

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 15, 2022

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, September 14, 2022 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
Calvin Castine, Area 1
Robert Hall, Area 10
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

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 Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2022 Regular Session and the September 7, 2022 Special Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Chairperson Henry reported there is a public hearing on the 2022-2023 Clinton Community College budget. He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Bezio motioned to open the public hearing at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone present wished to address the Board regarding this matter.

Legislator Hall asked what happens if this budget gets passed at this Regular Session but doesn't pass at the time of voting for the County budget. Mr. Zurlo stated the College would have to notify the State University of New York (SUNY) System that the sponsor has guaranteed the local share after the budget being approved tonight. Legislator Hall expressed his concern regarding the enrollment for the College. Legislator Waldron asked if the President could speak regarding the College's enrollment numbers.

Johh Kowal, the Clinton Community College President, reported the current numbers for this Fall Enrollment Period. New students have increased by 15 percent, continuing students remain the same but have not yet included College Advancement Program (CAP) students. Legislator Waldron asked how many students currently attend the College. Mr. Kowal stated the total number of Full-Time Enrollment (FTE) students is 168.47 and a total head count of 453. Mr. Kowal reported next year, the plan is to increase enrollment to 600 FTE's and the longer term goal is 700 FTE's.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Hall motioned to close the public hearing at 5:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry reported there is also a public hearing regarding the Status of Grant #250HO369-19 from the New York State Housing Trust Fund Office of Community Renewal. He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Bezio motioned to open the public hearing at 5:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone present wished to address the Board regarding this matter.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, stated this was a Homebuyer Program Grant that was transitioned to a Rental Assistance Program during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over the Grant period, 21 renters were assisted. In the middle of 2021, the Grant was switched back to the Homebuyer Program. Mr. Cutter stated there were about 20 homebuyers that were looking to purchase homes but couldn't find anything within their price range, and only one homebuyer completed their purchase. Mr. Cutter stated right now, the Program has some issues with how much funding is available versus what the housing prices are. The Program can only give homebuyers so much money and they can't find homes that are within that range. Mr. Cutter stated the housing prices have increased and is making it very difficult for the Program to find homes for homebuyers. Lastly, Mr. Cutter stated only \$107,000 of the \$400,000 was utilized.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Potiker motioned to close the public hearing at 5:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no one 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 has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #634 and #635 on the agenda.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 26th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

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

John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with DocuSign" and "Authorizing New York State Rental Supplement Program (RSP) Allocation Application and Acceptance." Mr. Redden also discussed the monthly statistics for July, 2022, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and the 2023 Budget.

Resolutions #636 through #642 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, October 4th 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.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, was present to discuss resolutions, "Approving Appointment to the Clinton County Planning Board," "Honoring Sheridan Garner for His Years of Dedicated Public Service" and "Authorizing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding Acceptance."

Dave Randall, the Information Technology Director, was also present to discuss the resolution, "Authorizing Contract with the New York State Office of Information Technology Services and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services."

Jodi Currier, the Commissioner of the Board of Elections, Brandi Lloyd and Hunter Sartwell, Deputy Commissioners of the Board of Elections and David Souliere, Election Specialist, were present to discuss resolutions, "Authorizing Contract with Dominion Voting Systems Corporation" and "Authorizing Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant Acceptance."

Resolutions #643 through #648 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, October 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 7th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss sales tax and the resolution, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds to Various Accounts."

Garry Douglas, Kristy Kennedy and Alyssa Senecal, of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, were present to discuss the 2023 Marketing Plan.

Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, also held a discussion on the contract with Constellation New Energy, Inc., the supplier of electricity to Clinton County accounts.

Resolutions #649 through #654, as well as Resolution #691 under Waive Rule 13.2, have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

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

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, September 7th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss resolutions, "Authorizing Contract with Rooted Compassion Counseling and Consulting, LLC," "Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Extension with the Clinton County Veterans' Service Agency" and "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Community Connections of Franklin County."

Jeffrey Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was also present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.” and “Amending Resolution #301 dated May 12, 2021 titled, “Authorizing Contracts with Selected Individuals for the Distribution of State Septic System Replacement Funds for the Isle La Motte Watershed Grant.” Mr. Sisson also discussed the Director’s Report for July, 2022, the Health Department Report for August, 2022 and the Grant Quarterly Report for the 2nd Quarter, 2022.

