

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

July 20, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, July 19, 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
Robert Hall, Area 10
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7

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. Legislators Potiker and Timmons asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry invited Scott Ewing, the newly appointed President of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, to the podium to receive an award. Chairperson Henry noted Mr. Ewing has been in public service his entire adult life, is a member of the volunteer fire department, an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Deputy Fire Chief of District #3 and Deputy Fire Coordinator for Clinton County. Chairperson Henry noted it is an honor to present Mr. Ewing with this award and he read Resolution #487 titled, "Congratulating R. Scott Ewing on Being Named President of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs" to the attendees. Mr. Ewing extended his thanks to his District Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief, Greg and Josh Burnell, stating it is a team effort across the board throughout the State. He thanked the Legislature for taking the time to honor him and the other first responders in the County.

Senator Dan Stec was also present and congratulated Mr. Ewing on his award. He noted how many first responders are involved in multiple organizations such as Mr. Ewing. Senator Stec stated the knowledge and experience Mr. Ewing has will benefit the State. Senator Stec extended his thanks to Mr. Ewing on his achievements and time given.

Senator Stec noted he toured the flood zones throughout the County. He stated Commissioner Jackie Bray will do what she can to assist on the Federal side.

Senator Stec also spoke about the announcement of the Nova Bus closure and noted it was a positive that a year and a half notice was given to prepare what can go into that building. He noted he has a great working relationship with Chairperson Henry and Mr. Zurlo and is willing to help the County in any way possible.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Marlene Beal, a resident of Rouses Point, asked the Legislature to create a bill to assist the older population through the reduction of their tax requirements. She stated it takes four of her social security checks to pay for her taxes. She is suggesting the Committee establish an age limit and criteria to assist the senior community regarding tax requirements.

There being no one else 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 scheduled for Monday, July 10th was cancelled.

A joint meeting between the Buildings and Grounds and the Plattsburgh International Airport Committees was held on Wednesday, June 28th. The resolution titled, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Wendel Energy Services, LLC for Energy Performance" has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Potiker, Mr. Zurlo reported the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, July 11th.

Commissioner Christine Peters was present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with ETC Housing Corporation” and “Authorizing Use of Unclaimed Funds.”

Commissioner Peters also provided an update on migrants/Plattsburgh Cares, City Motel issues, OneWorkSource and a Warming Center.

Resolutions #490 and #491 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, August 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 12th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #492 through #494 on the agenda.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th at 3:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Timmons, Mr. Zurlo reported the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, July 18th.

Rebecca Murphy, the Deputy County Treasurer, was present to discuss the resolution, “Voiding Purchase/Forfeiture of Deposit in the Town of Beekmantown.”

Ms. Murphy also discussed the 2023 Sales Tax Chart.

The Committee also discussed the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for Professional Services Associated with the Clinton County Landfill Site Characterization Investigation Work Plan” and “Authorizing Cost Sharing Agreement with New England Waste Services of N.Y., Inc. (Casella).”

Resolutions #495 through #498 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Resolution #534 has also been placed on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 17th was

cancelled.

Resolutions #499 and #500 were polled and have been placed on the agenda.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th was cancelled.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, July 18th.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, presented on Clinton County's 2023-2024 Recruitment and Retention Strategies, which will be discussed further at a future Personnel meeting.

Ms. Kinblom also discussed Memorandum of Agreements with three Collective Bargaining Units regarding the Enhanced Health Insurance Buyout.

Resolutions #535 through #554 have been placed on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th at 5:00 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 the resolutions, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with BR Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Pro Driver Training" and "Authorizing Supplemental Agreement to the Master Services Agreement with C & S Engineers, Inc. for Periodic Professional Services."

Resolutions #501 through #510 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Legislator Hall noted the lease with BR Holdings, Inc. is for five years with a five-year lease renewal option.

Mr. Zurlo stated he was informed today by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's Office that the designation of the Airport as a Port of Entry as opposed to a User Fee Airport is included in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Bill, which he believes will pass the House tomorrow and noted this is very positive news. If this comes to fruition, it will save the Airport Budget approximately \$500,000.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 17th was cancelled.

Resolutions #511 through #515 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the Committee's recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 10th was cancelled.

On Monday, July 10th and Tuesday, July 11th, the Committee toured the impacted flood zones in Clinton County with Highway Superintendent Karl Weiss, Senator Dan Stec and Assemblyman Billy Jones.

