 which are on the agenda.

Finance Committee – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 8th at 5:15 p.m. The Committee was polled on Resolutions #308 and #309 which are on the agenda.

Health Committee – Jonathan Beach

Mr. Zurlo reported the Health Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd at 5:15 p.m. has been rescheduled to Monday, May 6th at 6:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Robert Heins

Legislator Heins reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met prior to the Regular Session. The Committee discussed the existing rental properties currently available to lease and those in need of work in order to become suitable rental properties.

Request for Proposals (RFPs) were opened earlier in the day for the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at the Airport. RFPs will be thoroughly reviewed and a recommendation will be made.

Airline enplanements continue to increase.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported a great deal of work has been done on the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce's Destination Master Plan. A 2012 Leisure Travel Study was also conducted. The total estimated revenue generated by leisure travel in 2012 was nearly \$24 million which results in an approximate \$63 return for every \$1 invested in tourism marketing. On Thursday, April 11th, a public forum to review the Destination Master Plan was held at Clinton Community College. Approximately 250 people attended. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Clinton Community College – Mark Dame

Mr. Zurlo reported he has been in contact with President John Jablonski to schedule a tour of the College campus for all Legislators.

Cooperative Extension – Harry McManus

Legislator McManus reported Cornell Cooperative Extension's efforts to streamline services between the five counties has resulted in a savings of tens of thousands of dollars. A great deal of youth has been benefitting from Cooperative Extension's youth service programs. Cooperative Extension is focusing on promoting people to grow and purchase locally-produced foods/products.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported he was unable to attend the Thursday, April 18th meeting in Lewis County. There were no resolutions on the agenda to be acted upon.

Lake Champlain/Lake George (LC/LG) Regional Planning Board – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the LC/LG Regional Planning Board will meet in July.

Community Services – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported the Community Services Board met Tuesday, April 23rd. Contract agency reports were provided to the Committee. The new CEO of Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. was in attendance.

Legislator Rowden reported the Secure Ammunition and Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) ACT is beginning to have an impact on the mental health field. Sherrie Gillette, the Director of Community Services, is holding off on 131 reports because she does not have sufficient information on hand. Ms. Gillette is waiting for a legal determination.

The Suicide Prevention Coalition continues their work. Mental Health and Addiction Clinic's productivity has increased. The new psychiatrist is having a positive impact as clients are being seen quicker.

Soil and Water – Sam Dyer, Sara Rowden

Legislator Dyer reported Soil and Water Conservation met Thursday, April 18th. Shared services with Essex, St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties have been very productive and projects are being completed. An inventory is being done on Ag Plastic Bales. Franklin County will be procuring scrubbers and shredders which will recycle bales into food-grade plastics.

Grievance Committee – Mark Dame, John Gallagher, Sara Rowden

Legislator Gallagher reported one grievance was heard and the Committee's recommendation was given to Alan Gibson, the Personnel Director. The Grievance Committee will meet again on Monday, April 29th at 8:30 a.m. to discuss another issue.

Discipline Review – Robert Heins, Sara Rowden

Legislator Heins reported the Discipline Review Committee met and resolved one issue. He was very happy with CSEA and its delegates. He felt the meeting was very productive.

Workforce Investment Board – James Langley, Jr.

Chairperson Langley stated the Workforce Investment Board will meet Friday, April 26th.

Legislator Gallagher reported the four-county Youth Commission will be planning a job fair. The Youth Board has issued a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Workforce Investment jobs.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – William Favreau

County Attorney William Favreau requested an Executive Session to discuss four matters of pending litigation.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported information will be forthcoming regarding the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day which is scheduled for Saturday, June 1st.

The sales tax extension legislation has been drafted. The legislation has received a number in the State Senate and is now waiting for introduction in the Assembly. Once that is done, the Clinton County Legislature will have to pass home rule legislation.

There being no further reports, Chairperson Langley moved onto resolutions. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted, unless otherwise noted:

Resolution #301 titled, “Approving Appointment of Commissioner of Social Services – Legislature” was unanimously adopted by a vote of 5/4.

Discussion: Legislator Heins stated Clinton County is very fortunate to have an individual who has been in the department for numerous years, understands the issues and has been forthright in helping work from within the budget. He feels Mr. Redden will do a remarkable job.

Legislator Gallagher stated it has been a pleasure to work with John Redden for many years. He feels Mr. Redden will be a great Commissioner.

Legislator Rowden stated she feels the Department of Social Services is one of the most difficult departments to run due to its complexity and the many difficult issues it deals with. She stated she is very pleased that Mr. Redden wanted to take on this responsibility and feels this will be a smooth transition.

Legislator Dame stated he has been very impressed with John Redden and his knowledge of the Department. This Department has a large budget, and he looks forward to Mr. Redden coming up with policies and procedures to help alleviate some of the negative issues the Department has (fraud/misuse of benefits, etc.). Legislator Dame wished Mr. Redden the best of luck and congratulated him on his appointment.

Legislator Dyer extended his congratulations to Mr. Redden. He, too, believes this will be a very smooth transition.

Legislator Butler stated he feels John Redden deserves this position; he has earned the title of Commissioner. Legislator Butler believes this will be a seamless transition. He thanked Mr. Redden for pursuing this new position.

John Redden thanked the Legislature for their support and stated he looks forward to the challenge.

Resolutions #302 through #305 were unanimously adopted.

Resolution #306 titled, "Opposing Senate Bill 1461 and Assembly Bill A689 which Relate to Early Voting – Board of Elections" was adopted by a vote of 9-0-1.

Discussion: Legislator McManus stated this is a good idea gone wrong. Early voting, he believes, is an excellent idea to increase the number of voters participating in the process, but this would also serve as yet another unfunded mandate. It is anticipated early voting could cost Clinton County between \$60,000 to \$70,000 to run this election, and money has not been budgeted for this purpose. This initiative could cost approximately \$20 million for the entire State of New York. He spoke with the Board of Elections and if the provision for absentee voting would be changed, the same results could be achieved at no cost.

Legislator Gallagher agreed that if the absentee voting provision could be changed, it would allow voters to have more flexibility in voting.

Mr. Zurlo stated both Clinton County Election Commissioners have advised that if the State statute was changed, it could allow people to vote by absentee ballot.

Legislator Dame stated it was his understanding that most, if not all county Board of Elections, were also opposed to this proposed act. By simply changing the rules for absentee voting, it could create the same situation.

Legislator Rowden stated there is a very simple solution for this situation, and it wouldn't cost anything.

Resolutions #307 through #333 were unanimously adopted.

Legislator Dyer motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss a matter of pending litigation, seconded by Legislator McManus. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Lemieux".

Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

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