

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

March 25, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 via teleconference, Clinton County, New York.

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

ABSENT: Simon Conroy, Area 4

VACANT: Area 9

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

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 202.96 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the public had the opportunity to attend the meeting via an audio link.

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Conroy was absent.

Legislator Peryea motioned to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-1-1).

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 – Michael Zurlo on behalf of Legislator Conroy

Mr. Zurlo reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Jim Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, reported his team has been raking, picking up trash and getting equipment ready for the spring weather.

The Department continues to disinfect common areas, office spaces and many other locations throughout the County Buildings.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 12th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, reported the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Unit has served over 8,000 low-income individuals and families since November, 2020 and has authorized over \$4.5 million in fuel benefits. These costs are 100 percent federally funded.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 6th at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

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

Martine Gonyo, the Real Property Director, reported Tentative Roll preparations for May 1, 2021 are still underway. All exemptions as of March 1st have been received and the assessors are in the process of verifying the information to enter into the Real Property System.

John Zurlo, the County Clerk, reported the Clerk's allowing online access to records is doing very well, with projected year end totals to be between \$80,000 to \$90,000. Mr. Zurlo also reported the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is processing all of Carvana Company registrations in New York

State. The County earns 12.7 percent for this work. This work is not impacting scheduled visits to the DMV.

Anastasia Pratt, the County Historian, reported she has been scanning files to be accessible online, working on indexes for books that currently don't have one and is also editing a compilation of Clinton County World War II Veterans.

Greg Campbell, the Board of Elections Commissioner, reported they are currently running early voting for the Area 9 Special Election. Election Day is March 30th.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, reported the Planning Board meetings are continuing via Zoom. There were six project referrals for March; of note is a new warehouse expansion of 60,000 square feet for SterRX (Mount Whitney Meadows) along Connecticut Road.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, reported a letter was sent to those individuals on the foreclosure list about the extra year's taxes they will have to pay if they don't redeem their properties by April 30th.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #158 on the agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 5:15 p.m. via ZOOM.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Health Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Health Committee was polled on Resolution #179 on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, and Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, are present to provide an update on COVID-19 cases.

Mr. Kanoza reported the County is averaging between 20 to 30 cases per day. There are currently 134 active cases.

Mr. Kanoza stated there have been 151,000 tests completed in Clinton County. UVM/CVPH Medical Center currently has nine positive cases. SUNY Plattsburgh has 52 in isolation and 67 students in mandatory quarantine. Clinton Correctional Facility has eight asymptomatic inmates and one new death reported on March 22nd.

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, reported the State vaccination site has been seeing several cancellations due to other sites opening up across the State. They are vaccinating less than 500 people per day now.

Mr. Kanoza reported the contract is ready with Home Care of Rochester to begin vaccinations of homebound residents.

Mr. Kanoza also reported the State is waiting on further guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in regards to the new seating arrangements in schools.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 6th at 4:30 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, reported all residents and staff that wanted the vaccine have received it.

Ms. Bishop also reported in-person visitation started on March 22nd. All visitors must adhere to the guidelines put forth by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). Visitation will be held in the main dining room until the warmer weather arrives and is limited to 15 minute sessions.

Darlene Collins, the Director of Office for the Aging, reported the office is receiving several calls daily from community members needing help in signing up for the vaccine. If transportation is needed to a vaccine appointment, the Office for the Aging is referring people to the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity (JCEO) Senior Outreach Program.

Ms. Collins also reported they are compiling a list of residents that can't get to a vaccination site and would like to be vaccinated at home. There are about 20 people on the list with the anticipation of more to come.

Steve Bowman, the Veterans' Service Agency Director, reported in January the office worked with the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity (JCEO), along with the New York State Food Bank, to establish the Veterans Feeding Veterans Program to provide monthly boxes to over 150 veterans and their families. Mr. Bowman reported they see this Program growing weekly.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 7th at 4:15 p.m. via Zoom.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, reported her team is working with departments to ensure all employees complete their mandatory New York State sexual harassment training by March 31st.

Ms. Kinblom also reported the Personnel Department recently completed the New York State Civil Service Annual Report, which certified the classification of over 2,600 Civil Service positions within Clinton County.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, discussed the upcoming runway closure, along with airline and tenant updates.

Resolutions #159 through #171 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Dave Marcoux, the Probation Director, reported probation officers have resumed random evening home contacts one day per week and occasionally on Saturday's.

Mr. Marcoux also reported as the courts slowly re-open, the Probation Department is anticipating increases in requests for court ordered pre-sentence investigations and supervision cases.

Resolutions #172 through #175 were polled and 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, April 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Transportation Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, reported the department has begun roadside maintenance work in preparation for the upcoming construction season. Crews have also been patrolling roads to address potholes and any flooding issues due to the warmup.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 12th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported Mary Breyette, the Executive Director, will be retiring and they are currently trying to fill her position. Legislator Timmons commended Ms. Breyette on her excellent service.

Intercounty – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th with Herkimer County hosting via Zoom.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the grant for \$61,000 was received to purchase a new hydro-seeder and there is discussion about selling the old one to the County Highway Department.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to discuss matters regarding collective bargaining agreements and litigation.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, provided an update on the Census data being delayed and that the re-districting plan may need to be pushed back.

Mr. Zurlo reported Steve Bowman, the Veterans Services Director, has responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the State Veterans’ Cemetery. If selected, the site is proposed to be on 25 acres of property that has been donated by the descendants of Commodore MacDonough. It would be the first Veterans’ cemetery in New York State.

Michael Zurlo stated the first Shared Services meeting was held on March 12th. It was an introductory meeting for 2021 with municipalities being tasked to come up with ideas for savings amongst each other.

Mr. Zurlo also reported the State Budget expires on March 31st with the new budget beginning on April 1st. Mr. Zurlo stated the discussions taking place should pass the budget on time. The Federal stimulus money that the State withheld 20 percent is being distributed back at 15 percent by March 31st.

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

Resolutions #157 through #162 were approved.

Resolution #162 titled, “Authorizing Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act Airport Grant Application and Acceptance” was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislators Potiker. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained he would be sending a summary from the Consulting Engineers to the Legislature. This is the Federal Stimulus money from the second round of three. Chairperson Henry thanked Legislator Hall and the Airport Committee for all of their efforts during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Resolutions #163 through #178 were approved.

Legislator Hughes motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Resolution #179 titled, "Authorizing Contract with L. Woerner, Inc. d/b/a HCR" was moved by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained this resolution will help provide vaccinations to homebound residents.

Legislator Peryea stated he is working to get a bridge in the Town of Ellenburg named after former Legislator Samuel Trombley. Mr. Zurlo explained this should be passed on a resolution through the Transportation Committee meeting on Monday, April 12th to be presented to the Legislature on Wednesday, April 14th.

Legislator Peryea motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:55 p.m. to discuss matters involving collective negotiations and litigation, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Legislator Potiker motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:19 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-1-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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