

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 29, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, February 28, 2024 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  
Kevin Randall, Area 5  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Robert Hall, Area 10  
Rob Timmons, Area 7

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. Legislators Hall and Timmons asked to be excused.

Legislator Hughes motioned to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Jennifer Jewett, of 11109 State Route 9, Champlain, New York addressed the Legislature concerning animal cruelty and dog tethering laws. She noted Dutchess, Essex and Ulster Counties currently have animal tethering laws in place. Ms. Jewett noted due to the recent large seizure of animals in Clinton County that occurred earlier in the week, she is urging the County to follow Essex County's lead. Ms. Jewett reviewed her recommendations on how to begin the process for these changes. Chairperson Henry stated the video she emailed the Legislature was very informative and advised Ms. Jewett this process would begin with the Public Safety Committee chaired by Legislator Castine.

Chelsea Liberty, of P.O. Box 684, Dannemora, New York, spoke about the investigation of the New York State Commissioner of Corrections regarding the death of an inmate in 2021 and the ongoing investigation into an inmate death that occurred in 2023. Ms. Liberty also spoke about the lawsuits brought forth by former Sheriff Department correctional officers.

Makayla Suddard, of 458 Lapham Mills Road, Peru, New York spoke about the petition she began regarding Sheriff David Favro's resignation and the harassment she experienced during her employment at the Sheriff's Department.

Laurie Parsons, of the Elmore SPCA, spoke about the lengthy legislation the State put forth that will take effect in December, 2025. Ms. Parsons noted she is in full support of this legislation, but given their facility limitations, if they choose to do nothing the shelter will close. Ms. Parsons closed by stating she is seeking funding opportunities.

John Parmalee, of 13 Iowa Street, Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature regarding the Plattsburgh International Airport realities from a taxpayer perspective. He is asking for transparency on the costs to operate the Airport. Mr. Parmalee noted since opening in 2007, service has decreased over time and he compared the high rate of flight competition with the Burlington International Airport and the Montreal Airport. He finds the Breeze Airways flights relatively duplicative and noted the Plattsburgh Airport only has three to six flights departing per day.

There being no one else 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 has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Peryea stated the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

The Committee was polled on Resolution #147 on the agenda to advertise for a Public Hearing regarding the eight-year review of Agricultural District 7C.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

On behalf of Legislator Timmons, Mr. Zurlo reported the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

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

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall**

Legislator Randall reported the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m.

#### **Personnel Committee – Chairperson Henry**

Chairperson Henry stated the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

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

On behalf of Legislator Hall, Legislator Waldron reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for the Rehabilitation of Runway 17-35 Lighting (LED) and

Reconstruction of Airfield Guidance Signage (LED) (Construction) Project” and “Authorizing the Acquire Continuous Friction Measuring Equipment (CFME) Project Grant Application.”

Mr. Kreig also discussed the solar eclipse, safety management system development and a tenant and airline update.

Resolutions #148 through #155 have been placed on agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

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

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Kretser stated the Transportation Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Kretser**

Legislator Kretser spoke about the Adirondack Coast Visitors Bureau activities that occurred in February. The Chamber is also involved with the America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee and there will be eight Professional Bass tournaments held this summer. The solar eclipse event occurring on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> has hotel occupancy of 95 percent and on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber is hosting an event from 3:30-5 p.m. at BETA Technologies, Inc.

#### **Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Randall**

Legislator Randall stated he attended the Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting at the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference. One of the main topics was the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) crisis.

#### **Soil and Water – Legislator Bezio**

Legislator Bezio reported the Board met on Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to review the 2023 annual Treasurer’s Report, performance measure evaluations, financial assistance and State reimbursements. He stated all the figures look good.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.**

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

**County Administrator – Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo stated for those that did not attend the NYSAC Conference, their colleagues worked very hard at NYSAC and with their Committees. He noted the Legislature is spending more than Governor Kathy Hochul proposed, which could mean more downward pressure on local governments to find the money elsewhere. NYSAC is tracking down several hundred of the bills to try to prevent legislation that negatively impacts counties from becoming law.

Legislator Peryea stated he asked Sheriff David Favro if he could visit the rescued animals at the Clinton County Jail. He noted there is plenty of food and help for these animals and there is a separate ventilation system. Legislator Hughes also attended and noted how heartbreaking of a situation it is. Several officers are also volunteering their time to assist with the situation.

**Chairpersons Report**

Chairperson Henry did not have a report.

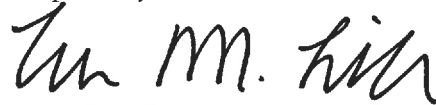
Legislator Peryea asked to be excused

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

Resolutions #147 through #159 were approved.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Bezio motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (7-0-3).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light  
Senior Typist

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