Resolutions #655 through #664 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 5th at 4:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, September 6th.

Darleen Collins, the Director of the Office for the Aging, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Out-of-State Travel.”

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Payment of Mandatory Minimum Data Set (MDS) Continuing Education Fees” and discussed soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Pharmacy Services.

Kevin LeBoeuf, the Director of the Veterans’ Service Agency, was also present to discuss monthly statistics for August, 2022 and the current media blitz regarding Camp Lejeune Water Contamination DOD Lawsuit.

Resolutions #665 through #667 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

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

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met on Monday, September 12th.

He stated there will be 17 resolutions placed on the agenda for the Wednesday, September 28th Regular Session upon the recommendation of the Committee.

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

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, September 12th.

Legislator Castine stated Sheriff Favro contacted him prior to the meeting regarding the resolution titled, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for the Replacement of 15 Exterior Cameras and the Relocation of One Camera” and stated he wished to use 2022 funds.

Eric Day, the Emergency Services Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with Calongne Security Systems,” “Authorizing FY2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program Extension” and “Authorizing 2021-2022 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, reviewed the resolution “Authorizing Office of Victim Services Grant Application and Acceptance” with the Committee.

Jennifer Facteau-Rabideau, the Deputy County Coroner, was present to discuss the resolution, “Adopting Fee Schedule for Removal and Transportation of Decedents Under the Coroner’s Care” as well as discussions on concerns over morgue space at the UVM/CVPH Medical Center and the increase in autopsies to be performed by Dr. Michael Sikirica.

Jamie Martineau, the Public Defender, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with LexisNexis.”

Resolutions #668 through #677 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, October 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

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

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 26th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Committee will be meeting on Monday, September 19th with a presentation on Corporate Compliance and annual training by Jeffrey Sisson, the Public Health Director. There will be two resolutions and discussions including time change, in person versus Zoom, a Board of Health member replacement, Health By-Law Review and COVID-19 and Monkeypox updates.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio asked John Kowal, the Clinton Community College President, to provide a brief report. Mr. Kowal reported the ribbon cutting at the George Moore Building on campus was held on Wednesday, September 7th. Mr. Kowal stated the County, as well as, New York State provided significant financial resources to proceed with that project. Mr. Kowal reported there was also an opportunity to unveil a historical marker for the building. Mr. Kowal reported recently, the College hired Chris Chamars as the Director of Institutional Advancement, a very crucial position. Mr. Chamars, will lead a team that secures funding for the College with a high priority for scholarships. The College has also secured a grant from the State University of New York (SUNY) System of close to \$200,000 to support workforce training. This is a workforce training initiative to create pathways, micro credentials and to link the workforce training with academic programs, which is another great opportunity to enroll more students and provide trainings to local industries. Mr. Kowal reported the College was also fortunate to be participants in a Grant proposal in collaboration with the North Country Chamber of Commerce for the Northern Borders Grant. One component of the Grant is approximately \$300,000 to support welding training. The College is in the process of creating and implementing the training and it will likely happen next Spring, 2023. Mr. Kowal stated part of these initiatives is to make the link to the credit-baring programs, which will in turn bring in more full-time enrollment (FTE) students.

Legislator Bezio thanked Mr. Kowal for his time and for providing a report.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Committee met last night, Tuesday, September 13th. Legislator Timmons reported the 2023 tentative budget is ready to provide to the County for review. Legislator Timmons reported there is a staffing and retention issue but the programs are all going well at this time. Lastly, Legislator Timmons reported the Agricultural Tour will be held this Friday, September 16th and apologized as he will not be able to attend.

Discipline Review – Legislators Henry and Hall

Legislator Henry reported he met with Legislator Hall, Mr. Zurlo and Ms. Kinblom on Thursday, September 1st and a decision was rendered on a case and the decision was sent out to all parties. At this time, there is no new meeting scheduled.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Committee will be meeting next week on September 21st at the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference.

Jury Board – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated he met with Judge Powers and Judge Bruno to reappoint Maribeth Pfeiffer, the Commissioner of Jurors, and it was unanimously agreed upon to reappoint Ms. Pfeiffer for another term.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislators Hughes and Kretser

Legislator Hughes reported the quarterly meeting will be held in Clinton County on Tuesday, October 11th.

