

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 26, 2014

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, September 24, 2014 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3, Chairperson
John Gallagher, Area 9
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
James Langley, Jr., Area 7
Harry McManus, Area 1
Colin Read, Area 4

EXCUSED: Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Dyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown conducted roll call. Legislator Waldron asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 9-0-1).

Chairperson Dyer proclaimed the week of October 5-11th as Mental Health Awareness Week in Clinton County. He introduced Amanda Bulriss, Executive Director of NAMI: Champlain Valley.

Ms. Bulriss thanked Chairperson Dyer for proclaiming the week of October 5-11th as Mental Health Awareness Week in Clinton County. She stated this is an important opportunity for people to learn the symptoms of: major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and borderline personality disorder. Ms. Bulriss noted this is also an important time to have conversations about mental health care and help end the silence and stigma that is often associated with mental illness.

Ms. Bulriss reported one in four adults experience mental health problems and one in five children and adolescents also experience serious emotional disorders. Approximately one-half of chronic mental illness begins by the age of 14, and three-quarters by the age of 24. There are long delays (sometimes decades) between the time the symptoms first appear and when people get help. Early identification and treatment can greatly help. Ms. Bulriss stated Mental Health Awareness Week is a time to learn and to help make a difference.

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone else wished to address the Legislature.

Rick Harney, a Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) bus driver, asked for the Legislature's support in reversing the decision regarding his supervisor, Mel Desrocher's resignation. Mr. Harney stated Mr. Desrocher is the best boss he has had during his lifetime. Mr. Desrocher has served as a driver, a mechanic and lastly, General Manager. In Mr. Harney's opinion, he feels there has been a "witch hunt" in an effort to get rid of Mel.

Rob Hoffman of Plattsburgh stated he is a son, a brother, a father, a college graduate and a Gulf War Veteran who has been living with mental illness. Often times, he has experienced the stigma that has brought him down. He realized what he was facing was only one facet of who he is. He has accomplished many things, and he is working hard for his recovery. He stated he has met a lot of people with excellent character who have also accomplished many things. He is thankful for this week of awareness to show support for families that have faced the challenges that are associated with mental illness.

Joe Gittens, a CCPT bus driver, stated his support of Mel Desrocher, who he feels, is being persecuted for being honest and forthright. He asked the Legislature to consider reversing this decision. Mr. Gittens stated Mr. Desrocher is one of the best bosses he has ever had.

Andrea Provost stated she has been suffering with mental illness since she was very young. It began with Separation Anxiety Disorder in Kindergarten, to Depression, to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to Borderline Personality Disorder. She has also been suicidal. Ms. Provost stated her road to recovery has been long. There have been pitfalls and hills, but she stated she is not a quitter. She stated there are so many other people like her. She considers herself a survivor, not a victim. Ms. Provost stated mental illness should be out in the media, it should not be hidden or subject to stigma. Mental illness does not choose who it affects. Ms. Provost stated she is trying to pave a path for one of her grandchildren who has received multiple diagnoses. She stated if she cannot change anything in this generation, then what will her Grandson's future hold, and what will other children's future hold if they are left undiagnosed and untreated. She stated by proclaiming the week of October 5th to October 11th as Mental Health Awareness Week, this opens many doors where people can freely speak, be seen and be heard.

Keesha Stanton, a student from Clinton Community College, addressed the Legislature regarding recent changes to the CCPT bus schedule which has affected many students at the College, especially students with evening classes. Ms. Stanton asked if the schedule could be reviewed and perhaps some changes made to accommodate the students.

Conner Kerrigan, a student from Clinton Community College, addressed the Legislature regarding recent changes to the CCPT bus schedule. Mr. Kerrigan stated since these changes have been made, he no longer has access from Cadyville to Clinton Community College and requested if it were possible that the schedule could be changed back.

James Bosley, Planning Technician with CCPT, thanked the students for coming this evening and for meeting with him earlier to discuss the new schedule. He stated he is looking at the schedule and will be working with the College to see what changes can be made to accommodate students.

Lumba (last name inaudible), a CCPT bus driver, spoke on behalf of Mel Desrocher of First Transit. She stated Mr. Desrocher is a good boss and a good people-person who stresses the importance of customer service. She stated many of the children she transports are autistic and are used to their own bus drivers. Many times, autistic students cannot get on the bus because they are traumatized to have a new bus driver. She asked if a compromise could be made with Mr. Desrocher.

