

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 24, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, September 22, 2021, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Simon Conroy, Area 4
Joshua Kretser, Area 9

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim M. 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. Legislators Conroy and Kretser were excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryca. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry reported there is a public hearing on the Local Law #2. He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Hughes motioned to open the public hearing at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (8-0-2).

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

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 5:18 p.m., seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature on any other issue.

Sylvie Nelson, the Executive Director of the North Country Workforce Development Board, provided a brief presentation on recent activities of the Workforce Development Board which represents Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton Counties.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

The Committee was polled on Resolution #662 on the agenda.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of the Buildings and Grounds Department, stated the Department has finished the first lighting project for the Clean Energy Communities Grant. He noted all of the lighting at the Emergency Services Office has been replaced with modern LED lights resulting in a huge improvement in lighting.

He stated the Department will soon begin the winterization of the Government Center Air Conditioning System and prepare the snow plow equipment for the winter.

Additionally, Mr. Cleveland reported on the Roof Project Schedule. He stated on Saturday, September 18th, the fence was installed in the Government Center Employee parking lot to contain the project materials and equipment. Cones, flags and signage were utilized to make a temporary driving lane for employees to drive through the lot. On Monday, September 20th, Mr. Cleveland was in the Employee lot when employees arrived and all went well. The Project is a week ahead of schedule and is slated to take approximately 4 weeks.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 18th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

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

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee has not met since the last Regular Session

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #663 on the agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Health Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, was present to provide an update on COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Mr. Kanoza stated there are 239 active cases in isolation and 711 in quarantine with most cases being school-related. Mr. Kanoza reported SUNY Plattsburgh has 11 active cases in isolation and has a 95 percent vaccination rate of on-campus students. Legislator Potiker inquired if SUNY Plattsburgh was still testing for COVID. Mr. Kanoza replied yes, but not at the same frequency as was occurring in the Spring.

He reported the vast majority of work being completed by the Health Department is isolation and quarantine case investigation.

Additionally, he reported CVPH currently has 17 positive cases, with nine being residents of Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza stated 50 percent of these positive cases are breakthrough cases, meaning the individuals are fully vaccinated and most were asymptomatic.

The County Health Department is still conducting testing on Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's at the Margaret street location. The site has seen a recent uptick in requests for testing.

Mr. Kanoza applauded the testing site located on 23 Hammond Lane that is being operated by CVPH and for their help in this matter. He reiterated that a doctor's note is required to receive testing at this site.

Mr. Kanoza reported vaccinations PODS are continuing with a recent increase in numbers. The Department has completed their assistance to SUNY Plattsburgh in the vaccination of their unvaccinated students, as well as, in local migrant labor camps. He noted booster shots are pending (waiting for approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) etc.) for those individuals with high-risk co-morbidities and the immunocompromised.

Mr. Kanoza reported COVID-19 school testing began Wednesday, September 22nd at Saranac Central School. Testing includes two types- random asymptomatic and symptomatic, both requiring parental consent.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th at 4:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 5th at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, September 9th.

Resolutions #664 through #683 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #684 on the agenda.

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

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including "Authorizing Planned Maintenance Agreement with Record-USA." Mr. Kreig also reported on discussion topics including the runway construction update, tenant update, AARF Vehicle and tenant negotiations (in Executive Session.)

Resolutions #685 through #690 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Thursday, September 9th.

Major Nicholas Leon of the Sheriff's Department was present to discuss resolutions including "Authorizing Contracts with Various School Districts."

Resolutions #691 through #699 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Deputy County Administrator Kim Kinblom

Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, stated the Transportation Committee met on Monday, September 20th.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Technician, was present to discuss resolutions including "Authorizing Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) Fare Changes.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was also present to discuss several resolutions, as well as, the Keeseville Historic Bridges and the Bridge to Vermont.

