

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

July 9, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, July 8, 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: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
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, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Potiker. 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 stated he would like to take this opportunity to thank Buildings and Grounds staff for doing a very good job in assisting with the difficult transition to reopen the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 13th at 4:30 p.m. has been cancelled.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee met Tuesday, July 7th and reviewed Resolutions #391 through #394 which are on the agenda.

John Redden, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS), provided updates on Food Stamps/Medicaid, Public Assistance, Child Welfare, Day Care, Evictions, Employment and Training and Youth Bureau activities.

Commissioner Redden continues to evaluate his operations in an effort to reduce the burden on local taxpayers without harming the people who rely on DSS programs.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee was polled on Resolution #395.

Glen Cutter, the Director of Planning, provided an update on the census count. Mr. Cutter continues to work with the "Complete Count Committee" to increase the numbers.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 14th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee was polled on Resolution #396. Sales tax numbers continue to decline. The cost is down \$719,801 from 2019 receipts through June. However, due to a strong start to the year, receipts are \$447,000 over budget projections. The hope is to mitigate the anticipated shortfall through 2020.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th.

Health Committee - Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Health Committee met Tuesday, July 7th and discussed Resolutions #397 through #401. Resolution #399 has been withdrawn.

The Committee also discussed the financial state of the Mental Health and Addiction Clinic and anticipated state aid cuts.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 4th at 4:30 p.m.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, reported there is one additional confirmed case of COVID-19. There has been an abnormal random spike recently--six cases since the Fourth of July. Two of those cases were staff workers at the Vilas Home. It's important that everyone remembers we are now in Phase 4 and people are in much closer proximity to each other now compared to a couple of months ago. SUNY Plattsburgh is working diligently for their plan for the startup in the fall (smaller class sizes, more remote learning). Clinton Community College recently had their reopening plan approved which also includes smaller class sizes and remote learning. Local K-12 schools are awaiting decision by Governor Andrew Cuomo's which is anticipated sometime between August 1-7th. The Health Department continues to receive many PAUSE complaints, some are individualized and others are corporate. Mr. Kanoza continued to stress the importance of maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc. Over 12,000 people have been tested for COVID-19 in Clinton County.

Human Services Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st was cancelled, and the Committee was polled on Resolutions #402 and #403.

The new VA community-based Outpatient Clinic located on St. Charles Place and North Catherine Street will be opening to patients in early August. The planned opening was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Clinic will be staffed with two full-time doctors and one part-time provider to answer the needs of veterans enrolled. A planned grand opening will most likely occur in early September.

As previously shared, every year in July the Office for the Aging (along with community partners) distribute Farmers Market Coupons to eligible individuals ages 60 and over. The intent of this program is to economically support local farmers and provide low-income older adults with access to local fresh produce.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Office for the Aging has modified how they will distribute coupons this year. On Monday, July 13th, Office for the Aging staff, as well as JCEO staff and Senior Citizen Council staff, will distribute farmer's market coupons at the senior high-rise buildings. Distribution points will be set up outside the buildings, with proper safety protocols in place, i.e. masks, hand sanitizer, distancing, to keep staff and clients safe.

Drive-thru distribution sites have been set up at three locations, scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon. The three scheduled sites are SUNY Plattsburgh Field House on Tuesday, July 14th, Peru Junior/High School Bus Loop on Wednesday, July 15th and Northeastern Clinton Middle/Senior High on Friday, July 17th.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee - Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, July 6th and discussed Resolutions #416 through #425 which have been placed under Waive Rule 13.2. The Personnel Committee also reviewed Clinton County's New York State Travel Advisory and Quarantine Requirements for County employees in accordance with the New York State Executive Order 205 which is on the agenda for approval.

The next Personnel Committee is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20th at 4:00 p.m. He noted the change in the meeting date to accommodate the Regular Session on July 22nd.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, also reported that the New York State Department of Health is now requiring passengers to fill out health affirmations which will be collected by New York State officials. The data will be inputted in New York State's contact tracing system and used in the event that a traveling passenger tests positive for COVID-19.

An executive session will be called at the end of the meeting to discuss the sale or lease of real property.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met Monday, July 6th and reviewed Resolutions #404 through #406.

Dave Marcoux, the Probation Director, reported court ordered pre-sentence investigations are increasing, and the workload on Probation staff is becoming difficult due to reduced staffing.

The Public Defender's Office is back to business as usual. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are back to full staff in the office and ramping up for local courts reopening. The office took over all daytime arraignment duties as of July 1st.