There being no one further to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer called for standing committee and liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the next meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th at 5:15 p.m.

County Operations Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the next meeting of the County Operations Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee was polled on Resolutions #656 and #678. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Legislator Keenan reported he has been invited as a Guardian to participate with the Honor Flight this Saturday, September 27th. Legislator Keenan was very much looking forward to this event and invited all Legislators to wish the veterans well on their departure flight at 7:00 a.m. from the Plattsburgh International Airport.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Gallagher

Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet Monday, October 6th at 5:15 p.m. If the agenda necessitates a meeting, he asked if Legislator Langley would agree to chair the meeting as Legislator Gallagher will be out of town. Legislator Langley replied he would be glad to do so.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Langley

Legislator Langley reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier this evening. Most of the agenda items were fairly routine. Tom Horth of C & S Engineers, Inc., provided an update on various projects at the Airport.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator McManus

Legislator McManus reported the Transportation Committee was polled on Resolutions #662 and #663 on tonight's agenda.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Clinton Community College – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Board of Trustees met Tuesday, September 16th. Clinton Community College has been awarded \$12.7 million to build an advanced manufacturing institute to provide educational programs and training in transportation, aerospace and manufacturing. The College's 2013-2014 budget was recently closed out. Legislator Dame noted expenses and revenues are down. There is a \$68,000 surplus that will go to Fund Balance for the 2014-2015 academic school year. Legislator Dame noted current enrollment for the fall is down, and the College is already experiencing some revenue shortfalls in the beginning of the school year.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator McManus

Legislator McManus reported Amy Ivy, the Executive Director of Cooperative Extension, will be transferring into a full-time Horticulturist position. A new administrator will be hired at Cooperative Extension.

Board of Health – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Board of Health recently met and had a presentation on water systems and maintenance of the systems. He stated the discussion was very interesting.

Legislator Beach reported the Board of Health receives a large folder with color copies of meeting materials each month. At the last Health Committee meeting, the Committee discussed the possibility of having this mailing be done electronically in an effort to save money on colored photocopies. It was the consensus of the Board of Health to receive the monthly mailings electronically.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Langley

Legislator Langley reported he returned from the NYSAC Conference in Buffalo earlier in the day. The conference was well attended and informative. Legislator Langley stated in speaking to other Legislators and Supervisors, it appears Clinton County is doing better than most counties throughout New York State.

The next Intercounty meeting will be held Thursday, October 23rd in Clinton County.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislator Langley

Legislator Langley reported he recently received audit figures and will be reviewing them in the near future.

Soil and Water - Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported Soil and Water met last week. The Legislature recently nominated Lance Rovers to the Soil and Water Conservation Board who attended the meeting.

Grievance Committee – Legislator Gallagher

Legislator Gallagher reported they are awaiting a response from the Union on a recent issue that was filed.

Discipline Review – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported a Discipline Review Committee meeting will be scheduled for the first week of October.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – James Coffey, Esq.

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss 11-87/George Moore, on-line auction parcels that did not sell, Paul and Rachel Risetto and Sue Castine vs. Clinton County.

Deputy County Administrator – Rodney Brown

Mr. Brown reminded Legislators of the Agricultural Tour which is scheduled for Friday, September 26th at Cornell Cooperative Extension. The bus will be departing promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Chairperson Dyer reported he and Legislator Read presented a plaque to the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee on Thursday, September 11th at Clinton Community College. Chairperson Dyer stated he was amazed at the large number of people at the College (ranging from children, to middle-aged to senior citizens). Commemoration Committee members Kit Booth and Gary VanCour were very appreciative to receive the resolution from the County. They noted the Commemoration Committee, which consists of approximately 50 people, were just a “piece of the pie” which made the Battle of Plattsburgh Celebration such a huge success.

The following Resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #656 through #676 were approved.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Hall to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #677 was approved.

Resolution #678 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Antana Linings Caps, Inc.” was moved by Legislator Langley and seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Brown stated this item is for a Remediation Project at the Landfill. Price quotes were solicited for the purchase and installation of the liner, and this resolution would hire the company who submitted the lowest quote. Legislator Dame asked if this is a direct expense to the County or an expense to Casella Waste Management, Inc. Mr. Brown replied this is an expense to the County which has been budgeted for in the Landfill Reserve Account.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to enter into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. to discuss matters outlined above, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:01 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m., seconded by Legislator Gallagher. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melody Lemieux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer