

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 21, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, December 13, 2023 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1
David Bezio, Area 4
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Robert Hall, Area 10

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Hall asked to be excused.

Legislator Timmons motioned to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Henry moved onto the Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11th was cancelled and will meet again in the New Year.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, reported the Wendel Energy Projects are substantially completed, with only punch list items remaining.

The Surrogate Building, Department of Social Services and Probation Department roofs are close to completion, with the cap metal being installed. The Highway Department roof will be installed in the Spring of 2024.

Mr. Cleveland also reported the Government Center Brick Project will be going to bid in early 2024. Mr. Zurlo reported American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) funds will be utilized for this Project. There is a deadline for the funds to be utilized and the Project must be completed within that timeframe.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, December 5th.

Christine Peters, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Northeastern Family Institute Vermont, Inc.” and “Authorizing Contract with the Northeast Group.” Ms. Peters also reviewed several discussion items including the Warming Center, Maken Motel and staffing updates.

Resolutions #890 through #895 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

John Zurlo, the County Clerk, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Ongoing Contract with Cott Systems, Inc.”

Tammy Lacey, the Real Property Director, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with Systems Development Group (SDG), Inc.”

David Randall, the Information Technology Director, was also present to discuss resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Tyler Technologies” and “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Request for Proposals for Wide Area Network and Dedicated Internet Access.”

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was also in attendance to discuss resolutions, “Authorizing Empire State Development’s Regional Economic and Community Assistance Program Grant Acceptance.” She also provided a FAST NY update and a County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) update.

Resolutions #896 through #904 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, November 28th to discuss the 2024 Recommended Budget.

Resolution #884, which adopts the 2024 Budget, and Resolution #905 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation. Thank you to everyone for their hard work to bring us to this point.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #906, which is on the agenda.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, December 6th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues for the Year 2024” and “Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024 Utilizing Opioid Settlement Regional Abatement Funding.”

Jeff Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was also in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Patagonia Health” and “Authorizing Throwing Shade (New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) Climate Change and Health Adaptation Project) Grant Application.”

Mr. Sisson also discussed the Director’s Report for October, 2023 and the Health Department Report for November, 2023.

Resolutions #907 through #917 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, December 5th.

Kevin LeBoeuf, the Director of the Veterans’ Service Agency, was present to discuss monthly statistics for November, 2023.

Darleen Collins, the Director of the Office for the Aging, was in attendance to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing the Four-Year Plan and Accepting Annual Implementation Plan.”

Resolution #918 has been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #919 on the agenda.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, December 4th.

Resolutions #920 through #928 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Hall, Mr. Zurlo reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #929 on the agenda.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine stated the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, December 4th.

Rusty Haag, the STOP-DWI Coordinator, was present to discuss resolutions, "Authorizing Contract with Dorrance Supply Corporation" and "Approving Reappointments to the Clinton County STOP-DWI Advisory Board."

Chad Deans, the Coroner, was also present to discuss resolution, "Authorizing Contract with the University of Vermont Health Network Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital" and continued discussion on a morgue cooler.

Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, discussed the resolution, "Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues."

Jamie Martineau, the Public Defender, was also in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Payment of 2024 Membership Dues" and "Authorizing Lease Agreement with Oval Development, LLC." He also discussed his reappointment of Public Defender request.

Dave Marcoux, the Probation Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Awarding Bid for Forensic Laboratory Testing Services" and "Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024."

Justin Meyer, the Administrator of Indigent Defendants, was also in attendance to discuss Family Court Contracts.

Resolutions #930 through #946 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #947 on the agenda.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee met on Monday, December 11th.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Awarding Bid for Tack Coat on Various Road Projects for the Years 2024 and 2025” and “Awarding Bids for Rental of Equipment and Manpower for the Year 2024.”

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was also in attendance to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Advertising on the Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) Buses.” Additionally, Ms. Thayer provided a Section 5311 Funding Update.

