

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

June 19, 2012

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, June 13, 2012 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Robert Butler, Area 6
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3
John Gallagher, Area 9
Robert Heins, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Area 1
Sara Rowden, Deputy Chairperson, Area 4

EXCUSED: James Langley, Jr., Chairperson, Area 7

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
William Favreau, County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Deputy Chairperson Sara Rowden called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. Legislator Langley had asked to be excused.

Legislator Dyer offered a motion to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2012 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 9-0-1).

Deputy Chairperson Rowden asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature. Dorothy Meyer of Beekmantown addressed the Legislature regarding property taxes. Ms. Meyer stated her son owns a parcel of land in the Town of Saranac. She feels property owners should have up until the time of the tax auction to redeem their property. She stated her son has three children, all under the age of four (two being foster children). Her son was waiting for his income tax return so he could pay his property taxes, but he missed the deadline by four days. She stated she could have helped him, but due to his pride, he did not tell her he needed help. She stated everyone in the Country has had a difficult time over the past four years. Six weeks ago, her son's wife was laid off from work after having worked for the same company for nine years. She asked that the Legislature please consider giving taxpayers the opportunity to redeem their property right up until the time of the tax auction.

There being no one further who wished to address the Legislature, Deputy Chairperson Rowden called for standing committee and liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Samuel Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting which was scheduled for Thursday, June 14th was cancelled. The narrow band radio system has been completed from Master Plan funding. All pole-type lighting around the Government Center complex has been converted to LED lights. The Highway Department is repaving the parking lot at the Department of Social Services.

Legislator Butler reported Judge Lahtinen reported to him there was a mold issue in the basement of the Supreme Court Library Building. Mr. Zurlo stated he would speak to James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, regarding this issue.

County Operations Committee – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the County Operations Committee met Tuesday, June 5th.

John Zurlo, County Clerk, discussed the process of microfilm storage and a potential change in vendor for this service. He discussed his request to eliminate the sale of New York State Environmental Conservation Licenses from the County Clerk's Office. He provided an update on the Shared Services Grant and Department of Motor Vehicle Employment. Resolutions #411 and #413 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Tammy Lacey, Senior Assessment Control Examiner in the Real Property Office, discussed the replacement of the current photocopier in the Real Property Office. Resolution #412 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Representatives from Twinstare were in attendance to discuss the County's existing phone system and the necessary upgrades needed.

The next County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3rd at 6:15 p.m.

Finance Committee – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported the Finance Committee met prior to this evening's Regular Session. Resolutions #415 through #417 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. Sales tax is a little higher than projected. The Workforce Investment Board presented its 2013 budget. The Finance Committee also discussed increasing parking rates and charges at Plattsburgh International Airport. Resolution #416 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Jonathan Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee met Thursday, June 7th. A quorum was not present; therefore, the Committee was polled on Resolutions #418 through #428 which are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Sherrie Gillette, the Director of Community Services, reported on goals that were met for 2010 and 2011, as well as goals set for 2012 and 2013. Ms. Gillette has met with Fletcher Allen Health Care and CVPH Medical Center regarding ongoing efforts to recruit a Psychiatrist.

Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, met with the New York State Health Commissioner. Legislator Beach was happy to report the Clinton County Health Department is far above many other counties in New York State.

Legislator Dyer inquired about the water contamination issue in the Town of Dannemora. Legislator Beach reported the water tankers are still being utilized. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Department of Transportation continue working on this issue.

The next meeting of the Health Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Pete Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee met Tuesday, June 5th. Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans' Service Agency discussed a number of topics relating to the department. Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator discussed Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) payments. Resolutions #429 and #430 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – John Gallagher

Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee met following the Special Legislative Meeting on Monday, June 4th. Resolutions #431 through #456 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Zurlo noted Mental Health and Addiction Services' restructuring proposal results in a savings of nearly \$60,000. The Personnel Committee's recommendation to meet bi-monthly has also resulted in a cost savings to Clinton County.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 6th at 5:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Robert Heins

Legislator Heins reported Resolutions #457 and #458 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee (PIAC). The next PIAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27th at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Zurlo reported PenAir begins service to Boston, Massachusetts on Thursday, June 14th.

Public Safety Committee – Robert Butler

Legislator Butler reported the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, June 11th was cancelled. The Committee was polled on Resolutions #459 through #465 which are included on the agenda.

