

STATE OF NEW YORK)  
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COUNTY OF CLINTON)

January 15, 2014

Stenographer's minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Clinton County Legislature held Thursday, January 2, 2014 at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Samuel Dyer, Area 3  
John Gallagher, Area 9  
Robert E. Hall, Area 10  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
James Langley, Jr., Area 7  
Harry J. McManus, Area 1  
Colin L. Read, Area 4  
Patty A. Waldron, Area 6

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

County Administrator Michael Zurlo called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Following the pledge to the flag, Michael Zurlo called upon John Zurlo, Clinton County Clerk, to administer the Oath of Office to all newly-elected legislators and invited them to sign the Book of Oaths.

John Zurlo congratulated all newly-elected Legislators and invited their family and friends to stand next to them while he administered the Oath of Office. Legislators signed the official Oath Book.

Mr. Zurlo called upon Magistrate Susan Castine to administer the Oath of Office to the new County Treasurer, Kimberly Davis, and invited the County Clerk to have the Treasurer sign the Book of Oaths.

Deputy County Administrator, Rodney Brown, conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Mr. Brown read the title of Resolution #1, "Appointing Chairperson of the County Legislature for 2014."

Discussion: Legislator Keenan stated it is an honor and a privilege for him to nominate Samuel Dyer as Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2014. He stated he believes Mr. Dyer has the skills and qualities commensurate with this important post. During his tenure on the Legislature, Mr. Dyer has displayed a strong work ethic, the desire to solve problems and the ability to work with his colleagues in a conciliatory manner. Legislator Keenan stated he has no doubt Sam Dyer will continue the strong leadership this body has come to expect. As such, Legislator Keenan stated he was pleased to nominate Samuel Dyer as Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2014 and urged all of his colleagues to support this nomination.

Legislator Dame seconded the motion and stated it was a privilege and an honor to have served with Legislator Dyer during the last two years. Legislator Dame stated that both he and Legislator Dyer came in as freshmen members of the Legislature. Legislator Dyer came in and hit the ground running. Coupled with his knowledge of town government and his career in agriculture, this shows Mr. Dyer has an immense work ethic. Legislator Dyer has been an advocate for the taxpayers, and when he gives his word, you can count on him. Legislator Dame stated the shoes to fill from our retiring Chairperson, James Langley, will be big to fill, but he feels Legislator Dyer will do a great job. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Dyer stated as his first order of business, he would like to publicly thank outgoing Chairperson Jimmy Langley. Chairperson Dyer asked Legislator Langley to meet him at the podium to receive a gavel in appreciation of his 13 years serving as Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature (the longest serving Chairperson in the history of Clinton County).

Chairperson Dyer stated that when he came on the County Legislature two years ago, Legislator Langley made it easy for him. Chairperson Dyer stated Legislator Langley is a consensus builder, is fair, honest, non-partisan and a team player who has the ability to work in harmony with labor force. Additionally, Legislator Langley has been a critical cog in the establishment of Plattsburgh International Airport and has established relationships with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) personnel which led to acceptance into the Military Airport Program (MAP) and the subsequent receipt of millions of government funding for Plattsburgh International Airport. Legislator Langley has established positive working relationships with local, state and federal officials which has benefitted all of Clinton County. Additionally, Legislator Langley has worked extremely well with the County Administrator to ensure the smooth operation of County government.

Chairperson Dyer highlighted numerous other accomplishments: the oversight of the construction of the Cumberland Head Connector Road, the Clinton County Jail Expansion, the Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) Facility, the Probation Department Building and the Human Services Center Rehabilitation, the sale of the Home Health Care License, the Wind Farm Payment-in-Lieu of Tax (PILOT) Agreements, the hiring of several new Department Heads and the passage of fiscally-sound spending plans. Chairperson Dyer stated Legislator Langley has consistently been a respected voice of reason for Clinton County that has allowed Clinton County to achieve a high level of respect and admiration.