Resolutions #948 through #956 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

LIAISON REPORTS

Community Services Board - Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported Shawn Sabella of Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN), Inc. stated BHSN, Inc. has grown as a provider and they offer an array of services and supports to approximately 4,000 individuals with the goal to improve access to care and provide high quality care at an affordable price.

Additionally, Legislator Castine stated Opioid Settlement fund Request for Proposals (RFPs) were reviewed by the Community Service Board members and selected based on a point scoring system.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to discuss the sale of real estate and pending legislation.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated as required by statute, he filed the Tax Cap with the State of New York earlier today. By statute, it is mandated the filing be conducted prior to approving the following year’s budget. It indicates two things- what the proposed tax levy is and whether or not the County is going to exceed the tax cap. He noted Clinton County will not exceed the tax cap.

He reported Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, has been working with municipalities on the Shared Services Program. He stated it is now that time of the year to close that issue. He noted two public hearings have occurred, one on Tuesday, December 12th, and a second on Wednesday, December 13th. The third and final hearing will occur on Thursday, December 14th. After the public hearings are completed, the Shared Services Panel will vote on the proposed plan. The plan will result in an estimated savings of \$364,000. None of the shared services are with Clinton County; they are all with municipalities. These shared services include the joint purchase of software, the joint purchase of a tandem roller, sharing a code enforcement officer and sharing Emergency Medical Services.

Lastly, Mr. Zurlo reported there is a resolution on the agenda for the Organizational Meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Chairpersons Report

There being no further business, Chairperson Henry moved on to resolutions. The following resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #884 through #888 were approved.

Resolution #889 titled, “Authorizing Payment of 2024 Membership Dues” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) dues are on this resolution and the Legislature is aware of the work conducted by NYSAC. Mr. Zurlo stated he was recently appointed to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors. He stated he will do his best to represent the County and the State of New York on a national level.

Resolutions #890 through #894 were approved.

Resolution #895 titled, “Authorizing the Youth Bureau to File Application for State Aid for Youth Development Program Allocations and Youth Sports Education Program Allocations and Authorizing Various Contracts” was motioned by Legislator Potiker and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #896 through #909 were approved.

Resolution #910 titled, “Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024 Utilizing Opioid Settlement Regional Abatement Funding” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported this is for regional funding that goes directly to the Community Services Board to distribute to the community. This is in addition to the amount of money the County provides to the Community Services Board.

Resolutions #911 through #913 were approved.

Resolution #914 titled, “Amending Resolution #801 dated November 8, 2023 titled, “Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported on this resolution and the previous one, the increase is due to a correction by the State of New York. When the original numbers were released, the State of New York inadvertently reversed the State’s portion with the County’s portion. The State has corrected the error and as a result the County’s portion has increased.

Resolutions #915 through #919 were approved.

Resolution #920 titled, “Approving Reappointment of James Martineau Jr., Esq. to the Position of Public Defender was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislators Timmons and Waldron. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported Mr. Martineau is present at the meeting. He stated five years ago he, the Administrator of Indigent Defendants Justin Meyer and Mr. Martineau built the office from the foundation up and it is now thriving for those individuals needing defense services and can’t afford an attorney. He reported Mr. Martineau is running a good department and is looking to fill a few positions in the office.

Resolutions #921 through #945 were approved.

Resolution #946 titled, "Amending Resolution #411 dated May 24, 2023 titled, "Awarding Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Family Court Legal Services" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported the County went out to bid for this service and received five responses. The County awarded to four and one of the attorneys has advised the County that he is seeking to get out of his contract. This resolution will allow that and incorporates the fifth attorney who previously submitted a bid, at the same rates, and still has an interest in the position

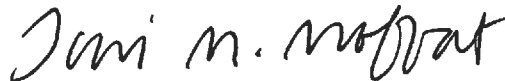
Resolutions #947 through #963 were approved.

Legislator Hughes motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Kretser motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:52 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (9-0-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Kretser motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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