Legislator Butler reported Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties are interested in procuring the C-E-F Library System's Bookmobile (which is no longer in service) to be utilized as a Command Post for disaster events. The C-E-F Library System has agreed to give the 10 year-old Bookmobile, which is valued at approximately \$400,000, to the three Counties. This vehicle will be refurbished utilizing grant funds. There will be some expense to each County for maintenance and insuring the vehicle. Essex County will vote on this in mid-July, and Franklin County has already granted approval for this endeavor. Mr. Zurlo stated this item will require formal action by the Legislature. Mr. Zurlo will contact Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, to draft a resolution for action of the Clinton County Legislature.

Legislature Butler reported the next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 9th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Harry McManus

Legislator McManus reported the Transportation Committee met Monday, June 11th. Resolution #466 will authorize renewing the advertising contract with Fesette Realty for Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT). This is the last year of the renewable contract, and the County will need to seek a Request for Proposals next year to continue the service. Resolution #468 will authorize a contract for transportation services for students at the College Suites and will result in approximately \$7,000 in additional revenue. Resolution #467 will also authorize a contract for transportation for students at Clinton Community College, and this will result in approximately \$30,000 in revenue.

The Committee discussed the elimination of some of the existing CCPT bus routes. The Planning Department has received three phone calls asking what changes were made to the routes. No criticism has been received.

The Committee discussed the Safe Routes to School Program. This Program is 100 percent Federally funded through the New York State Department of Transportation, and will provide safer means of travel for students in the Saranac School District. There is approximately \$400,000 available for our area. The County Highway Superintendent will be preparing a grant application. Legislator Butler stated this is a real safety issue for the school district. There is a quarter of a mile gap on the side of the road where kids have to walk for after school athletic programs, and he feels this is an accident waiting to happen. Legislator Butler has met with the School Superintendent, and he is in full support of the application.

The Committee discussed the Complete Streets Program. This Program would have the County Highway Department include sidewalks in all proposed road and bridge projects to improve access to all modes of transportation, pedestrians, cyclists, handicapped persons, etc. The County Highway Superintendent pointed out; however, this would most likely double the cost of all road/bridge projects. Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown will be drafting a resolution to support the concept of the Complete Streets Program.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 13th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported the 2012 fishing tournament season is underway. A large tournament will be held June 28-30, 2012.

InterCounty Legislative Committee – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the next meeting of the InterCounty Legislative Committee will be held Thursday, June 21st in Fulton County.

LC/LG Regional Planning Board – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported he contacted the Executive Director of the LC/LG Regional Planning Board to inquire when meetings are scheduled. The next semi-annual meeting will be held Tuesday, June 26th in Lake George.

Soil and Water Conservation – Sam Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the next Soil and Water Conservation District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21st.

Staff Reports

County Attorney William Favreau requested an Executive Session to discuss a matter of litigation.

Mr. Zurlo reported final approval of the Home Care License was granted by the Public Health Counsel on Thursday, June 7th. The entire process should be complete by the end of August, 2012.

There being no further business, Deputy Chairperson Rowden moved on to Resolutions. The following Resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #410 through #411 were approved.

Resolution #412 titled, “Authorizing Various Contracts – Real Property” was moved by Legislator Dame and seconded by Legislator Keenan.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported there was discussion at the County Operations Committee meeting that the County would have had to pay five extra months prior to the State Contract expiring. This issue has been worked out, and the changes are reflected in the Resolution. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #413 titled, “Eliminating the Sale of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Licenses – County Clerk” was moved by Legislator Dame and seconded by Legislator Beach.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported the County Clerk’s Office has a computer that the State of New York owns for Sportsman Licenses. Years ago, the County Clerk’s Office was the only location you could purchase these licenses. The licenses are now available for purchase at other locations such as Gander Mountain, Dick’s Sporting Goods, townships, etc. Last year, the County Clerk made a net profit of \$30. This will also create space for an additional cash drawer which was recommended in the County’s most recent audit. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #414 through #415 were approved.

Resolution #416 titled, "Amending Resolution #995 dated December 22, 2010 titled, "Amending Resolution #99 dated January 27, 2010 titled, "Amending Resolution #504 dated June 24, 2009 titled, "Amending Reslution#293 dated April 22, 2009 titled, "Approving Plattsburgh International Airport Rates and Charges – Plattsburgh International Airport" was moved by Legislator Heins and seconded by Legislator Dyer.