Resolutions #700 through #707 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 18th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next meeting will be held on Friday, October 8th.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported a zoom meeting was held on Tuesday, September 21st. He stated the search for an Executive Director is continuing with increased advertising of the position in hopes of securing a candidate for the position.

He noted 4-H activities have restarted, on a limited basis, and the on-line video exercises have been well received.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated Intercounty met jointly with the Western Conference, during the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference held September 13th through 15th. Ms. Waldron stated Niagara County presented on broadband and cellular service or lack thereof. The Committee was informed that they have constructed their own maps, as the State maps are faulty. They stated their Highway Departments have been conducting the mapping of their Counties.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated Director Pete Hagar has sent their plan to the State.

He reported the new technician is doing well and acclimating into the position.

He stated they are still performing roadside soil erosion for the towns and have had great success.

Lastly, he noted the final tire round-up of the year is in Black Brook on October 8th. He advised all interested to call the Town of Black Brook and inform the office of their intention. The limit is ten tires per individual.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher stated based on the resignation of Legislator Simon Conroy, and in advance of the upcoming election, Mr. Zurlo has asked her to review the local law regarding replacement of a vacancy. As such, she provided a letter of opinion on September 16th to Mr. Zurlo and she would like to request an Executive Session to discuss the letter with the Board.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the Legislative Office has received several requests from Legislators to move the November 24th Regular Session to November 17th. Mr. Zurlo asked all Legislators to please respond to the Legislative Office if this date is acceptable.

Mr. Zurlo reported the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference was successful. The County had a six-person contingent that attended, and hopefully brought back some wonderful ideas to implement.

Mr. Zurlo stated budget meetings have begun and are progressing well.

Additionally, Mr. Zurlo requested an Executive Session to discuss a matter of litigation.

Chairperson’s Report – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry reported Mr. Zurlo was elected second vice president of NYSAC. He congratulated him on this accolade.

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

Resolutions #661 through #683 were approved.

Resolution #684 titled, “Approving Creation of a Temporary, Full-Time, Junior Assistant District Attorney Position (PCN TBD)” was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Ms. Kinblom explained this is not a new full-time employee in the department. This resolution allows the District Attorney’s Office to hire an employee that has yet to pass the New York State Board (the process is usually lengthy, taking approximately five months). Once this employee passes the Board they would move into the Assistant District Attorney position and then this position would be abolished.

Resolutions #685 through #688 were approved.

Resolution #689 titled, “Authorizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Airport Grant Application and Acceptance” was moved by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated for those not on the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee, the Airport has received funds from three COVID-relief Federal legislations, (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). He noted the Airport still needs funds to pay debt service off and whereas the Airport usually utilizes Passenger Facility Charges and parking revenue for this debt. Mr. Zurlo indicated he will be working with the Airport Director to determine how much revenue should be included in the Airport budget based on future projections.

Resolutions #690 through #699 were approved.

Resolution #700 titled, “Authorizing Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) Fare Changes – Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT)” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Legislator Castine inquired if this was simply to make it more convenient and less costly for the rural routes. Mr. Zurlo stated the overall goal is to simplify the fare system and in doing so increase ridership; as the city routes were subsidizing the rural routes. Mr. Zurlo stated Shannon Thayer, the Planning Technician, can answer any follow-up questions and you may contact her for further information regarding this issue.

Resolution #701 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Token Transit, Inc.” was motioned by Legislator Potiker and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this company will provide a mobile app that will help riders buy secure passes in an effort to provide more flexibility and ease of service.

Resolutions #702 through #714 were approved.

Legislator Castine motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolution #715 titled, “Congratulating Clinton Community College’s Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends on the Occasion of its Inaugural Founders’ Day Celebration” was motioned by Legislator Peryea and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Chairperson Henry stated the County would like to offer a proclamation and that he has been asked to read the proclamation at Founders’ Day on October 16th.

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-2).

Respectfully submitted,

Toni M. Moffat

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Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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