Resolution #424 and #425 have been added under Waive Rule 13.2 for the County Coroner.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee - Legislator McGill

Legislator McGill reported County Highway crews are progressing on their paving projects. The North Star Road has been completed. The Hemmingford Road will be completed this week with Perry Mills Road and Lake Shore Road to follow. County crews are also continuing to prepare the remaining road projects for paving. This consists of replacing culverts and performing shoulder work. Roadside mowing is progressing in the northern part of the County. The Traffic crew has begun striping roads for the local municipalities. Various County roads have also been striped.

In regards to Clinton County Public Transit, there has been increasing calls regarding the start-up date of CCPT. With lower cases of COVID-19, people are more willing to ride the bus and resume somewhat normal activities. The current proposed reopening date is no sooner than August 3rd. This will be discussed by the Transportation Committee on Monday, July 13th.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health - Chairperson Henry

Chairperson Henry reported the next Board of Health meeting will be Monday, August 17th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be a combined budget and regular meeting.

Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Community College – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Community College recently signed a mutually-beneficial agreement with SUNY Empire. Business members of the Chamber can trade in life credits for some type of recognized accredited degree. Partners at Clinton Community College can transition their two-year nursing students into a four-year Bachelors of Nursing Science. Clinton Community College is looking to extend that partnership with SUNY Plattsburgh.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks recently met. Congresswoman Stefanik provided the federal update. The topics of fraud and cellular were also discussed.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to discuss the potential lease of real property.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo provided an update on the reopening of the Clinton County Department of Motor Vehicles. The demand on the Department on day one was exceedingly high, and this caused considerable wait times.

Chairperson’s Report – Mark Henry

Chairperson Henry reported the Governor Cuomo announced malls can open on July 10th if they have the proper air filters. This is very welcomed news for the Champlain Center Mall.

Chairperson Henry stated he is a member of the County’s Control Room. The Committee has been working with New York State on procedures at Walmart. Starting Thursday, July 9th, Walmart will have one entrance in and one entrance out with a health ambassador at the door to ensure social distancing is being practiced and patrons are wearing face masks.

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

Resolutions #391 through #394 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #395 titled, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with New York State Office of Community Renewal and Housing Trust Fund Corporation” was moved by Legislator Rosenquest and seconded by Legislator Castine.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is a result of a decision the County Legislature made several weeks ago to reprogram the recent Clinton County First-Time Homebuyer Award into assistance with rental housing due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #396 through #398 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #399 titled, “Amending Resolution #526 dated July 10, 2019 titled, “Amending Resolution #343 dated May 8, 2019 titled, “Amending Resolution #708 dated September 12, 2018 titled, “Authorizing Membership in the North Country Behavioral Health Care Collaborative (NC-BHCC) – Mental Health and Addiction Services” was withdrawn.

Resolution #400 was approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #401 titled, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with INSYNC Healthcare Solutions, LLC - Mental Health and Addiction Services" was moved by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator McGill.

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest questioned if the County could approach the multiple providers throughout the County to see if systems could be consolidated into one system to save money. Mr. Zurlo stated it makes sense to ask. He could have the three departments heads (Nursing Home, Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Sheriff) reach out to their respective companies to see if this were possible.) Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #402 through #415 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

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

Resolutions #416 through #419 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #420 titled, "Approving Reallocation of a Permanent, Full-Time Chief Deputy from a Management/Confidential Scale Grade 9 to a Grade 11 with Backfill (PCN 2379) – Sheriff's Department"

Discussion: Chairperson Henry recused himself. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Resolution #421 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Deputy Lieutenant Position (PCN 2376) – Sheriff's Department"

Discussion: Chairperson Henry recused himself. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Resolution #422 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Deputy Sergeant Position (PCN TB) – Sheriff's Department"

Discussion: Chairperson Henry recused himself. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Resolution #423 was approved.

Resolution #424 titled, "Adopting Fee Schedule for Removal and Transportation of Decedents Under the Coroner's Care – Coroner/Legislature"

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo noted discussions regarding this issue started a couple of months ago. Funeral homes communicated via a letter to the Legislature and the Coroner that if they were going to continue to do this business, they were going to require payment of \$500 for each removal in addition to mileage. This is the solution to that issue. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #425 titled, "Authorizing the County Coroner to Appoint a Deputy County Coroner – Coroner/Legislature"

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the County Legislature had previously adopted a resolution to contract with Frank Whitelaw, Essex County Coroner, to provide services in absence of the previous Clinton County Coroner. Mr. Whitelaw is no longer the Essex County Coroner; therefore, Clinton County is required to appoint a duly-qualified Clinton County resident as Deputy County Coroner. Mr. Zurlo stated funds remain in the account which would have previously paid Mr. Whitelaw. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. to discuss the sale and or lease of real property, seconded by Legislator McGill. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #426 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with Stratton Aviation, LLC – Plattsburgh International Airport" was moved by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Rosenquest motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer