

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 5, 2018

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, November 28, 2018 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Mark Dame, Area 8
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Area 3
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Chairperson, Area 1
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Jeanene Bell, Senior Stenographer

Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2018 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson McManus moved on to Committee Reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th at 5:15 p.m.

Children and Family Services – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th at 6:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy stated Resolutions #938 and #939 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th at 6 p.m.

Finance – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Finance Committee met Monday, November 26th and Tuesday, November 27th at 5:15 p.m. to review the 2019 recommended budget. A public hearing on the 2019 tentative budget will be held Wednesday, December 5th at 7 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers. Resolution #937 has been placed on the agenda which will authorize the Clerk to advertise for a public hearing on the 2019 County budget.

Legislator Rosenquest recognized the Budget Officer and Department Heads who provided a sound and balanced budget for the Legislature to review. He thanked his colleagues for the long hours they have put in.

Health – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan stated the next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame stated the next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier. Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, discussed the security fence re-bid. He discussed Customs and Border Protection and provided an airline update. Resolutions #940 through #943 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 27th at 5:15 p.m.

Public Safety – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach stated the Public Safety Committee met Monday, November 19th. Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, discussed the use of In Lieu of Forfeiture Funds generated by the District Attorney’s Office. Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, discussed New York State’s allocation for two mobile units for the CAC. Resolutions #944 through #949 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 10th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Transportation Committee met Monday, November 19th. James Bosley, the Planning Technician for Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT), presented Resolutions #950 through #952 which are included on the agenda.

There was discussion in regards to raising the hourly rate schedule for CCPT drivers. It is hoped that by increasing driver pay, more drivers would be attracted to the system, subsequently reducing overtime costs and resulting in a savings to the County. While a formal resolution was not needed, the Committee agreed to increase driver pay to a level comparable to that of similar service providers in an effort to level the playing field and attract new drivers and retain those already in the system.

Karl Weiss, the Deputy County Highway Superintendent, presented Resolutions #953 through #965 which are also included on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 10th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Community Services Board – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy stated the November Community Services Board meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Grievance – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Grievance Committee met earlier today. There were four grievances in which decisions were rendered by the Committee and responses provided to the relevant parties.

InterCounty – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated she attended the InterCounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting on Thursday, November 15th in Herkimer County. A tour was given of the new Tractor Supply distribution center which will employ 200 individuals. Legislator Waldron stated an update was given by New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), and there was discussion on the use of recreational marijuana.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan stated the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board is scheduled to meet Thursday, November 29th at 1 p.m.

Staff Reports

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

Resolutions #937 through #942 were approved.

Resolution #943 titled, “Authorizing Multi-Year Contract with Brian F. Rabideau – Plattsburgh International Airport” was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Waldron.

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest stated different options for a currency exchange machine in conjunction with an ATM machine was discussed in Committee after the original motion was withdrawn. Legislator Rosenquest motioned to table the resolution until further information is obtained, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #944 through #972 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #973 through #977 were approved.

Mr. Zurlo provided information in regards to the Public Defender and Confidential Secretary positions. He stated that based on the step system, the value of the Public Defender and Confidential Secretary would increase in 2019. The value of the previous step in 2019 is very close to the approved step in the old year. The step originated at a Step 7 and would move to a Step 6. The value of Step 6 in 2019 is almost identical to where Step 7 would have been in 2018. He asked that Resolution #925 dated November 14, 2018 be amended from Grade 23, Step 7 to Grade 23, Step 6.

Resolution #978 titled, "Amending Resolution #925 dated November 14, 2018 titled, "Approving Creation of a Permanent, Full-Time Public Defender Position (PCN TBD)" – Public Defender's Office was moved by Legislator Dame and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Mr. Zurlo stated the Confidential Secretary will begin January 1, 2019 at Grade 4, Step 1. There will be no change to Resolution #926 dated November 14, 2018. The salary of the Confidential Secretary will not affect the 2019 tax levy. Legislator Rosenquest asked if there will be a change in the line item. Mr. Zurlo replied no.

Legislator Dame asked if the Confidential Secretary will receive a raise in July, 2019. Mr. Zurlo replied no. The position will go up one step in 2020. If the position is hired before July, the following year's budget will go up a step.

Legislator Hall asked if the Confidential Secretary will begin the same time as the Public Defender. Mr. Zurlo replied this is most likely.

In response to a discussion at the November 20th Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Zurlo provided the Legislature with requested information on overtime in the Sheriff's Department Patrol Division. He was asked to provide information on the amount of money not offset or spent on pre-shift briefings. Mr. Zurlo stated there is a \$230,000 line item in the budget, and \$135,449 is the number (actual overtime) he was asked to provide the Legislature. Legislator Dame stated it is in the Collective Bargaining Unit that overtime is provided for pre-briefing.

Legislator Dame stated the amount of \$135,449 is totally within the discretion of the Legislature because the amount is not offset by grant revenue. He feels the overtime is excessive and would leave it to management of the Department Head and his subordinates to prioritize. The 2018 budget for overtime was \$215,000. Through September 2018, the amount is up to \$220,000 in overtime. He requested \$135,449 be removed for overtime from the 2019 County budget.

Chairperson McManus stated Legislator Dame is asking the Legislature to cut a budget without knowing how the overtime hours were used.

Legislator Hall requested the Sheriff be present at the Monday, December 3rd Personnel Committee meeting to explain what overtime was used for. He stated he is not in favor of cutting the overtime from the budget at this time.

Mr. Zurlo will contact the Sheriff to attend the Monday, December 3rd Personnel Committee meeting. All Legislators are invited to attend the meeting.

Legislator Rosenquest feels it is a targeted approach to one department. He stated it is not fair to cut overtime in one department.

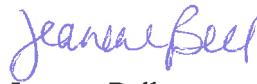
Legislator Henry is concerned about exceeding the overtime with seemingly no controls. He stated the Legislature needs to find where overtime is spent and what to realistically do to control it.

Legislator Timmons would like to know how much is scheduled overtime and how much is regular overtime. Motion failed (1-9-0).

Legislator Dame motioned to remove all overtime from the budget of the Sheriff's Department. No one seconded the motion.

There being no further business, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanene Bell
Senior Stenographer