Legislator Dame stated this item was discussed by the Finance Committee earlier. He stated he had voted no on the Resolution at the Finance Committee meeting only because he felt the Legislature should have increased the fees a little further in order to lessen the impact on the property taxpayers and have the cost of the parking be borne by those who utilize the Airport. Legislator Dame stated he would vote yes on the Resolution because it does a little bit of what he wanted to do, but not a lot. He stated if he were to vote no, it would be disingenuous to think that he didn't support the increase in the parking fees. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #417 through #432 were approved.

Resolution #433 titled, "Approving Reclassification of a Permanent, Full-Time Senior Account Clerk/Typist to Account Clerk with Backfill – Mental Health and Addiction Services," was moved by Legislator Gallagher and seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion: Legislator Gallagher stated these reorganizations represent a significant cost savings to the County and will improve efficiencies.

Resolutions #434 and #435 were approved.

Resolution #436 titled, "Approving Reclassification of a Permanent, Full-Time Public Health Nurse II to Supervising Public Health Nurse – Health Department" was moved by Legislator Gallagher and seconded by Legislator Heins.

Discussion: Legislator Gallagher stated this Resolution, as well as Resolution #437 does not represent any increase in the number of Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) in the Department. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #437 through #454 were approved.

Legislator Gallagher stated all of the backfills for the Department of Social Services (Resolution #448 through #454) were essential, and he wanted to publicly note that he appreciates the work that department heads are doing to make services more efficient. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #455 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Airport Facilities Coordinator – Plattsburgh International Airport" was moved by Legislator Gallagher and seconded by Legislator Heins.

Discussion: Legislator Heins stated this is a critical position. This individual will be dealing with updating all leases at the Plattsburgh International Airport. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #456 titled, "Approving Request to Change a Seasonal Winter Laborer to Seasonal Summer Laborer – Plattsburgh International Airport" was moved by Legislator Gallagher and seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion: Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee is recommending the title be changed to Seasonal Laborer. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #457 was approved.

Resolution #458 titled, "Authorizing Passenger Terminal Expansion Design Federal Grant Application – Plattsburgh International Airport" was moved by Legislator Heins and seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion: Mr. Brown reported this Resolution would authorize the County to apply for Federal monies for the final design of the Terminal Building Expansion Project. The final design may or may not cost this sum, the cost may go down. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #459 titled, "Authorizing Contract Amendment for Assigned Counsel Services – Assigned Counsel" was moved by Legislator Butler and seconded by Legislator Beach.

Discussion: Legislator Butler inquired if at some point the County may consider hiring a Public Defender. Mr. Zurlo replied this is always a consideration, and noted this contract has not increased in cost in at least the past five years. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #460 through #466 were approved.

Resolution #467 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Faculty Student Association at Clinton Community College – Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT)" was moved by Legislator McManus and seconded by Legislator Keenan.

Discussion: Legislator Dame asked for clarification on the Resolution. Mr. Brown stated this is a contract through the Faculty Student Association at Clinton Community College where the Student Association is charged a fee. Students will receive a sticker on their I.D. that will enable the students to use any of the CCPT bus routes. Mr. Zurlo stated that in years past, similar Resolutions did not help Clinton County's bottom line as New York State would make the County whole for any shortage that we may have had in the CCPT budget. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #468 through #470 were approved.

Resolution #471 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Seaway Diving and Salvage Co., Inc. – Highway Department" was moved by Legislator McManus and seconded by Legislator Butler.

Discussion: Mr. Brown reported that a recommendation was made by the County Highway Superintendent at the July 11th Transportation Committee meeting to increase the contract amount from \$8,000 to a cost "not to exceed \$100,000" to enable the Highway Department to utilize the same company for other projects which also require emergency repairs. A Roll Call vote was taken on the amended motion. Motion was moved by Legislator McManus and seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #472 through #482 were approved.

Legislator Heins motioned to Waive Rule 13.2 and seconded by Legislator Beach. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #483 was approved.

Deputy Chairperson Rowden asked if there was anything further to come before the Legislature.

Legislator Dyer motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. to discuss litigation, seconded by Legislator Gallagher. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Butler. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

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