

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

October 13, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, October 11, 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
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Robert Hall, Area 10

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.

Chairperson Henry welcomed the Cooperative Extension's 4-H members to the Legislative Meeting and explained their mission. The 4-H members lead the Legislature in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by their 4-H pledge. Chairperson Henry thanked the members of Cooperative Extension's 4-H group.

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

Legislator Hughes motioned to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Henry moved onto the Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session meeting.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, provided an update on:

Roofs:

- The rubber roofing installation has been completed on the Surrogate, Probation and Department of Social Services buildings. The tin cap flashing has been ordered and installation should begin in a week.
- The Highway Department's roof panel shop drawings are still in the process of being completed by the manufacturer.
- The Excelon building stone ballast has been removed and the tear down of the old roof will start soon.

Heating:

- The Highway Department's infrared heaters are installed. The Department is waiting on New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) to complete their work and the units will be started up.
- The Mental Health boiler has been installed. The Department is waiting on the Factory Startup Team which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17th.
- The breaching was completed Friday, October 6th and the factory startup is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18th.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m. has been cancelled.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, October 3rd.

Commissioner Christine Peters was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Hyland Software, Inc." and "Authorizing Contract with Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN), Inc."

Ms. Peters also discussed monthly statistics for August, 2023, a Warming Center update, Daycare Allocations, Stonehelm complaints, Medicaid, the Department of Social Services Budget and the New York City Family Homelessness & Eviction Prevention Supplement (FHEPS) Voucher.

Resolutions #702 through #705 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, November 14th at 5:15 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, reported he met with Commissioner Peters to discuss the Department's budget. He stated it did not go well as the Department has a \$1.2 million increase to the budget before pen was set to paper due to the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) resulting in greater weekly shares.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

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

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was present to discuss ConnectALL Low-Income Housing Opportunity and a Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was also present to discuss the resolution "Authorizing Contract with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C" and a FAST NY Update.

Tammy Lacey, the Real Property Director, discussed several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with Various Towns for Assisted Assessing Services," "Authorizing Contract with the City of Plattsburgh for Full Assessing Services" and "Authorizing Contract with Various Towns for Full Assessing Services"

Resolutions #706 through #709 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, October 4th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with Formax" and "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Lumsden & McCormick, LLP." Ms. Davis also discussed the County's 2022 Fiscal Stress Reports and the latest sales tax reports.

Resolutions #710 through #719 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st at 5:15 p.m. Mr. Zurlo advised he and Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, will soon discuss and provide budget meeting dates.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, October 4th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Dodge Marketing and Communications” and “Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Clinton County Veterans’ Service Agency.”

On behalf of Jeff Sisson, the Director of Public Health, Ms. Kinblom discussed several resolutions including, “Authorizing Bridging Breastfeeding Continuity of Care and Nutrition Security within the First 1,000 Days: Blueprint Cohort III Grant Application” and “Amending Resolution #326 dated May 11, 2022 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Wells Fargo Financial Leasing.”

Resolutions #720 through #725 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #726 through #730 on the agenda.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 14th at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, October 2nd.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, was present to discuss resolutions including, “Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024” and “Approving Payment of 2024 Membership Dues.”

Resolutions #731 through #751 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation, as well as, Resolution #752 through a poll conducted on Friday, October 6, 2023.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 6th at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Hall, Mr. Zurlo reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolutions #753 through #755 were polled and have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, October 2nd.

Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Stipend for After Hour Arraignments” and “Authorizing Criminal Justice Discovery Reform Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, was in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Payment of 2024 Membership Dues” and “Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024.”

Justin Meyer, the Administrator of Legal Defense of Indigent Defendants, was also present and discussed resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Thomson Reuters” and “Approving Grant Application Submission and Acceptance of New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services Grants Known as “Distribution 11” and “Distribution 14.”

Resolutions #756 through #763 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, November 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

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

Highway Superintendent Karl Weiss advised that on Sunday, October 8th, the Clintonville Road in the Town of Ausable was closed between Arnold Hill Road and Dry Bridge Road due to significant erosion of the roadway at a culvert pipe that conveys flow from the Little Ausable River. The rain event of October 7th–8th generated over 5-1/2” of precipitation locally in a 12-hour time frame. This resulted in significant flow through the 10’ diameter culvert, inundating the culvert completely. It is possible that debris from beaver ponds upstream of the culvert traveled down the channel with the storm flow and partially blocked the flow through the culvert. The blockage plus the significant amount of water was enough to bend and deform the inlet side of the culvert reducing the capacity of the pipe and causing the water to rise even higher in the channel. The rising water eroded the banks around the culvert and washed away the soil of the roadway embankment. Eventually the erosion reached the roadway and caused a portion of the southbound lane to collapse. The County is fortunate that the entire roadway was not washed away.

