

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

August 19, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, Clinton County, New York.

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

EXCUSED: Simon Conroy, Area 4  
Francis Peryea, Area 2

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator  
Kim M. Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator  
Gary Favro, Assistant County Attorney  
Stephen Acquario, Executive Director, New York State Association of Counties

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Messrs. Conroy and Peryea were excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry introduced special guest Stephen Acquario, the Executive Director of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC), who was present for the meeting. