

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

April 25, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, 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 April 10, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

His Royal Imperial Highness King Solomon stated on July 9, 2022 he inherited the trust from the Queen of England when she passed away. He is here to help and assist in any way that he can but there is a discrepancy between the contracts.

Jennifer Jewett, of 11109 State Route 9, Champlain, New York asked the Legislature to please consider the feedback from the town supervisors but to not base their entire decision on their feedback. Ms. Jewett has attended 17 town meetings and noted the meeting minutes are published months after and most town residents have not heard of the proposed dog tether law. Ms. Jewett noted that social media has been her only outlet to get the word out and she has received a lot of community support by doing so.

Jolene Bombard, of 86 Miller Street, Plattsburgh, New York read a handout to the Legislature (a copy has been attached hereto and made part of the minutes).

Debbie Hicks, of Champlain, New York, spoke of two instances that she witnessed dogs being treated poorly and tethered 24/7. She spoke of a neighborhood dog that was tethered that she and her family assisted when able to. She stated it is sad the County does not have any laws in place to protect dogs from this treatment and to please vote in favor of the tether law.

Lisa Garrow, of Morrisonville, New York, noted some situations she has encountered and the harm tethering can create. She noted the Legislature has the power to do the right thing.

Tonya Girardi, of the Town of Plattsburgh, noted how the others before her summed up what was important and added you can judge a person's character by the way they treat animals.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th 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.

Resolution #347 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation from the meeting of Wednesday, April 10th.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

Resolutions #348 through #350 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation from the meeting of Wednesday, April 3rd.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Legislator Timmons also reminded the Legislature to submit their Tobacco Settlement decisions to Erin Light, Senior Typist in the Legislative Office, before the next Finance meeting.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

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

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall

Legislator Randall reported the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th at 4:15 p.m.

Legislator Randall noted he is now on the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee and attended a recent meeting. Most of the meeting topic covered the budget and there was no additional funding added into the budget for the programs that were asked for.

Legislator Randall noted the Senior Celebration will be held on Friday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center and urged the legislators to attend.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

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

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 6th at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Contract Extension with Heritage Crystal Clean, LLC" and "Authorizing Contract with Rapiscan Systems, Inc."

Mr. Kreig also provided an airline and tenant update.

Resolutions #351 through #353 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 22nd at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

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

The Committee was polled on Resolution #354 on the agenda.

Legislator Castine reminded the Legislature that dog tether law feedback results are due from the various towns and villages before the next Public Safety meeting of Monday, May 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

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

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #355 through #357 on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 13th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the Chamber continues to advocate on the County's behalf for the pending Customs Port of Entry provision in the new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) bill currently in conference between the House and the Senate.

Legislator Kretser stated the IAM Transition Task Force held its first meeting and will meet again in late May. The Chamber secured Workforce Development funding in the State budget to carry on its important welding training initiative at the IAM building beyond this year.

Legislator Kretser closed by noting the bid process for the new Rouses Point/U.S. Border Crossing building is now active and construction should begin in November.

Community Services Board – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine stated Mountain Lake Services spoke on their plans and services regarding critical time intervention with youth-in-crisis situations. Brielle Carnwright, of the Heart Network, was in attendance to discuss building a healthy heart environment network via the Tobacco Cessation Program.

Legislator Castine spoke of a Grant of up to \$30,000 for local schools from the Opioid Settlement funds to go towards qualifying youth lead prevention initiatives. Lastly, Bob Lafountain, of the Behavioral Health Services Committee, provided an update on their multi-faceted efforts.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Randall

Legislator Randall stated the next meeting is on Thursday, April 25th at the Warren County Municipal Center.

Soil and Water Conservation - Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Board met on Thursday, April 13th. The performance measure award for 2023 was \$207,833 to be used locally for health, safety and general welfare projects. There will be two tire roundup events, one on Thursday, May 23rd at the Town of Plattsburgh Highway Department and one on Thursday, June 6th at the Town of Altona Highway Department. Legislator Bezio noted funding will also go towards salt reduction mini-grants for the local towns and also to assist with roadside erosion issues.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation for a perspective contract and the sale of real property.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature of the State mandated ethics disclosure forms in their mailboxes for completion.

Mr. Zurlo reported the State budget has passed and is now statute. He noted the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) website has a phenomenal breakdown of the State budget and how it effects all of the local government services. Mr. Zurlo urged the Legislature to take a look and stated it will make sense of the State's fiscal position and the changes that might affect the Committees the legislators represent.

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 #347 through #351 were approved.

Resolution #352 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Heritage Crystal Clean, LLC" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is not a duplicate resolution, the previous resolution authorizes an extension for the 2023 contract. This resolution is through the end of 2024.

Resolutions #353 through #372 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:55 p.m., seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Bezio motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

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

Resolutions #373 through #375 were approved.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Kretser motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

:EL

A beautiful quote written by the honorable Dr. Jane Goodall: *What you do makes a difference, and you must decide what KIND of difference you want to make.*

Human life is but a blip in history. It's interesting to think about how short our civilizations have been around compared to the whole history of the world, but in just a few thousand years, we've done incredible things.

As a society, we've repeatedly pushed for **change in politics, agriculture, art, and technology**. I think there's one thing we can agree on: what brought us here tonight!

We all desire some form of change, whether big or small! Change that includes laws. Laws are meant to evolve alongside society's needs and values. **They should reflect the current realities, address emerging challenges, and protect the rights of all individuals, especially those who are vulnerable.** This ongoing process ensures that our legal system remains relevant and effective in promoting justice and safeguarding the well-being of all members of society. I know everyone sitting with me tonight is here because we all want one common thing. Again....

CHANGE!

And that's what brings us to why I'm here tonight. As of now, Clinton County has ZERO active tether laws. So realistically speaking, anyone could leave their dog chained outside in the elements for years. And they do.

California was the 1st state to pass a law limiting the chaining and tethering of dogs. January 1st, 2007, our West Coast friends pass a law making it illegal to tie your dog to any stationary object for more than a 3 hour period within 24 hours. Even as close as Essex county, dogs cannot be left outside during extreme weather and can only be tethered for 4 continuous hours or 8 cumulative hours in a 24 hour period while the owner is present. Tethering is prohibited when the owner is no present. Those who profit from harming or exploiting dogs tend to be the most resistant to a change in the current state of affairs.

For dogs, having rights is everything. Without rights, dogs are beaten, abandoned, caged, tethered, abused, neglected, starved, and left for dead without a 2nd thought. By granting dogs, what many feel should be basic rights, the sum of suffering in the world decreases dramatically. I think it's safe to say we all would appreciate a little less suffering these days. Just another example of how we can always find common ground even though we may not always see eye to eye. If we are ever going to move forward in life and evolve as one, we need to

fight to hold onto the things that bring us closer together, not further apart.

Understanding that life itself is 100% a gift and every new day we are given the opportunity to go hard for the things that make us feel alive! Tethering laws also protect the general population as its proven that tethering animals for long durations of time produce aggressive behaviors that pose a threat to our community. **By ignoring the need for these laws, we not only neglect the rights of our pets but also ignore the needs of our society and safety for our community as a whole.** Please consider the human need for this law in addition to the animal rights component.

In closing, I'd like to thank you all for this opportunity to share my thoughts. I can understand the weight of your decision is heavy, but I know that good people DO exist, and a truly good person will speak truth, act with truth, and stand for truth. **I'm asking you all tonight to stand with me and our community as we advocate for all the dogs who cannot advocate for themselves.**

To quote the great Dalai Lama: *Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to a man.*

