

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

April 13, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, April 12, 2023 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
Calvin Castine, Area 1
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Kathy Sajor, the President of Plattsburgh Cares and a resident of 215 Champlain Drive, Plattsburgh, New York, gave a brief background about the not-for-profit organization with the mission to assist migrants in achieving their goals safely and responsibly.

Janet McFetridge, of Champlain, New York, addressed the Legislature regarding the border closing at Roxham Road in Champlain. Ms. McFetridge provided some examples of the migrants she has assisted and noted this is an opportunity for all of us to be our best selves. She understands this is a Federal problem but it is also a crisis of humanity in our backyard.

Aaron Fung, of 230 Golf Course Road, AuSable Forks, New York, addressed the Legislature regarding his displeasure of a deputy leaving the Sheriff's Department and asked the Legislature to investigate these claims further.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

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

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of the Buildings and Grounds Department, reported on Friday, April 7th, Whitton Construction, LLC began the stucco removal from the lounge wall at the Department of Social Services. This Project is expected to take approximately two to three weeks.

Mr. Cleveland also reported he anticipates the roof projects approved within the Energy Efficiency Project will begin on Thursday, June 1st, with the Surrogate Building and Probation Building being first on the list.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, April 4th.

Christine Peters, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with West Side Ballroom" and "Authorizing Contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County."

Ms. Peters also discussed monthly statistics, provided an update on migrants at the border and an update on the City Motel and the homeless population.

Resolutions #254 through #259 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

David Randall, the Director of Information Technology, was present to discuss the resolution, "Authorizing Contract with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services."

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, was also in attendance to provide a Department update.

Molly Ryan, the Director of Economic Development, provided project updates and presented the resolutions, "Rescinding Resolution #90 dated February 8, 2023 titled, "Opposing Proposed Zoning Plan in the Town of Plattsburgh" and "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Transfer Funds for the Capital Project titled, "Former County Airport Infrastructure Project."

Resolutions #260 through #263 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. Resolution #340, under Waive Rule 13.2, has also been placed on the agenda.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss the 2023 Sales Tax Chart and In Rem Foreclosure.

The Legislature was also provided the 2023 Tobacco Settlement proposals for their review.

Resolution #264 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for Preparation of Biennial Update to the Local Solid Waste Management Plan" has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #265.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, April 5th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was in attendance to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN), Inc." and "Authorizing Contract with Viral Goradia, M.D."

Jeff Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Climate Change and Health Adaptation Projects Grant Acceptance” and “Authorizing the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Kevin Wood and Pat Kane, of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), were also present for further discussion on BioSolids.

Resolutions #266 through #273 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #274 and #275 on the agenda.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 2nd at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met on Monday, April 3rd.

Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with Discover eGov.”

Resolutions #276 through #298 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 1st at 5:00 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 tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, April 3rd.

Sheriff Dave Favro was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Police Traffic Services Grant Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Child Passenger Safety Program Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Sheriff Favro also provided a Northern Border update and further discussion was held on the resolution, "Requesting Legislation Allowing Former Members of the New York State Police be Reinstated to a 209-V Position within Clinton County."

Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, was also in attendance to discuss numerous resolutions including, "Authorizing Stewart's Grant Application and Acceptance" and "Authorizing Lake Placid Education Foundation Grant Application."

Jamie Martineau, the Public Defender, was present to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues" and "Authorizing Contract with New York State Defenders Association, Inc."

Resolutions #299 through #323 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, May 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, April 10th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #324 through #326.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 8th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at 9:00 a.m.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 28th. He noted the Middle States Accreditation is wrapping up and after a primary review, some improvements were made over the past year, which is very positive. There have also been several events held over the past few months and a large number of high school students have visited the college. Legislator Bezio also noted there has not been a settlement reached on the contract yet.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported he distributed a pamphlet to the Legislature prepared by Linda Gilliland, the Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and if anyone has any questions to let him know.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the next Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting will be held in Essex County on Thursday, April 27th.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Board – Legislators Kretser and Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Board met yesterday on Tuesday, April 11th. The audit, goals for the year and different grants being looked into were the topics of discussion. Legislator Hughes stated if any of the local towns have anything the Board can assist with they would love to hear from them.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature to send their Tobacco Settlement reviews to Chairman Timmons.

He noted the Personnel Committee will be meeting on Thursday, April 13th at 4:00 p.m. for the Planning Director interview and any legislators can attend.

Mr. Zurlo noted the State Budget passed a second extender through Monday, April 17th. He believes Governor Kathy Hochul does not want to have a third extender issued. Mr. Zurlo noted the big three issues on the Budget are the Enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (eFMAP), In Rem Foreclosure should be removed from the Budget discussion and the 18b Attorney willingness for the State to pick up a portion of the increased rate expense.

Mr. Zurlo requested a brief executive session to seek advice of counsel on a particular issue.

Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Henry did not have a report.

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

Resolutions #254 and #255 were approved.

Resolution #256 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension” was motioned by Legislator Potiker and seconded by Legislators Peryea and Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated he and Ms. Gilliland spoke about this during the budget season and believes this is a great program that can benefit the local youth population. Legislator Timmons stated Ms. Gilliland was very happy about this opportunity.

Resolutions #257 through #322 were approved.

Resolution #323 titled, "Requesting Legislation Allowing Former Members of the New York State Police be Reinstated to a 209-V Position within Clinton County" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated currently if you are a New York State Police Officer you are eligible to be hired as a 209-V, but you would have to go through the testing requirement in the Civil Service process. This legislation would allow these officers to be reinstated into a 209-V position, absent the testing requirement within Civil Service.

Resolutions #324 through #338 were approved.

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

Resolution #339 titled, "Approving Home Rule Request for New York State Senate Bill 4735-A and Assembly Bill 5340-A" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated a similar resolution was recently withdrawn due to negotiations within the State Legislature. This resolution authorizes moving forward with the individual piece of legislation.

Resolution #340 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Transfer Funds for the Capital Project titled, "Former County Airport Infrastructure Project" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (10-0-0).

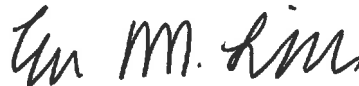
Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is the last piece of required information for the Economic Development Agency (EDA) to sign off on the grant. This resolution is the approval of backfilling the local share of this Project. Mr. Zurlo explained this is a worst-case scenario resolution required by the EDA.

Legislator Kretser motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Kretser motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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