

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

June 15, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, June 14, 2023 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
Calvin Castine, Area 1
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Robert Hall, Area 10
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Wendell Hughes, Area 8

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 Hughes asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the May 24, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry stated each year, the Off Track Betting Committee awards two scholarships; one to a student attending SUNY Plattsburgh and one to a student attending Clinton Community College. The students selected must have a grade point average of at least 85 percent, have demonstrated leadership abilities, especially involvement in community activities and have taken part in a minimum of two extra-curricular activities, with at least one being non-sports related. Chairperson Henry congratulated the SUNY Plattsburgh recipient, Brady Boulrice, of Northern Adirondack Central School, and invited Brady and Legislator Peryea to the podium to receive his award. Chairperson Henry and the Legislature congratulated Brady and wished him the best on his future endeavors.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Steven Cross, a resident of 212 West Church Street, West Chazy, New York, stated he has been in disagreement with Karl Weiss, the Clinton County Highway Superintendent, about the application of a dual mix of herbicides being sprayed near his well where his potable water is held. Mr. Cross has video footage of this occurring and asked to share the footage with the Legislature. Mr. Cross stated spraying has also been done near the Little Chazy River where his children play and fish. He has also spoken with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regarding this and the DEC will be coming to his residence on Tuesday, June 20th to discuss this. Mr. Cross noted there is a war on weeds on West Church Street but does not want herbicides applied near his well and is tired of this spraying occurring. He understands the need to mitigate weeds in the area but wants this to stop on his street. He stated the County subcontracts the application of the herbicide spraying and it is a company from outside the State. Mr. Cross stated he will also submit the report he receives from the DEC to the Legislature. Legislator Bezio asked if the vehicles are marked with the company name. Mr. Cross stated they do not pre-warn the residents and he wants this to stop immediately. Mr. Zurlo asked for Mr. Cross to send him the video footage and he will forward it to the Legislature.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 12th was cancelled.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Legislator Bezio also noted the Roof Project at the Probation Department has begun. Crews are also at the Highway Department to begin work on the heating system, which is part of the Energy Efficiency Project.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, June 6th.

Commissioner Christine Peters was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Plan Funds Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Continuum of Care Program Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Commissioner Peters also discussed the monthly statistics for April, 2023, a warming center and migrants.

Resolutions #412 through #415 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

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

David Randall, the Director of Information Technology, was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Konica Minolta Premier Finance” and “Authorizing Contract with SymQuest Group, Inc.”

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was also present to discuss upcoming Requests for Applications.

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was also in attendance to present the resolution, “Price Adjustment for Supply of Ductile Iron Materials and Appurtenances for the Clinton County Business Innovation Gateway Project.”

Ms. Ryan also provided an update on the Clinton County Business Innovation Gateway Project and Steve Peters was present to discuss his Sports Study.

Tammy Lacey, the Director of Real Property, was present to discuss possible personnel shifts within the Department in the upcoming year.

Resolutions #416 through #419 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, June 7th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss the resolutions, “Transferring Title of Property in the Town of Schuyler Falls” and “Accepting Bids Received at Public Auction and Authorizing the Issuance of Deeds.”

Ms. Davis also discussed sales tax and the Supreme Court ruling on Tax Foreclosures.

Resolutions #420 through #422 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s

recommendation.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Hughes, Mr. Zurlo reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, June 7th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with Paul Smith’s College.”

Jeff Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Various Preschool Related Contractors” and “Authorizing Contract with Various Preschool Tuition Contractors.”

Mr. Sisson also discussed the Director’s Report for April, 2023, the Health Department Report for May, 2023 and the 2023 Spring Safety Guide.

Resolutions #423 through #425 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #426 through #429 on the agenda.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met on Monday, June 5th.

Resolutions #430 through #447 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #448 on the agenda.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, June 5th.

Sheriff Dave Favro was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Operation Stonegarden Grant Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Lease Agreement with Crane Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center.”

Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Out-of-State Travel” and “Authorizing Ongoing Contract with New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc.”

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, was also present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing 2020-2021 Public Safety Answering Points Operations Grant Extension.”

Resolutions #449 through #457 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee met on Monday, June 12th.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contracts with First Transit, Inc./Transit Management of Clinton County, Inc.”

Ms. Thayer also presented on the 2022 Clinton County Public Transit Annual Report.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was also present for several discussion items including additional equipment purchases, the final report of historic structures on Old State Road Bridge in Keeseville, the Military Turnpike and Rugar Street Intersection Improvements Project and the Town of Mooers’ presumed costs for snow and ice removal services.

