

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

November 11, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Calvin Castine, Area 1
Robert Hall, Area 10
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim M. Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney
John Kanoza, Director of Public Health

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Chairperson Henry stated Clinton County had a Special Election Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for the Area 8 seat. The Legislature has been notified by the Board of Election Commissioners, that while not certified, that Wendell Hughes is the winner of the election. As such, he invited County Clerk, John Zurlo, to administer the Oath of Office to Wendell Hughes and signed the Book of Oaths.

Chairperson Henry welcomed Legislator Hughes and stated the Legislature looks forward to working with him.

Chairperson Henry also congratulated Legislator Rosenquest on his win in the Mayoral election for the City of Plattsburgh. The Legislature applauded.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee met Monday, November 9th.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, discussed a Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for Architectural and Engineering Services.

Resolutions #659 and #660 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee met Thursday, November 5th.

Resolutions #661 through #668 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, discussed the monthly statistics of September, 2020.

Legislator Potiker noted that depending on the number of agenda items, the next Children and Family Services meeting will have to be moved or cancelled to accommodate scheduled budget meetings.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met Wednesday, November 4th.

Resolutions #669 and #670 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Rebecca Murphy, the Deputy County Treasurer, discussed sales tax, occupancy tax, the Fiscal Stress Report and 2020/21 School Installments. Sean Lukas, the General Manager of Casella, discussed proposed changes to certain landfill charges; no decisions were made.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 30th at 5:15 p.m. to discuss the 2021 Recommended Budget. A subsequent meeting for further discussion on the budget has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 1st.

Health Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the Health Committee met Thursday, November 5th.

Resolutions #671 through #676 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Legislator Waldron stated depending on the number of agenda items, the next Health Committee meeting will have to be moved or cancelled to accommodate scheduled budget meetings.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, provided the Legislature with an update. He stated eleven new lab-confirmed positives were reported the previous day (five were SUNY students and six were the general community). He reported 52, 582 Clinton County residents have been tested for COVID-19, with 300-900 tests performed in one day. The current rate is 0.5-0.6 percent compared to the summer rate of 0.4 percent.

Mr. Kanoza reported that Franklin County recommended the school districts go to remote learning due to positive cases at Alice Hyde Hospital, the nursing homes and within the school districts. Mr. Kanoza also stated following Governor Andrew Cuomo's Cluster Case Initiative, Franklin County was approaching the yellow zone, which would have required additional and more stringent school testing regulations. Hence, the decision to transition to remote learning was made for the welfare of Franklin County.

Mr. Kanoza stated the increase in positive cases in Clinton County has placed a significant burden on the contract tracing staff and supplemental staff have already begun to assist.

Human Services Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, November 4th.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, discussed Resolution #677. Darlene Collins, the Director of the Office for the Aging, discussed Resolutions #678 through #684. Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, discussed the monthly statistics of October, 2020.

All resolutions have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at 4:15 p.m.

Legislator Conroy also stated he has been in communication with Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, and James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, on possible options for patient visitation at the Nursing Home.

Personnel Committee - Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, November 2nd.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, discussed COVID-19 guidelines for the October 13, 2020 Telework Policy and updated the Committee on the County Travel Policy based on New York State Executive Order 205.2.

Resolutions #685 through #698 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met Monday, November 2nd.

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, discussed Resolutions #700 through #702, as well as, Resolution #708. Jamie Martineau, the Public Defender, discussed Resolution #703. Jami, Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, was present to discuss Resolutions #704 through #707.

All resolutions have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee - Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Transportation Committee met Monday, November 9th.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, and Shannon Thayer, the Planning Technician, discussed Resolutions #709 and #710 and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Bus Driving Unit Fines. Terri Blake, the General Manager of Transit Management of Clinton County, Inc., discussed bus seating arrangements and capacity.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, discussed Resolutions #712 through #722, as well as, Waive Rule 13.2 Resolution #731.

All resolutions have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Board met Friday, November 6th to discussion the budget, media work (initiatives for campaigns promoting local businesses), next years' fishing tournaments and trade shows, and travel across the border.

Community Services Board – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy stated the Board has not met recently but reported the Substance Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County (SPARCC) will be meeting on Thursday, November 19th to discuss alcoholism and its relation to COVID- 19. He also noted Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN), Inc. and Evergreen Town Community (ETC) have been in continued discussions regarding the Northwoods Project. The goal of the Project is to alleviate stress on the homeless population and provide more options for low-income housing.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Committee will meet Tuesday, November 17th.

Soil and Water – Legislators Peryea and Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Committee will meet Thursday, November 19th.

Workforce Development Board - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Board will meet Friday, November 20th and Federal funding for opioid displaced workers has been granted to the State of New York. He noted there was no break in service and thanked Congresswoman Elise Stefanik's office for bringing that matter to completion and for the support her office has provided to Clinton County.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported continued progress is occurring with the 2021 spending plan and Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, and Lee Mitchell, the County Accountant, have been doing outstanding jobs. He stated budget submissions are down several million but the issue at hand is lack of revenue. The budget is being composed with an expected 20 percent withholding in State aid and a reduction in sales tax. As such, although the budget is down, the reduction in revenue is down to a greater amount. The consistent goal is not to exceed the tax cap.

Chairperson’s Report – Legislator Henry

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

Resolutions #658 through #718 were approved.

Resolution #719 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Town of Chazy for Additional Snow and Ice Services” was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Conroy.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution indicates an increase in the contract amount (County cost of \$12,000). The actual cost of paving that section of road is \$24,000 but because it is a shared service with the Town of Chazy, it reduces the amount for the County and it potentially provides the Town with revenue. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #720 was approved.

Resolution #721 titled, “Authorizing Acquisition of Real Property Located on the Military Turnpike Relative to an Improvement Project at the Champlain Valley Educational Services (CVES) Plattsburgh Campus” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Timmons.

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest inquired on previous discussions regarding a traffic concern. Mr. Zurlo stated that is a separate issue which has been rectified by a right turn only restriction. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #723 through #731 were approved.

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

Resolution #732 titled “Authorizing New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services FY 2020 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Project Grant Application and Acceptance” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated if State funding is not available for a local match, the County is not obligated to a \$1 million appropriation. If this Project comes to fruition, it would be a 2022 Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) allocation. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry thanked the Chairpersons and members each of the Standing Committees, Michael Zurlo and Kim Kinblom for their work associated with the lengthy agenda.

Legislator Hall thanked Legislator Conroy and appreciates the work he has done on providing visitation options for the Clinton County Nursing Home.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

:TM