

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

August 13, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. via teleconference, Clinton County, New York.

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

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

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the public has the opportunity to attend the meeting via an audio link.

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

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Kim Kinblom conducted roll call. All legislators were present.

Chairperson Henry introduced Assemblyman D. Billy Jones who joined the meeting via ZOOM. Assemblyman Jones stated his office continues to deal with assisting constituents in applying for unemployment benefits through the New York State Department of Labor. He commended his staff on their efforts in assisting constituents, some of whom have gone without paychecks for seven-to-eight weeks at a time.

Assemblyman Jones stated there are numerous businesses that are unable to open, and they continue to seek guidance from Governor Cuomo's Office and the New York State Department of Health. One of the biggest challenges now is getting schools ready to safely reopen. All school districts are working as hard as they possibly can to get students back to school safely.

Assemblyman Jones expressed concern that there will be lasting impacts due to loss of sales tax. The closure of the Canadian border will continue to have an impact for quite some time. Campgrounds, marinas, retail stores and manufacturing businesses are suffering due to the border closure. Marinas are only at 10 percent of their capacity as 90 percent of their customers are from Canada.

As this time of year approaches, counties are beginning to prepare fiscal spending plans for 2021. He is hopeful the federal government will come through with state and local aid to governments. He stated without receiving a federal stimulus package that includes state aid and aid to municipalities, all counties will be in a dire fiscal situation.

Chairperson Henry stated many area businesses are looking at trying to expand. He noted there is a great importance to have trained workers. Empire State College has partnered with Clinton Community College in an effort to provide workforce development.

Legislator Hall stated he wished all politicians at the state level were as easy to get a hold of as Assemblyman Jones. He stated never has a problem getting in contact with Assemblyman Jones, and he thinks that is so important. Legislator Hall asked if there is concern with students returning to Plattsburgh State University College. Assemblyman Jones replied in-person enrollment is down approximately 35 to 40 percent. Many classes will be set up for remote learning. Assemblyman Jones stated there is more of a concern with beyond campus activities—parties, etc. Campus police will be having discussions with the Sheriff's Department and the City Police Department to make sure this is being closely monitored.

Chairperson Henry reported he has met with the Presidents of SUNY Plattsburgh and Clinton Community College, and he is aware of the very thorough plans they have in place for reopening.

Legislator Rosenquest also thanked Assemblyman Jones for always being available for questions/clarifications. He thanked Assemblyman Jones for being a strong proponent of trying to find a safe way so that nursing home residents would be able to better communicate with family members.

Chairperson Henry thanked the Assemblyman for his time. Assemblyman Jones thanked the County Legislature for the phenomenal job they have been doing on the local level through this Pandemic.

Legislator Potiker motioned to accept the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator McGill. Carried (10-0-0).

The meeting format did not include public comment. Members of the public were asked to express their concerns/comments by emailing: legislature@clintoncountygov.com.

Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, August 10th was cancelled.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th was cancelled.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met Tuesday, August 11th at 5 p.m. and discussed Resolutions #446 through #452 on today's agenda.

Martine Gonyo, the Director of Real Property, was present to discuss full assessment and assisted services contracts.

Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) resumed limited services on August 3rd with the North End, South End and West End bus routes being run approximately seven hours a day (six routes each) instead of the normal 13 routes per day each.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th at 5 p.m.

Finance Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met Wednesday, August 5th.

Representatives from Lumsden and McCormick presented findings on the 2019 audit. The County received a clean audit for 2019.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, reported Clinton County was very fortunate to have been in such a good financial position prior to the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated August will provide a better indication of where the County stands. Sales tax receipts are behind \$862,500 compared to the same time last year.

Ms. Davis reported the County is down 36 percent in Occupancy Tax from the same time last year due to the Pandemic.

The Committee also discussed Resolution #453 which is included on the agenda.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:15 p.m.