Soil and Water – Legislators Peryea and Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the next meeting is Thursday, September 15th at 6:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo requested an Executive Session to discuss the sale and lease of real property.

Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature of the Agricultural Tour being held on Friday, September 16th. The Legislature was asked to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Cooperative Extension building.

Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Henry did not have a report.

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

Resolution #633 titled, “Adopting the Clinton Community College Budget” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Waldron voted in the negative.

Legislator Hall stated he is in favor of passing the budget for Clinton Community College however, he feels strongly about the enrollment needing to go up.

Legislator Peryea asked what the budget was for last year and Mr. Zurlo stated it was the same as this year.

Resolution #634 was approved.

Resolution #635 titled, “Awarding Bid for the Department of Social Services (DSS) Handicapped Ramp Replacement Project” was motioned by Legislator Potiker and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Bezio stated this is the first building project bid of the year and was estimated to cost about \$150,000 but came back at \$89,000, which is 30 percent less than what the architect estimated, which is a huge savings for this small project.

Resolutions #636 and #637 were approved.

Resolution #638 titled, “Authorizing Lease Agreement with North Country Workforce Partnership, Inc.” was motioned by Legislator Potiker and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #639 through #645 were approved.

Resolution #646 titled, "Authorizing Contract with the New York State Office of Information Technology Services and the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services" was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is a very good thing that the State of New York is implementing as there is a recognition throughout the State about cyber-security. Mr. Zurlo stated this is an end-point product that the State is rolling out to County Governments that will replace the current end-point product that is currently paid for, and this new one is free and will save \$30,000 from the Information Technology budget.

Resolutions #647 through #650 were approved.

Resolution #651 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish a Capital Project titled, "Rehabilitation of Taxiway B Pavement and General Aviation (GA) Apron (Construction) Phase II Project" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated Resolutions #650 through #654 are the internal accounting and Grant funding for these Capital Projects as they have been accepted by the Federal Government.

Resolutions #652 through #671 were approved.

Resolution #672 titled, "Authorizing 2021 and 2022 Statewide Interoperability Communications Formula-Based Grant Application and Acceptance" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated when this resolution is done every year, this is the funding source that pays for the lease of the P25 Radio System.

Resolutions #673 through #675 were approved.

Resolution #676 was withdrawn.

Resolutions #677 and #678 were approved.

Resolution #679 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for 2022 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Various Program Grants" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolution #680 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 (9-0-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #681 through #689 were approved.

Resolution #690 titled, "Approving Appointment to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 5 Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)" was motioned by Messrs. Bezio, Castine, Hall, Henry, Hughes and seconded by Ms. Waldron, Messrs. Kretser, Peryea, Potiker and Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Henry thanked Mr. Hagar for volunteering for these additional duties as it is an important program.

Legislator Waldron motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #691 titled, "Authorizing Contract Extension with Constellation New Energy, Inc." was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated he reached out to the County's Energy Consultant and they suggested without a formal analysis, the three-year contract would be best. Ms. Kinblom stated she was provided the rates this morning and the rates have already gone up since then. Ms. Kinblom also stated the consultant from Constellation New Energy stated he foresees the rates increasing more with the cold weather approaching. The rate for the three-year contract is \$0.06981/KWH and the two-year contract is \$0.07178/KWH. Mr. Zurlo stated the Legislature may pass a resolution approving a three-year contract, a two-year contract, or wait until the next Regular Session and take a chance on what the rates might be by that time. Mr. Zurlo stated with a lock-in, regardless of the term, the rates may go up but the rates going down won't be as significant. Ms. Kinblom stated since the Finance Committee meeting on September 7th, the total price of the contract has increased by \$25,000 for the three-year contract and over \$35,000 for the two-year contract. Legislator Henry asked the Legislature if anyone wanted to speak on behalf of the two-year contract term. Legislator Potiker asked how far the rates have to drop for the County to be in a better position than now for the three-year term. Mr. Zurlo stated even if the rates go down for year three, the rates will not go down as much as they could go up.

Legislator Kretser motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Hughes motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer E. Hapgood
Senior Typist

:JH