

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
:SS  
STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 22, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Monday,  
December 20, 2021 Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3  
Wendell Hughes, Area 8  
Richard Potiker, Area 5  
Joshua Kretser, Area 9  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Francis Peryea, Area 2  
Rob Timmons, Area 7

VACANCY: Area 4

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator  
Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator  
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney  
John Kanoza, Public Health Director  
Glen Cutter, Planning Director  
David Bezio, Legislator Elect, Area 4

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Messrs. Peryea and Timmons asked to be excused.

Legislator Kretser motioned to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Chairperson Henry introduced and invited John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, to the podium to honor him with a Distinguished Service Award, joined by Legislator Hughes. Mr. Henry noted Mr. Kanoza will be retiring at the end of this month and this is his last meeting. Mr. Henry stated Mr. Kanoza has done an exemplary job for the last 20 years and the County was fortunate to have someone like him. Mr. Henry stated Mr. Kanoza and his Department have more than risen to the occasion during this Pandemic to help people and do what needs to be done to save lives. Mr. Henry stated the County is going to miss Mr. Kanoza's leadership and steady hand. Mr. Henry stated Mr. Kanoza has represented his Department and the County well, he will be very difficult to replace and we appreciate all that he has done.

Mr. Henry then presented Mr. Kanoza with a Distinguished Service Award from the Clinton County Legislature. Mr. Henry stated this award is given with sincere appreciation for Mr. Kanoza's outstanding leadership through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Henry closed by stating this award is presented to him with deep appreciation for all that he has done, and he hopes he remembers us, as we will all remember him.

Mr. Hughes thanked Mr. Kanoza for everything he has done, and stated he has been helpful since he came in as the Chairperson of the Health Committee and he couldn't have asked for a better person to show him what the Department does.

Mr. Kanoza thanked everyone and stated he has enjoyed working with everyone throughout the Pandemic in the last two years. Mr. Kanoza stated it was a whole department effort, as well as partners including Emergency Services, Mental Health, Social Services and the Sheriff's Department, and thanked everyone again.

Chairperson Henry invited Glen Cutter, the Director of Planning, and Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, to the podium. Mr. Zurlo presented Mr. Cutter with a plaque honoring him for his 30 years of service to Clinton County.

Mr. Zurlo stated it is a tradition here at Clinton County to honor employees who have been here for 30 years with a token of appreciation. Mr. Zurlo stated it is always a pleasure when someone chooses to stay with local government for that amount of time, and it is a badge of honor that someone wants to improve the lives of those in Clinton County, and Mr. Cutter has certainly done that. Mr. Zurlo stated in appreciation and recognition of 30 years of dedicated service, this award is presented to Glen Cutter by the Clinton County Legislature on behalf of the County of Clinton.

Mr. Cutter thanked everyone. He stated there has been a lot of change in his 30 years with the County, but it is amazing. Mr. Cutter stated one of the best things about working in his Department was working with all of the different projects over the years.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature on any issue.

There being no one to address the Legislature, Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee Reports.

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 13th was cancelled.

James Cleveland, the Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, provided an update on the Government Center Roof Project stating it is near completion. All of the flashing on the perimeter is installed and is currently being installed on the penthouse roof. After that is completed, there will be a pitch pocket installed for future air conditioning installation in the computer room and punch list items to follow.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee was polled on Resolutions #970 and #971 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker**

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

### **Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolutions #972 and #973 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Finance Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo reported the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

A Public Hearing on the 2022 Tentative Budget was held on Wednesday, December 15th. He noted there has been no changes to the Tentative Budget. Resolution #965 adopts the 2022 Budget as presented.

The Finance Committee was polled on Resolution #974 which has been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Health Committee – Legislator Hughes**

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

### **Human Services Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo reported the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #975 through #981 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry**

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolutions #982 through #1002 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the

Committee.

### **Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting scheduled for earlier today was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #1003 through #1009 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine**

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #1010 through #1014 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

### **Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser**

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee met on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Awarding Bid for Transit Mix Concrete for the Years 2022 and 2023” and “Awarding Bids for Automotive Supplies – Bench Stock Items for the Year 2022.” Mr. Weiss also discussed several items including the Effects of the Infrastructure Bill, CDL Driver’s License – Federal Motor Carrier Entry Level Driver Training Program, Converting the Street Lights to LED on Commodore Thomas Macdonough Highway per the New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) Agreement and the General Leroy Manor Road Accident of December 4, 2021 in the Town of Dannemora.

Resolutions #1015 through #1027 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker**

Legislator Potiker reported beginning Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, returning Canadian Citizens who have come to visit the United States will once again need a negative PCR test, even if their visit is less than 72 hours. The PCR test must be administered in the U.S. Although this is both frustrating and a step backwards, the Chamber of Commerce continues to engage in the dialogue with officials and partners of both sides of the border.

Legislator Potiker provided a quick reminder that upstate New York minimum wage has increased to \$13.20 per hour as of December 31, 2021.

Legislator Potiker reported as part of the New York State Department of Labor Grant, the Chamber of Commerce is partnering with CV-Tech and Clinton Community College to offer free medical office assistant training and advanced manufacturing training to community members who are unemployed or underemployed.

