

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

January 29, 2018

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Mark Dame, Area 8
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Chairperson, Area 1
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

VACANT: Area 3

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Jeanene Bell, Senior Stenographer

Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2018 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-0).

Chairperson McManus proclaimed the month of February, 2018 as Career and Technical Education Month in Clinton County.

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Dr. Robert Heins from Plattsburgh, New York congratulated the Legislature on their efforts in securing SkyWest to fly to and from Washington, D.C. He thanked the Legislature (past and present), Mr. Zurlo, Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator and Airport Manager Chris Kreig for taking a leap of faith. Dr. Heins is a former County Legislator who chaired the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee.

Forrest Studebaker of Legislative Area 4 stated he feels a woman should be elected as Area 3 Legislator to bring balance that prior women legislators have brought to the Legislature. He stated in educating his students, he has tried teaching local government is where it is at. Convincing students to participate is difficult—to recognize a theoretical process, it's real. Mr. Studebaker stated credibility matters.

James McCartney, the Administrator at Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) in Plattsburgh, New York, thanked the Legislature for proclaiming the month of February, 2018 as Career and Technical Education Month in Clinton County. Mr. McCartney oversees the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute. Mr. McCartney stated that in his unofficial capacity, he is pleased the County will have SkyWest Airlines as its Essential Air Service (EAS) provider. He thanked the Legislature for their support of Chris Kreig, the Airport Manager, who is a member of the Advisory Committee at CV-TEC. Mr. McCartney stated it is a pleasure working with Mr. Kreig who is a representative of the County.

Mark Henry, a CVES board member, stated he appreciates the proclamation and all the Legislature has done for CVES.

Legislator Hall stated when he first became Chairperson of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee, he spoke with James Langley, Jr. (former Area 7 Legislator and Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature) in regards to the Airport. He stated when Mr. Langley was no longer on the Legislature (due to term limits), he spoke with Dr. Heins. He thanked Mr. Langley, Dr. Heins and stated he appreciates the work of all 10 legislators, Mr. Zurlo and Mr. Brown to accomplish SkyWest Airlines coming to the Plattsburgh International Airport.

Legislator Conroy stated in regards to SkyWest Airlines, Clinton County is riding on a wave of success and is in a good spot. He stated in response to Mr. Studebaker's comments in regards to the special election, representatives in Area 3 did look very hard to find a potential candidate for appointment or election. He stated it is difficult to get people to do the job. Legislator Conroy reported the Legislature wants the people in the district well represented.

Chairperson McManus stated he did not consider the Plattsburgh International Airport as a leap of faith—he knew this would be the future. He stated prior legislators began the process, had the vision and this County will forever be indebted to the group from 2003 to 2007 that made that first visionary statement.

There being no one else who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson McManus moved on to Committee Reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at 5:15 p.m.

Children and Family Services – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Children and Family Services Committee was polled on Resolution #39 which has been placed on the agenda. The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 6:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee was polled on Resolutions #40 through #43 which have been placed on the agenda. The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at 6 p.m.

Finance – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th at 6:15 p.m.

Health – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6th at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 7th at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee was polled on Resolution #44 which has been placed on the agenda. Resolution #54 has been included under Waive 13.2. The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th at 5:15 p.m.

Public Safety – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Public Safety Committee was polled on Resolutions #45 through #49 which have been placed on the agenda. Resolution #52 has been polled and placed under Waive Rule 13.2. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Transportation Committee was polled on Resolutions #50 and #51 which have been placed on the agenda. The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Board of Health – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Board of Health met Monday, January 22nd. He reported he was unable to attend the meeting; however, six resolutions were discussed.

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported it has been an honor for him to serve as liaison with the Chamber of Commerce. He looks forward to the next year.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported Clinton Community College will now be meeting the last Tuesday of each month (not the first Tuesday of each month), with the first meeting being Tuesday, February 27th.

Mr. Zurlo reported one of New York State Association of Counties' (NYSAC) top priorities in their legislative agenda is making sure community colleges are properly funded. He reported the executive budget recommended a decrease in community college funding. The SUNY Chancellor testified before the Budget Committee of the Joint Committee of Senate and Assembly and recommended a new funding mechanism for community colleges. Mr. Zurlo reported we need to actively work with our elected members to address the executive proposal.

Legislator Dame reported it is going to be a major problem if the estimated budget goes through with reduced funding for Clinton Community College. Chairperson McManus reported they will be at NYSAC to lobby for this issue.

Mr. Zurlo reported this is not an exchange between SUNY and community colleges, it is the Chancellor recognizing the importance of community colleges and funding formulas that need to be changed.

Community Services Board – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Community Services Board met Tuesday, January 23rd and discussed the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County (SPARCC). He reported there was discussion on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program which is focused on getting people with mental health and addiction issues to treatment and recovery before entering the law enforcement system and potentially incarceration.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported Cooperative Extension met last week; however, he was unable to attend the meeting.