Chairperson Dyer stated Clinton County is in good financial shape due to Legislator Langley and the previous County Legislature.

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature. There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer asked Mr. Zurlo to read the remaining resolutions.

Resolution #2, "Appointing Deputy Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2014." Legislator Gallagher motioned to offer the name of Harry J. McManus to serve as Deputy Chairperson for the year 2014, seconded by Legislator Read.

Discussion: Legislator Gallagher stated he has worked with Legislator McManus for the past six years, and with Mr. McManus' knowledge of operations of government and his ability to analyze problems and deal with what is best for the citizens of the County, without regard to political affiliation, is most noteworthy.

Legislator Read seconded the motion and stated he feels Legislator McManus well personifies the goal of representing all of the constituents of the County in a very dignified manner. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #3, "Appointing Majority Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2014." Legislator McManus motioned to offer the name of John W. Gallagher as Majority Leader for the year 2014. The motion was seconded by Legislator Langley. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #4, "Appointing Minority Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2014."

Legislator Beach stated it was a great pleasure to offer the name of James R. Langley, Jr., as Minority Leader for the year 2014. The motion was seconded by Legislator Dame. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #5, "Adopting the Rules of Order for 2014." Legislators Langley, Keenan, Dame, Gallagher and Read offered the motion, seconded by Legislators Waldron, Hall, Dyer, Beach and McManus. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #6, "Appointing County Attorney for 2014." Legislator Keenan offered the name of James J. Coffey, Esq., seconded by Legislators Hall and Langley. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #7, "Appointing Assistant County Attorney for 2014." Legislator Read offered the name of Gary L. Favro, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #8, "Appointing Administrator of Indigent Defendants for 2014." Legislator McManus offered the name of Justin R. Meyer, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #9, "Appointing Off Track Betting (OTB) Director for 2014." Legislator McManus offered the name of Robert W. Butler.

Discussion: Legislator McManus stated he has known Bob Butler for 40 years and has served with him as County Legislator during the past six years. Mr. Butler is well known in the community as a dedicated public servant. Mr. Butler is an exceptional promoter, and the OTB Office will be in excellent hands under his leadership. His experience with seventeen years in government shows he is the right person for the job.

Legislator Gallagher seconded the motion. Legislator Gallagher stated no one could be a better on-point person for Clinton County in this role.

Legislator Dame stated he had another candidate to nominate, the incumbent Sherman Hamel, who has served as OTB Director since 1998. Legislator Dame understands that according to the Rules of Order, if one person gets nominated first and if that person receives enough votes, the second nominee becomes null and void. Legislator Dame stated that if the Resolution for Mr. Butler does not pass, Legislator Dame would gladly offer the name of Sherman Hamel who has served with loyalty and distinction, without reservation. Mr. Hamel has done an outstanding job. Legislator Dame stated he feels Mr. Hamel deserves to be reappointed and stated this is nothing to take away from Mr. Butler who he has served with on the Legislature, he has a lot of respect for him. However, Legislator Dame stated he feels if someone has been doing a good job and has received unanimous votes from every Legislature for the past 10-15 years (from both parties), he deserves to be reappointed. Legislator Dame stated he believes Mr. Hamel's experience would be advantageous to the County. Legislator Dame stated if the measure fails to nominate Mr. Butler, he would offer Mr. Hamel's name to the nomination.

Carried (9-0-1). (Mr. Dame voted no).

### **Staff Reports**

#### **County Attorney – James Coffey**

Mr. Coffey did not have a report.

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

Mr. Zurlo did not have a report.

## Chairperson's Report – Samuel Dyer

Chairperson Dyer stated he is looking forward to serving as Chairperson for the Clinton County Legislature. He thanked his colleagues, family and friends for their support. He looks forward to serving Clinton County, and he is sure they all want the same thing—for Clinton County to prosper. Clinton County is on good financial ground. He thanked Mr. Zurlo and Mr. Brown.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn at 5:40 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer

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