

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
:SS  
STATE OF NEW YORK)

May 13, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of a Special Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Friday, May 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via teleconference, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3  
Simon Conroy, Area 4  
Calvin Castine, Area 1  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Francis Peryea, Area 2  
Richard Potiker, Area 5  
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9  
Rob Timmons, Area 7  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

VACANT: Area 8

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator  
Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq., County Attorney  
Kim Kinblom, Personnel Director

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the public had the opportunity to attend the meeting via an audio link.

Chairperson Henry stated at this point, this was not an official meeting. As such, in accordance with Section 152 of the County Law, a resolution must be approved to authorize the convening of this meeting.

Chairperson Henry asked Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator and Clerk of the Board, to read the title of Resolution #280 titled, "Authorizing the County Legislature to Hold a Special Legislative Meeting on Friday, May 8, 2020 at 3:00 p.m."

Legislator Timmons motioned to approve Resolution #280, seconded by Legislator Waldron. All in favor 8, opposed 1 (Legislator Hall). Carried (8-1-0). (1 Vacancy, Area 8)

Chairperson Henry officially called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

He stated the Legislature was now in an official meeting for the sole purpose of filling a vacancy (Area 8) on the Clinton County Legislature.

He asked that everyone rise and join in the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Zurlo conducted roll call.

A quorum was present.

Chairperson Henry stated as everyone is aware, the sole purpose of the meeting is to appoint a person to the Area 8 vacancy on the Clinton County Legislature. He opened this up for discussion and recognized Legislator Rob Timmons. Legislator Timmons stated the decision to temporarily appoint someone to this position has not been an easy decision. It has taken bipartisan work to get this point. In dealing with the timeframe of holding a special election during the first week of July, and with the cost that would be incurred, he personally felt that waiting until the election in November was the right thing to do. Legislator Waldron agreed and stated they have thought long and hard regarding this issue. She stated the seat will be up for election in November. She did not feel it would be prudent to have the Town of Plattsburgh spend up to \$8,000 to hold the special election in July.

Legislator Rosenquest stated at first, he was strongly in support of a holding a special election in conjunction with the Presidential Primary (which has since been cancelled) and City of Plattsburgh Mayoral Primary in July. It would not be easy to justify the expenses that would have to be incurred for a special election in July. Given the stipulation that this individual does not have any anticipation running for the Legislative Area 8 seat in November, he would support an appointment to fill the vacancy.

Legislator Hall stated he was strongly opposed to an appointment. He would like to hear from the candidate that he/she does not intend and will not be running for the seat in November nor he/she will not be promoting the Republican candidate. He does not agree with the process. Money has been budgeted for all types of upcoming primaries. He stated for the past six and a half years, the Legislature has worked together and has been very impartial. He stated he was opposed to this appointment.

Legislator Castine stated due to the uncertainties with the COVID-19 Pandemic, he feels an appointment is the best alternative at this time.

Legislator Peryea stated when discussions first began; a special election was discussed. As time went on, some Legislators felt an appointment would be more appropriate at this time due to the cost of a special election and the inability to campaign due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Legislator Potiker stated in the beginning, many Legislators thought holding a special election was the best idea. However, with the situation the Pandemic created, he agreed an appointment would be more appropriate at this time.

Legislator Waldron stated she has tremendous respect for Legislator Hall. She feels this is bipartisan and is in the best interest of the public. She feels they can trust their Republican colleagues. This makes sense all the way around, and it makes financial sense.

Legislator Conroy agrees with holding the special election in the fall and have an opportunity for candidates to campaign. He was in favor of the appointment being made now.

Legislator Peryea put forth the name of Patrick R. McGill to fill the seat of Area 8.

Chairperson Henry phoned Mr. McGill. Chairperson Henry reported Mr. McGill was on speaker phone. Chairperson Henry stated several Legislators wanted to know if Mr. McGill were to be elected, he would not accept a nomination to run in November. Mr. McGill stated he would not run in November, he is simply filling the seat until he is replaced. He has no intention of running. Legislator Hall asked Mr. McGill if he would be campaigning or working for someone in the Republican Party in the fall. Mr. McGill stated he has no interest in the political scene, running, or helping someone campaign in the fall. He does not get involved in political campaigns.

Legislator Hall stated it is an honor to have Mr. McGill on the Legislature. He is not against Mr. McGill for filling this vacancy, having Mr. McGill on the Legislature will be a good thing, but he feels this should be done by a special election.

Chairperson Henry asked Mr. Zurlo to read the title of Resolution #281 titled, "Appointing Patrick R. McGill as a Member of the Clinton County Legislature."

Discussion: Legislator Peryea motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-1-0). (Vacancy, 1 Area 8) (Legislator Hall voted no).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Peryea motioned to adjourn at 3:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-1-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer

:ML