Legislator Potiker reported in partnership with the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) the North Country Chamber of Commerce is offering a virtual Digital Marketing Training Series at \$75 per

person.

Lastly, Legislator Potiker reported, as always, the Chamber continues to support shopping locally this holiday season and encourages everyone to check out the 2021 Adirondack Holiday Giving Guide for last minute holiday shopping items.

## STAFF REPORTS

### County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

### County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the Organizational Meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2022 and one of the resolutions on the Organizational Meeting agenda is adopting the Rules of Order for the year. Last year, the meeting dates for July and August were changed to only holding one Regular Session per month rather than two. Mr. Zurlo stated before the Rules of Order are sent out to the Legislators for review, he questioned if this is something the Legislators wanted to continue as he will not have their audience before the Rules of Order are sent out. All Legislators agreed to move forward with the Rules of Order reading one Regular Session in July and August.

Secondly, Mr. Zurlo opened a conversation regarding the memo from Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, addressing the County's Electrical Rates. Ms. Kinblom stated Clinton County is a member of the Municipal Electricity and Gas Alliance (MEGA), which assists municipalities in procuring electricity and natural gas supplies. MEGA currently has a contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc. and the County has a contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc. until November 30, 2022. Ms. Kinblom stated the current locked-in rate is \$0.4108/KwH and the estimated bill for County buildings not in the City of Plattsburgh is \$298,523 for electricity per year. Ms. Kinblom stated a representative from Constellation New Energy, Inc. reached out stating the electricity rates are steadily increasing and provided the opportunity to consider a blended rate starting January 1, 2022 rather than continuing the low rate until the end of November 2022 then potentially having a significantly higher rate starting November 2022. Ms. Kinblom stated if the County decides to switch to the blended rate in January, the increase to the 2022 Budget would be an estimated \$52,000. Mr. Zurlo stated traditionally the County has opted to stay with the locked-in rate, and went to market rates when the contract comes due, as this opportunity is simply to ease the increase.

David Bezio, Area 4 Legislator-Elect, stated every year for the last five to six years, there has been many kinds of renewable energy sources coming on board like solar energy, hydro-generating sources, and if a change is made to the new blended rate, it will erode all the savings from having the fixed-price option. Mr. Bezio stated it is basically a cost to extend the contract and suggested to stay with the current fixed-priced option. Mr. Bezio stated since the budget is already done, if the cost of electricity does go up \$52,000 in the next year then plans can be made accordingly for next year's budget.

Mr. Zurlo stated by locking into a blended rate, when the rates go up, the County would still be paying a lower rate than otherwise would have, assuming the rates do in fact go up.

Legislator Kretser stated it seems like a gamble to spend \$52,000 when there is no way to know if the new rate is going to go up.

Mr. Henry asked if everyone agreed to stay with the current fixed rate. All Legislators agreed.

## Chairperson's Report – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry stated his report requires an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Legislator Hughes motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:47 p.m., seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Legislator Hughes motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (7-0-2-1).

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

Resolutions #965 and #966 were approved.

Resolution #967 titled, "Approving Northern Insuring Agency, Inc. as the Broker of Record for 2022 Property and Casualty Insurance" was motioned by Legislator Kretser and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is the amount of the premium for the County's insurance, not the amount paid to the Broker.

Resolution #968 titled, "Establishing Date for Organizational Meeting" was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature that the Legislative photo will be taken prior to the Organizational Meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Resolutions #969 through #978 were approved.

Resolution #979 titled, "Authorizing an Increase in Room and Board Rates for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents" was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Legislator Hall asked what the rates went up to, which Mr. Zurlo responded the rates have increased by \$10 per day and is for private pay room rates.

Resolutions #980 through #998 were approved.

Resolution #999 titled, "Approving Creation of Two Temporary, Part-Time Medical Clerk/Typist Positions (PCN TBD)" was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated these positions are funded by COVID-19 grants and Ms. Kinblom confirmed.

Resolution #1000 titled, "Approving Creation of Two Temporary, Part-Time Registered Professional Nurse Positions (PCN TBD)" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated these positions are also fully funded by COVID-19 grants.

Resolutions #1001 and #1002 were approved.

Resolution #1003 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc. for Independent Fee Estimate (IFE) Services for the Rehabilitation of Runway 17-35 Lighting (LED) and Reconstruction of Airfield Guidance Signage (LED) – Design Project" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated for those who are not on the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee, once the consulting engineers at the Airport do the work for this Grant, it is required to send it to a third-party engineer to make sure it is within the acceptable range that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will fund, so that is what these two resolutions are for (Hoyle Tanner & Associates, Inc.)

Resolutions #1004 through #1030 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to recess at 6:31 p.m., seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit recess at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Upon resuming to Regular Session, Legislator Kretser motioned to adjourn to continue on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (7-0-2-1).

At 10:00 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December, Legislature called for the resumption of Regular Session #22 and Mr. Zurlo reread the title to Resolution #1031.

Resolution #1031 titled, "Approving Temporary Appointment of an Interim Public Health Director (PCN 2001)" was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (7-0-2-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Waldron motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 a.m. on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (7-0-2-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer E. Favro  
Senior Typist

:JF