As of today, October 11th, Highway crews are removing the damaged section of the culvert pipe and will fill in the void along the shoulder and below the roadway. Crews will also place heavy stone along the embankment to provide erosion protection. These actions will move the inlet of the culvert closer to the roadway and result in a very steep bank that is adjacent to the road. The County will likely need to install guiderails along the roadway to protect vehicular traffic in this location. As it is too late in the year to replace the entire culvert, the County’s hope is that these measures will be adequate until the replacement culvert can be designed, permitted and constructed in 2024.

The next Transportation Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 5:15 p.m. has been cancelled.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting will include one resolution, Corporate Compliance training and other discussions and reports.

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio stated the Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 26th, at which time the Board was notified that various positions have been filled at the College. President John Kowal, along with a select group of staff members, will be developing a strategic plan to boost enrollment and the President will be reporting regularly to the Board of Trustees. One of the President's main initiatives is to fill the Nursing Program to its full potential. The Board of Trustees thanked the Legislature for passing the College's budget.

Mr. Zurlo stated that it is important to note that Ms. Kinblom solves issues before they become Discipline Reviews or Grievance Reports and he applauded her efforts.

Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board (LGLCRPB) – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated he attended the Tuesday, October 10th regular board meeting in Westport, New York and reported the LCLGRP is happy that Clinton County is expanding their footprint through new projects.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo did not have a report.

Chairpersons Report

The Chairperson did not have a report.

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

Resolutions #702 through #705 were approved.

Resolution #706 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C." was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is phase three of the site characterization at the project site under the consent order with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This resolution incorporates

all three tasks: work plan, site characterization and work into one resolution. The cost associated will be borne by the project. He noted the Economic Development Office continues to work hard to make strides for the approval of FAST NY funds to help bridge the gap in what the project was expected to cost and the actual cost now.

Resolutions #707 through #728 were approved.

Resolution #729 titled, "Authorizing Various Contracts for the Year 2024" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated these contracts all have clauses to exit the contract upon the sale of the Nursing Home. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #730 through #733 were approved.

Ms. Kinblom stated the Personnel Department recently received New York State approval, for one year, to fill certain positions which have been deemed a public safety concern permanently without the need to take an exam under the H.E.L.P. (Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement) Program.

Resolutions #734 through #742 were approved.

Resolution #743 titled, "Approving Creation of a Permanent, Full-Time Emergency Communications Dispatcher Position (PCN TBD)" was motioned by Legislator Kretser and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is a position that previously had backfill approval but encountered recruitment difficulty and was not filled within a year and was therefore abolished. Ironically, soon thereafter, the Director of Emergency Services found a candidate for the position and therefore, the Director was required to request for the creation of the position. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #744 through #769 were approved.

Resolution #770 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Increase Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the District Attorney's Budget" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the Legislature approved a discovery grant for the District Attorney's Office. This is new money from last year's State budget, of \$208,000, that is believed to be a recurring revenue so it will offset a considerable amount of expenses for the District Attorney's Office moving forward.

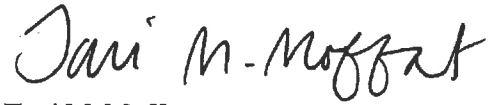
Legislator Hughes stated there were a number of resolutions for positions at the Nursing Home on the agenda, and inquired on the status of the Nursing Home. Mr. Zurlo reported the Nursing Home currently houses 38-39 residents and is capable of accepting more dependent upon staffing. The County is working hard to reach a conclusion.

Legislator Bezio inquired about the project at the former airport. Mr. Zurlo reported that project is progressing wonderfully and invited the Legislators to tour the site.

Legislator Castine stated out of respect to their former predecessors, he apprised the Legislature that former Legislator Leon Durocher has passed.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Timmons motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Toni M. Moffat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "M".

Toni M. Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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