Resolutions #516 through #520 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Resolution #518 has been withdrawn.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported at the Wednesday, August 2nd Finance Committee meeting Clinton Community College President John Kowal, along with some Board of Trustees members, will be present to review the budget for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Zurlo noted he will be meeting with the President tomorrow, Thursday, July 20th. Legislator Bezio also noted Steve Fredericks will be returning to the college to run the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing (IAM) Program.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Committee is meeting on Thursday, July 27th in Fulton County to tour the Field of Dreams facility.

Lake George/Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the Board met about a week ago. The director, senior planner and economic development coordinator provided their reports. Some of the topics were the Main Street Revitalization Program and some new loans they are providing.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher request an executive session to discuss pending litigation, contractual negotiations and to provide advice of counsel.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo asked to have the Legislature to review the September calendar in regards to the first Regular Session on Wednesday, September 13th, which is occurring at the same time as the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference. He proposed cancelling or moving the session to the week of the 17th. There will not be a quorum on the 13th of September.

Mr. Zurlo noted that Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, Mr. Weiss and Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, toured the County with State Emergency Management Officials and Federal Emergency Management Agency Officials. He noted the process is moving forward and remains hopeful the impacted areas will qualify for funding.

Mr. Zurlo stated he is meeting on Thursday, July 20th with Stephen Acquario, the Executive Director of NYSAC and the Budget Director Robert Megna, to discuss lengthening the phase out period of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP). He noted it is supposed to be a three-year phase in/phase out, but the notification sent to the Commissioner of Social Services stated it is quicker than originally anticipated.

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 #490 and #491 were approved.

Resolution #492 titled, “Authorizing Smart Growth Program Countywide Resiliency Grant Application” was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated that Ms. Thayer is seeking out opportunities and is doing a great job at being proactive.

Resolutions #493 through #507 were approved.

Resolution #508 titled, “Authorizing the Rehabilitation of Taxiway A Pavement and General Aviation (GA) Apron Phase II (Construction) Project Grant Re-Application” was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is good news on these federal projects where there is a local share attached to them and noted during the COVID-19 Pandemic the local share was zero. When the Airport originally applied for this grant, the local share was five percent. C & S Engineers, Inc. discovered the local share is now at 2.5 percent. Mr. Zurlo noted this grant re-application will save the County \$171,000.

Resolution #509 titled, "Authorizing the Rehabilitation of the Apron Taxiway and General Aviation (GA) Apron Phase I (Design) Project Grant Re-Application" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is the same issue but a smaller savings because it is for design work and not construction.

Resolutions #510 through #517 were approved.

Resolution #518 has been withdrawn.

Resolutions #519 through #532 were approved.

Resolution #533 titled, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Wendel Energy Services, LLC for Energy Performance" was motioned by Legislator Bezio and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated there was a tour of a few structures at the Airport and it was looked into bringing both projects into the Energy Performance contract with Wendel Energy Services, LLC. This resolution includes the boiler project only, it does not include the roof project. Mr. Zurlo noted Mr. Cleveland worked with a local vendor and that vendor's membership in a co-op resulted in a savings of approximately \$350,000. Mr. Zurlo noted this is the high-efficiency boiler with a quicker lead-time.

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

Resolutions #534 titled, "Accepting Bids Received at Online Auction and Authorizing the Issuance of Deeds" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated there were two properties, one was over the delinquency of taxes owed and one was under. This resolution is to approve the sale of the parcel sold under delinquency.

Resolutions #535 through #542 were approved.

Resolution #543 titled, "Approving Request to Backfill a Vacant Permanent, Part-Time Senior Account Clerk Position up to a Step 5 of the Salary Scale (PCN TBD)" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo clarified this is not a new position, this was a previously approved position that has been unable to be filled since January. Mr. Zurlo noted the only cost to this is the difference between Step 1 and Step 5.

Resolutions #544 through #550 were approved.

Resolution #551 titled, "Authorizing the Chairperson to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement by and between the County of Clinton and the Civil Service Employees' Association, Inc., Local 1000/AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Clinton County Units 6450 and 6466 of Local 884" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, stated this resolution and the following two resolutions are Memorandums of Agreements with the three unions in the County to offer an increased health insurance buyout to current employees. Ms. Kinblom noted pre-open enrollment will begin two weeks prior to this year's open enrollment and if the \$300,000 savings is reached based on the pre-open enrollment, then the County will put in place an increased buyout from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for an individual and

\$7,000 for a family plan, which would go into effect in 2024. Mr. Zurlo is hoping employees will see the value of this enhanced buyout.

Resolutions #552 through #554 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Bezio motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:37 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolution #555 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Kaplan Kirsch & Rockwell, LLP" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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