

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

May 13, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday,
May 12, 2021, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Richard Potiker, Area 5

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim M. Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney
John Kanoza, Director of Public Health
Eric Day, Director of Emergency Services

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Potiker asked to be excused.

Legislator Timmons motioned to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, May 10th was cancelled.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of the Building and Grounds Department, stated the Department has been getting ready for a beautiful summer - multiple new shrubs have been planted, mowing and trimming is ongoing and all the Government Center stairwells are being painted. Additionally, he noted the Government Center Roof Project bid requests will be going out soon with a hopeful completion date of September/early October. Lastly, he reported de-winterization of the Government Center air conditioning has begun in anticipation of warmer weather to come.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Michael Zurlo on behalf of Legislator Potiker

Mr. Zurlo stated the Children and Family Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 4th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #286 through #288 which have been placed on the agenda.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

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

Dave Randall, the Director of Information Technology, was present to discuss potential recommended changes to County email services.

Resolutions #289 and #290 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Legislator Conroy thanked Renee McFarlin for her accomplishments as the Economic Development Director and stated he is looking forward to hearing about the new candidates and anticipates a tour of the old airport with the new Economic Development Director.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 5th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss occupancy tax, sales tax, the correction of errors report and In Rem foreclosure.

Charles Nesbitt, Jr. and Keith Krug of Wendel Companies were also present to discuss a potential energy performance contract (EPC).

Resolutions #291 and #292 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Zurlo stated he received an email from the Clinton County Jail regarding a problem with their air chillers. He reported he spoke with Wendel Companies regarding this new concern. Mr. Zurlo stated he may be seeking a decision from the Legislature at the next Regular Session regarding Wendel Companies (due to time constraints for Wendel Companies and the air chiller issue needing attention prior to the winter season.)

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Health Committee met on Tuesday, May 4th.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss the Director's Report for March, the Health Department Report for April, the Public Health Connection for April and the grant quarterly report for the first quarter of 2021.

Mr. Kanoza and Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, were present to provide a brief update on COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Mr. Kanoza reported daily cases are decreasing into the single digits. There were 14 new positive cases (five were K/2 school-related cases, eight were middle-aged cases and one was a SUNY Plattsburgh case) bringing the total active cases in isolation to 44. SUNY Plattsburgh has one case in isolation and one in quarantine. Chairperson Henry inquired on the region's 2.4 percentage (the overall cumulative number for the region.) Mr. Kanoza stated he was apprised of that statistic but has always been County-focused. He reported there has been 4,750 cases in Clinton County since the Pandemic started on March 16, 2020 and 199,000 tests have been performed in Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza stated the State site is currently testing 100-150 individuals every day. Additionally, he noted CVPH only has three positive cases.

Mr. Kanoza provided a brief overview of the PODS that have taken place and future PODS being held. He also spoke on the new guidelines for school-aged children ages 12-17 and school points of distribution.

Legislator Conroy inquired if the Jail requirements would be lessening in the near future regarding COVID-19 protocols. Mr. Kanoza stated Major Nicholas Leon has received notification that inmates are now eligible for vaccinations and that the Health Department would be happy to schedule a vaccination POD at the Clinton County Jail.

Legislator Hughes congratulated Mr. Kanoza on the acknowledgement in the Wall Street Journal that Clinton County was one of the fastest counties in the country to roll out the vaccine. Mr. Kanoza thanked Legislator Hughes for his remarks and thanked his staff, the isolation and quarantine team and the vaccination team for all of their efforts in accomplishing this goal.

Resolutions #293 through #301 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 4:30 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, May 11th.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, Darleen Collins, the Office for the Aging Director, and Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans' Service Agency, were all present.

Resolutions #302 through #304 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, May 3rd.

Resolutions #305 through #318 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

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

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, provided a Runway Reconstruction Project update and stated a project update meeting was held with the airlines and other stakeholders on April 30th. Additionally, he noted the rubblization of the concrete was completed as of May 1st and full-depth replacement of the pavement and sub-base in selected areas of the runway is ongoing. Lastly, he reported the contractor began paving as of May 6th and the Project is currently on schedule.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 3rd.

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, Sheriff David Favro and Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) were all present.

The Committee discussed allowing youth hunters ages 12-13.

Resolutions #319 through #323 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations, as well as, Resolutions #324 through #326 through a poll conducted on May 7th.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the Transportation Committee met on May 10th.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including “Requesting Naming New York State Bridge in the Town of Ellenburg after former Clinton County Legislator Samuel J. Trombley.” Shannon Thayer, the Planning Technician, was also present to discuss bus capacity and using a small portion of Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) CARES funding to allocate to the CCPT Staff.

Resolutions #327 through #331 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee’s recommendations.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next Cooperative Extension meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18th.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the next meeting is scheduled for the end of May. She also noted Clinton County will be hosting the June meeting, and planning which includes a brief stop at Legislator Timmon’s new convenience store in Black Brook has begun.