Discipline Review – Mr. Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported there is an agreement on the sick watch. The Union will be voting on that proposal and will then bring it for review and resolution.

Intercounty – Legislative Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks is scheduled to meet Thursday, January 25th. She reported Clinton County will be hosting the meeting which will be held at the Plattsburgh International Airport. Refreshments will be served at 10 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. A tour of the Airport will follow. Lunch will be at Enzo's at 12 p.m. Legislator Waldron reported there will be a joint Intercounty meeting at NYSAC on Wednesday, January 31st at the NYSAC Conference.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Soil and Water meeting was cancelled last week. He reported Bruce Dimock has become a member of Soil and Water, along with Legislator Conroy. He reported former County Legislator Samuel Dyer is also a board member.

Staff Reports

Chairperson McManus reported Legislators have been provided with a copy of the State of the County address. He is looking forward to working with the Legislature in 2018. Chairperson McManus reported there are six Legislators in different committee chairmanships for 2018. He is hopeful we will have a successful year as last year, and he feels it is accurate to say Clinton County has never been in a stronger position than it is now.

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

Resolution #37 titled, "Establishing Date for Special Election for Legislative Area 3 – Legislature"

Discussion: Legislator Waldron reported the special election was the one thing the Legislature could agree on after intense conversations.

Legislator Dame reported he is pleased his colleagues have come around to allow simple democracy to unfold as it should in every district. He hopes we never have to go through this again.

Legislator Beach reported he would like the legislative body to look into a new local law that would eliminate the appointment option. Chairperson McManus reported it will be discussed at the next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting.

Legislator Conroy reported one of the concerns that some had with the special election is if the election is held in March, it does not leave a lot of time for Area 3 residents to find a candidate. He reported there were those who thought it would be better to run for the November election. Legislator Conroy reported there is a time and a place for a temporary appointment. He feels the special election in March will be a healthy race with a number of candidates running.

Legislator Hall reported he agrees with passing a local law so that this does not happen again. However, he noted that appointments have been made in previous years and previous elections, and an appointment should happen in this instance too. Legislator Hall reported he is not against special elections, but he is voting against what happened in his party.

Carried (8-1-0). Legislator Hall voted no.

Resolution #38 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with the Agricultural and Industrial Fair of Clinton County – Legislature"

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported the County was working from a very old document, and the County's insurance broker (Northern Insuring Agency, Inc.) requested a new document to reference. He reported the Fair Board has reviewed the document. Carried (9-0-0).

Resolutions #39 through #49 were approved.

Resolution #50 titled, "Adopting Clinton County Public Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy – Clinton County Public Transit"

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest thanked the Legislature, Mr. Zurlo, Mr. Brown and James Bosley, the Planning Technician, for the email debate in regards to this issue. Carried (9-0-0).

Resolution #51 was approved.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Conroy. Carried (9-0-0).

Resolutions #52 and #53 were approved.

Resolution #54 titled, "Recommendation to the United States Department of Transportation to Award the Essential Air Service Subsidy Contract to SkyWest Airlines – Plattsburgh International Airport"

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest stated no longer having PenAir will impact some individuals. He reported the long-term benefits by choosing SkyWest Airlines is growth in Clinton County. Legislator Rosenquest reported he is privileged and honored to serve on the board with the Legislators and to serve after those Legislators who had the vision to move forward with the Plattsburgh International Airport.

Legislator Conroy stated he understands the concerns of losing flights to Boston and gaining flights to Washington, D.C. He reported as good as it has been for our area to have PenAir, the reality is that moving to United Express is like moving into a different league. This will bring more travelers to the Plattsburgh International Airport which will be great for the economy.

Legislator Dame reported this validates the \$40 million investment taken a few year's ago and validates his admiration and respect for Dr. Heins. He reported this decision was not made because United Airlines has a bigger name. He stated it is about the data that reflects there are thousands more in our catchment area that will be able to fly to Washington, D.C. (as a hub) from Plattsburgh. The more passengers we have, the better it will be for taxpayers, and it will help our economy grow. Legislator Dame reported we need to be sure that the Department of Transportation chooses this airline because there is going to be lobbying efforts on behalf of other airlines to be chosen.

Chairperson McManus reported the County will be sending a letter of support to the Department of Transportation unanimously approving SkyWest Airlines and recommending SkyWest Airlines for Essential Air Service (EAS). He reported the letter captures the correct tone in terms of how we feel as a community due to this advancement.

Legislator Dame asked if there should be an effort on Clinton County or the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce to get the community involved. Mr. Zurlo replied that has been completed. Chairperson McManus reported letters of support are expected from every major group in Clinton County, including the City and Town of Plattsburgh. He reported local businesses and community organizations are also being asked to send letters of support. Chairperson McManus stated Dr. Heins and his colleagues deserve a lot of credit for the Airport's success.

Carried (9-0-0).

There being no further business, Legislator Rosenquest motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-0). Area 3 vacant.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanene Bell
Senior Stenographer