

STATE OF NEW YORK)  
):SS  
COUNTY OF CLINTON)

January 4, 2013

Stenographer's minutes of the organizational meeting of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers of the Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Robert Butler, Area 6  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Samuel Dyer, Area 3  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
John Gallagher, Area 9  
Robert Heins, Area 10  
James Langley, Jr., Area 7  
Harry J. McManus, Area 1  
Sara Rowden, Area 4

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator  
William Favreau, County Attorney

County Administrator Michael Zurlo called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Following the pledge to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Mr. Brown read the title of Resolution #1, "Appointing Chairperson of the County Legislature for 2013." Mr. Zurlo recognized Legislator Beach.

Legislator Beach stated it was his pleasure to nominate James R. Langley, Jr. as Chairperson for 2013. He stated Legislator Langley has a proven track record of outstanding leadership and guidance. He conducts business in a professional, forthright and caring manner. Additionally, Mr. Langley has a very good relationship with community leaders, the County Administrator, the staff, County Legislators and the County workforce in general. Legislator Langley prides himself in working well with his colleagues, regardless of party affiliation and realizes that good public policy is the result of working together, not from just a few, but with the group as a whole. Under his leadership, Clinton County has been able to withstand an uncertain economy and will continue to do so as he has helped to prepare for future challenges. Legislator Beach stated we are living at a moment in time when most governments and citizens are struggling, we need to have a leader that understands the issues, works well with everyone and is willing to make tough decisions with a very important measure of compassion. The motion was seconded by Legislator Butler.

Legislator Butler supported Legislator Beach's comments and seconded the motion. He commended Legislator Langley for his work ethic, honesty, integrity, sincerity and his connection to key people that help Clinton County to continue to move forward.

Legislator Gallagher stated under Legislator Langley's leadership, the Legislature has voted on issues with the citizens of Clinton County in mind, not with a single party in mind. He stated a lot of that is due to Legislator Langley's fine leadership. Legislator Gallagher stated it is a privilege to work with the entire Legislature under Legislator Langley's leadership and stated his belief that the Clinton County Legislature serves as a good role model for productive government.

Legislator Rowden stated this would be her last organizational meeting due to term limits. She stated it has been a privilege to have worked with Legislators throughout the years, and it truly has been a pleasure working under the leadership of Mr. Langley. She felt most of the Legislature's progress was made due to Mr. Langley's leadership style which has allowed the Legislature to do the work that needs to be done. Legislator Rowden stated she is proud of the way the Clinton County Legislature works together.

Legislator Langley thanked everyone for their support for what will probably be his final term as Chairperson. He stated it has been a pleasure to serve with the former Legislature, the current Legislature and the future Legislature. This year will be difficult as he will be saying goodbye to three more good friends that are leaving the Legislature due to term limits. The next election will leave Legislator Gallagher and him remaining from the 2001 election. Legislator Langley stated the 2001 election was significant because 50 percent of the board was new and 70 percent of the Legislature wanted to do something a little bit different. Many practices of the

past began to change, and there were plenty of issues to work through. After this year, 70 percent of the board, for the most part, will be new. So regardless of which “party” is in power in 2014, he feels its time to start deciding who will be leading the County into the future. He stated there are many positive things occurring now and in the foreseeable future. He thanked the new County Legislators for choosing to serve and hopes each of them enjoy what they are doing and wished them continued success. He stated he believed each legislative area has chosen wisely. He stated with regard to committee assignments, since a number of changes were made last year, the one exception is a change to the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee (PIAC). Due to the magnitude of the Terminal Building Expansion Project and the hope for more development on the industrial side, Legislator Dame will be appointed as a permanent member, and Legislator Keenan will be appointed as an alternate. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Langley asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature. There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Langley asked Mr. Zurlo to read the remaining resolutions.

Resolution #2, “Appointing Deputy Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2013.” Legislator Gallagher stated it was his pleasure to nominate his “classmate” from many years ago, Sara E. Rowden, to serve as Deputy Chairperson for the year 2013. He stated it’s always fun to work with her, and she always brings perspective to everything the Legislature discusses. Legislator Heins asked to second the motion. He stated they have had quite a great relationship working together over the years, especially with the Plattsburgh International Airport which Legislator Rowden referred to as “a leap of faith” and has worked quite well. Legislator Beach also requested to second the motion. He stated as a new Legislator, Sara Rowden has proven to be tremendous asset in providing help and guidance along the way. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #3, “Appointing Republican Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2013.” Legislator Heins stated it was his pleasure to offer the name of Robert W. Butler as Republican Leader for the year 2013. He stated Legislator Butler is the senior Republican in that he served a prior term on the County Legislature. Legislator Heins stated it has always been a pleasure to work with Legislator Butler. Legislator Butler has good perspective, and he is sincere in helping Clinton County. The motion was seconded by Legislator Dame. Legislator Dame stated as being a new Legislator, he hasn’t had an opportunity to experience any caucus’ from the past. Legislator Dame stated this has been a pretty “a-political party” which is a good thing. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #4, “Appointing Democratic Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2013.” Legislator McManus stated it was a great pleasure to offer the name of John W. Gallagher as Democratic Leader for the year 2013. He stated Legislator Gallagher is capable, insightful and articulate, and has exhibited tremendous leadership during Legislator McManus’ five years. The motion was seconded by Legislator Dyer. Legislator Dyer stated he has known Legislator Gallagher for a long time, and he has been there whenever anyone needs him. Legislator Heins also requested to second the nomination. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #5, "Adopting the Rules of Order for 2013." Legislators Gallagher, Dame, Butler, Rowden and Beach motioned to adopt the Rules of Order for 2013, seconded by Legislators McManus, Heins, Dyer, Keenan and Langley. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #6, "Appointing County Attorney for 2013." Chairperson Langley offered the name of William A. Favreau as County Attorney, seconded by Legislators Dyer, McManus, Gallagher, Rowden and Butler. Legislators commended Mr. Favreau for the tremendous assistance he provides to Clinton County and stated they have very much respect for Mr. Favreau. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #7, "Appointing Assistant County Attorney for 2013." Legislator Butler offered the name of Brian A. Snell as Assistant County Attorney, seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0). Legislators Butler and Keenan stated Brian Snell is a very knowledgeable and is great to work with.

Resolution #8, "Appointing Administrator of Indigent Defendants for 2013." Legislator Butler offered the name of Richard E. Cantwell as Administrator of Legal Defense, seconded by Legislator Dame. Legislator Butler stated Mr. Cantwell has done a tremendous job serving as Administrator. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #9, "Appointing OTB Director for 2013." Legislator Keenan offered the name of Sherm Hamel as Clinton County Off-Track Betting Director, seconded by Legislator Heins. Legislator Keenan stated Mr. Hamel has served in this capacity for several years and has done a great job. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn at 5:35 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dyer. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer

:ML