Workforce Development Board – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14th.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature to wear dark attire for the Legislative photo scheduled for May 26th.

Mr. Zurlo also stated the County is awaiting the first payment of the American Rescue Plan with the second to follow shortly thereafter. He stated that he, and Deputy County Administrator Kim Kinblom, have been diligently reviewing the 151 page document, fact sheets and webinar’s regarding the plan.

Chairperson's Report – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry reminded the Legislature that the Regular Session and Finance Committee meetings will be held in person in the Legislative Chambers. Masks will be required.

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

Resolution #284 titled, “Authorizing the Clerk of the Clinton County Legislature to Advertise for a Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2021 titled, “A Local Law Adopting a Pilot Youth Deer Hunting Program” was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the draft local law was placed on each Legislative desk for review and the Public Safety Committee previously discussed this issue and decided to move the matter to the full Legislature for approval.

Resolution #285 titled, “Authorizing Distribution of Mortgage Tax for the Period October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021” was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the mortgage tax distribution for the same period a year prior (which is reflective of sales in each municipality) was \$517,000. This year's total mortgage tax distribution is \$889,000, which is far above the number from last year and is a good indicator of progress.

Resolution #286 was approved.

Resolution #287 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Friends of the North Country” was moved by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Castine inquired if the County was behind in payments. Mr. Zurlo stated the County is not delinquent, but this resolution allows the County to get paid. There is no cost to the County as the funds come from New York State, and this resolution allows the County to distribute these funds to the Friends of the North Country for on-call services to receive these requests.

Resolutions #288 through #293 were approved.

Resolution #294 titled, “Authorizing Lease Agreement with 518 Strength and Conditioning” was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the Health Committee discussed the terms of the contract and the terms listed on the resolution were approved at the Health Committee meeting.

Resolution #295 was approved.

Resolution #296 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Various Preschool-Related Contractors” was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated that while these mandated contracts continue to be expensive plans, most if not all remained at the same rate.

Resolution #297 titled, “Authorizing Various Preschool Tuition Contracts” was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated that while these mandated contracts continue to be expensive plans, most if not all remained at the same rate.

Resolution #298 titled, "Authorizing Contract for Preschool Special Education Transportation with First Transit, Inc." was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated that while these mandated contracts continue to be expensive plans, most if not all remained at the same rate.

Resolution #299 was approved.

Resolution #300 titled, "Amending Resolution #251 dated April 14, 2021 titled, "Authorizing Clinton County Participation in the State Septic System Replacement Fund for Isle La Motte Watershed Grant Acceptance" was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the State requested the County combine the two previously adopted resolutions to be codified in a single resolution.

Resolution #301 titled, "Authorizing Contracts with Selected Individuals for the Distribution of State Septic System Replacement Funds for Isle La Motte Watershed Grant" was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution allows the Health Department, at such time as people bring forward eligible projects, to execute these contracts.

Resolutions #302 through #311 were approved.

Resolution #312 titled, "Approving Creation of Two Temporary, Full-Time Seasonal Laborer Positions (PCN TBD)" was moved by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is not the creation of additional two laborers, it simply approves two seasonal laborers in lieu of two Machine Equipment Operators (MEOs) to work throughout the summer, which can also be a recruitment tool.

Resolutions #313 through #323 were approved.

Resolution #324 titled, "Awarding Bids for Semi-Rigid Inflatable Boat and Trailer" was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the second resolve clause indicates funds from a grant and not tax-levy dollars will pay for these pieces of equipment.

Resolution #325 titled, "Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for Professional Legal Services to Handle Family Court Assignments" was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the County is at the end of the current contractual ability to extend the current contracts and the County needs to go out for Request for Qualifications (RFQs).

Resolutions #326 through #329 were approved.

Resolution #330 titled, "Requesting Naming New York State Bridge in the Town of Ellenburg after Former Clinton County Legislator Samuel J. Trombley" was moved by Messrs. Peryea, Timmons, Castine, Conroy, Hall and seconded by Ms. Waldron, Messrs. Henry, Hughes, Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated he spoke with Assemblyman Billy Jones regarding this request and confirmed that the request must be submitted to New York State Legislature for approval (hopefully in this Legislative session.) Legislator Castine applauded Legislator Peryea's bridge selection, stating it is directly across from Northern Adirondack Central School (NACS) and the location is basically in the backyard of former Legislator Trombley's yard. Legislator Peryea also brought forth letters of support from all the towns.

Resolutions #331 through #335 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #336 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with AboveGrid Solar, LLC" was moved by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Conroy requested a breakdown of the project. Mr. Zurlo stated this is a proposed solar project west of the runway. This resolution allows the Company to do their due diligence to determine if this piece of property would make for a viable project. A small fee will be distributed to Clinton County for their due diligence, with the possibility of a larger lease revenue if the project moves forward.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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