Health Committee - Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Health Committee met Tuesday, August 4th at 4:30 p.m. Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, and John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, were present to discuss Resolutions #454 through #460 on the agenda.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 1st at 4:30 p.m.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, provided an update on the COVID-19 Pandemic in Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza reported there have been 140 lab-confirmed positives with two additional cases this week. Currently, 135 of the 140 individuals have recovered. Two individuals are in isolation. There has been extensive discussions' regarding school reopening plans. Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, continues to serve as central command for all PAUSE complaints.

Legislator Peryea asked if there were any plans in place if there were an outbreak at local correctional facilities. Mr. Kanoza replied the State has jurisdiction over these State facilities and has their own plan in place if there were an outbreak. The local Health Department does not have jurisdiction over these facilities. They have only had one positive case and 200 negative test results. They do have a plan and are ready if needed.

Human Services Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, August 5th and discussed Resolutions #461 and #462 on the agenda.

Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, discussed agency operations during the Pandemic, monthly statistics for March through July, 2020 and VA healthcare. The new Plattsburgh VA Outpatient Clinic is now open and a grand opening is scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at 1 p.m.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, provided the Committee with COVID-19 updates, COVID-19 diagnostic testing and visitation at the Nursing Home.

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

Personnel Committee - Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, August 3rd and discussed Resolutions #463 through #472 on today's agenda.

The next committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met Monday, August 3rd and discussed Resolutions #473 through #476 on the agenda.

Legislator Castine stated the Public Safety Committee follows the monthly Personnel Committee meetings which begin at 4 p.m. It is anticipated that for the remainder of the year, the Personnel Committee agendas will be fairly light; therefore, Public Safety Committee meetings will begin at 5 p.m. as opposed to 6 p.m.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 3rd at 5 p.m.

Transportation Committee - Legislator McGill

Legislator McGill reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, August 10th was cancelled. The Committee was polled on Resolutions #477 through #480 on today's agenda.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Chairperson Henry

Chairperson Henry stated the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17th at 7 p.m.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Board of Trustees met last week to discuss plans for reopening.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported Cooperative Extension will meet Tuesday, August 18th.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks met Thursday, July 23rd in Washington County.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation District will be held on Thursday, August 20th.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

Deputy County Administrator – Kim Kinblom

Ms. Kinblom reported the County does not have any definite answer on the President's Executive Order. The County continues to work closely with the Union to try to formulate some sort of second round of furloughs or shared work program for the County.

Chairperson's Report – Mark Henry

Chairperson Henry reported hopefully, this will be the last virtual meeting. The next Regular Session will be held in the legislative Chambers. Further information will be provided.

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

Resolutions #446 through #452 were approved.

Resolution #453 titled, "Approving 2021 Budget for the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislature" was withdrawn.

Resolutions #454 through #461 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #462 titled "Authorizing Contract with Labcorp – Nursing Home" was moved by Legislator Conroy and seconded by Legislator Castine.

Discussion: Legislator Timmons stated this contract could cost up to approximately \$100,000. He asked if CARES Act Grant funding could cover this. Chairperson Henry stated the State is not sure where this funding will come from. The County is required to provide this service. Ms. Kelleher added the County was required to sign an attestation that we are complying with the requirements. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #463 through #465 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #466 titled, "Approving Change in Salary Step Placement of a Vacant, Permanent, Full-Time Equipment and Building Mechanic Position (PCN 3427) – Solid Waste"

Legislator Rosenquest was opposed. Carried (9-1-0).

Resolutions #467 through #470 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #471 titled, "Approving the Creation of a Permanent, Part-Time Senior Typist Position (PCN TBD) – Legislature" was moved by Legislator Rosenquest and seconded by Legislator Castine.

Discussion: Kim Kinblom stated this resolution was pending the approval of the Clinton County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) board. The Board did approve this request at its meeting of Monday, August 10th. Legislator Rosenquest noted the cost of this position is covered 100 percent by the CCIDA.

Resolutions #472 through #483 were approved.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Castine motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

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