Resolution #458 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 10th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Board of Health meeting scheduled for Monday, June 19th was cancelled due to a health emergency and is rescheduled for Monday, July 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee (STPC) meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 15th at 9:00 a.m. was cancelled due to a health emergency and he is unsure when that meeting will be rescheduled. The next scheduled Chamber of Commerce meeting is on Wednesday, August 16th.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Clinton Community College Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, June 6th at 4:00 p.m. The meeting highlighted the yearly audit and the college auditor reviewed the audit and noted there were no irregularities. The College is also considered to have a good fund balance to start the new year. Legislator Bezio stated the labor contract was approved and provided many fair raises. It was also approved by both sides to reduce a large number of teaching expenses, which will greatly help the school's financial position.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty of the Adirondacks Committee met in the Town of Argyle in Washington County on Thursday, May 25th. The presenter was Washington County Road Salt Solutions and the Committee toured the Town of Argyle's road sand storage building. The Town had switched to a brining method and was very impressed with the cost savings.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the County is nearing the closing date of the recently acquired building on Connecticut Avenue and will be able to take title very soon.

Mr. Zurlo spoke of an email received from Geri Favreau, of the Clinton County Historical Association, regarding a portrait of Nathaniel Platt that the County loaned the Association in 1975. Since it was a donation, the Association has to pay a separate insurance premium. It has been requested that the loan of Mr. Platt's portrait be deemed a donation to the Historical Association, as it would save the Association on their insurance premium. Mr. Zurlo noted he could not make the decision himself, as it is an asset of the County. Mr. Zurlo is unsure of the value of the painting. Ms. Kelleher recommended researching this and if there needs to be an assessment done on the value of the painting. Mr. Zurlo will let Ms. Favreau know the Legislature had the discussion and the County Attorney is looking into this. This will be addressed at an upcoming Regular Session.

Legislator Peryea stated he heard from two residents in Altona regarding the same complaints Mr. Cross had mentioned. Legislator Kretser noted in conversations he had with Mr. Weiss, the contractors were told to avoid that area but unfortunately, that did not occur. Chairperson Henry noted this topic should be handled by the Transportation Committee.

Chairpersons Report

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

Resolutions #412 through #418 were approved.

Resolution #419 titled, "Price Adjustment for Supply of Ductile Iron Materials and Appurtenances for the Clinton County Business Innovation Gateway Project" was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution is the result of the delay on the Project and this is new pricing due to that pause. The Project will be starting in July and everything is now in order.

Resolutions #420 through #438 were approved.

Resolution #439 has been withdrawn.

Resolutions #440 through #446 were approved.

Resolution #447 titled, "Approving Step Increases for Senior Typist (PCN 4214) and Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator (PCN 3085)" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated for those not on the Personnel Committee, there was a vacancy in the Legislative Office and his staff decided to absorb that position and abolish the vacancy in the office. This results in an approximate savings of \$65,000 a year. Mr. Zurlo noted if this did not work out then this would be reversed.

Resolutions #448 through #460 were approved.

Resolution #461 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Increase Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Workforce Investment Act Grant" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #462 through #469 were approved.

Mr. Zurlo inquired if the Public Safety and Personnel Committees would like to move the July meetings of Monday, July 3rd to Monday, July 17th or Tuesday, July 18th.

Legislator Castine spoke about the Economic Development meeting and noted the Star Program should consider looking at the State to enhance the normal benefit. Mr. Zurlo stated he could bring this ask to the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC).

Legislator Hall inquired if the Finance and Health Committee meetings scheduled for Wednesday, July 5th could also be moved to Monday, July 17th or Tuesday, July 18th to have the week of July 4th off. Mr. Zurlo noted the resolutions from those four Committees would have to be under Waive Rule 13.2. and to take that into consideration. Mr. Zurlo noted he would follow up with an email.

Legislator Kretser stated he would like to avoid single use plastics and would like another alternative to the plastic water bottles. Legislator Kretser mentioned a water cooler or other alternatives. Mr. Zurlo stated the water bottles began during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chairperson Henry stated this could be discussed further.

Legislator Bezio inquired if there is a date for the international designation at the Plattsburgh International Airport. Chairperson Henry stated he believes sometime in the fall but did not know of an exact date.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin M. Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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