

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 17, 2013

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County  
Legislature held Wednesday, December 11, 2013 in the Legislative Chambers, 137  
Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
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

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. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Dyer offered a motion to accept the minutes of the November 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson Langley asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Langley called for standing committee and liaison reports.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Samuel Dyer**

Legislator Dyer reported the Surrogate Building Exterior Ramp Project is 75 percent complete. The Highway Department's Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Project has been completed and is under warranty. Resolution #1007 on the agenda will establish the 2013 Master Plan Improvement Projects.

Mr. Zurlo reported a Resolution will be placed on an upcoming agenda to solicit Requests for Qualifications for Architectural/Engineering Services to implement current and future Master Plan Projects due to the recent death of the County's Architect, John McKenna.

#### **County Operations Committee – Mark Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the County Operations Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled. Resolutions #965 through #968 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee. The County Clerk's Office will be contracting with COTT Systems to implement the E-Commerce System in the County Clerk's office.

## **Finance Committee – Sara Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported the Finance Committee held a public hearing on the 2014 County Budget on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Resolution #958 on the agenda will adopt the 2014 budget. The budget contains no increase in the tax rate and a very small increase in the tax levy. All this was done, leaving the County with a very healthy fund balance. This was also achieved without eliminating any services or personnel.

## **Health Committee – Jonathan Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. Resolutions #971 through #975 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee. All Legislators have been invited to attend the “Get to Know Your Local Health Department” on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the second floor meeting room of the Old Courthouse Building.

## **Human Services Committee – Pete Keenan**

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled. Resolutions #976 through #982 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee.

## **Personnel Committee – John Gallagher**

Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Resolutions #983 through #991 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee. Interviews for Personnel Director will be conducted Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. each evening. All Legislators are invited to attend.

## **Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Robert Heins**

Legislator Heins reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee did not meet. Resolution #992 will authorize a lease amendment with Paramount Enterprises International, Inc. The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

Legislator Heins happily reported Clinton County will receive \$4.5 million in grant monies from New York State for the establishment of a Federal Inspection Service (FIS) Customs facility. Mr. Zurlo reported the North Country Region was designated as a Top Performer for the third consecutive year and was awarded \$81.2 million. Legislator Heins congratulated Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown for his impressive presentation to Governor Cuomo in Lake Placid.

### **Public Safety – Robert Butler**

Legislator Butler reported the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. The Committee was polled on Resolutions #993 through #1001.

### **Transportation Committee – Harry McManus**

Legislator McManus reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. He stated he was impressed that County Highway Superintendent Al Rascoe completed all of the Department's 2013 projects. The issues with the Narrows Road Bridge are still in the discovery phase of the process, and this will potentially require an additional year.

Legislator Butler reported he will be meeting with Mr. Rascoe and representatives from Barton & Loguidice, P.C. on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans to complete the bike path at Saranac Central School which will run between the elementary school and high school. Clinton County was awarded \$372,000 for this project. This bike path will greatly reduce the possibility of anyone getting injured. The project should be completed by the end of next summer before the school year begins.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Chamber of Commerce – Sara Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee met Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Committee has been meeting with newly-elected Legislators and Town Supervisors.

Legislator Rowden reported she will be providing copies of the publication, Due North, to all Legislators. This is published by students at Plattsburgh State University College through one of its journalism classes. This publication is being placed in the back seats of all PenAir flights. The Visitors' Bureau will be distributing copies of this publication to various agencies.

Legislator Rowden reported she received a copy of a publication from the Adventure Cycling Association which lists its tours. In one description, it mentioned they were coming through the Adirondack Coast. The Visitors' Bureau contacted this group and offered assistance to them when they came through this area on tour. The Adventure Cycling Association stated Clinton County was the most helpful, welcoming community they have ever dealt with.

### **Clinton Community College – Mark Dame**

Legislator Dame reported Clinton Community College would hold its winter commencement on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

### **Cooperative Extension – Harry McManus**

Legislator McManus reported Cooperative Extension was elated with its budget increase for 2014.

### **Intercounty Legislative Committee – Mark Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee did not meet in December.

Mr. Zurlo reported as the Legislature will be reorganizing in January, he wanted to note Clinton County will be chairing the Committee in 2014. County staff will be responsible for setting up the monthly meetings, gathering and preparing agenda items (i.e. Resolutions, correspondence, etc.) and traveling to the various counties in the Northern Adirondack region.

### **Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Mark Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the Lake Champlain/Lake George (LC/LG) Regional Planning Board held its bi-annual meeting and adopted its 2014 budget. He urged Clinton County to submit more of its local projects in order to benefit from funding from the LC/LG Revolving Loan Fund.

## **Soil and Water – Sam Dyer and Sara Rowden**

Legislator Dyer reported the next meeting of Soil and Water is scheduled for Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Staff Reports**

### **County Attorney – William Favreau**

William Favreau, Esq. requested an Executive Session to discuss four matters of litigation and one issue regarding the sale or lease of real property.

### **County Administrator – Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo requested an Executive Session to discuss a matter of collective negotiations.

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

Resolutions #958 titled, “Adopting the 2014 Budget” was approved 5/5.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported as required by New York State statute, prior to the adoption of the budget, the levy has to be filed with the New York State Comptroller’s Office. This filing was completed earlier in the day. The tax levy has been reduced by an additional \$2,000 from the Tentative Budget as a result of a reduction in County-wide taxable assessed value.

Legislator Dame stated this was a very good budget, revenues and sales tax were strong. He thanked Mr. Zurlo and his staff for their hard work. Legislator Dame stated throughout the coming year, some things could change in the budget. He looks forward to input from the Legislature on ideas for reducing expenses.

Resolutions #959 through #997 were approved.

Resolution #998 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Twinstate Technologies – Child Advocacy Center (CAC) for District Attorney’s Office” was adopted by a vote of 9-0-0-1. (Legislator Butler abstained.)

Resolutions #999 through #1018 were approved.

Legislator Heins stated this would be the last Regular Session he would be serving with Legislator Gallagher. Legislator Heins took a brief opportunity to state it has been a privilege for him to have worked with Legislator Gallagher during the last 12 years. He stated Legislator Gallagher has always maintained a professional, apolitical position in this body, and it has been very much appreciated. If there was one committee where politics could have been involved, it would have been the Personnel Committee. He thanked Legislator Gallagher for his continued professionalism.

Legislator Gallagher motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 as previously outlined, seconded by Legislator Dyer. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Heins motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Dyer. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #1019 through #1021 were approved.

Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rowden. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer

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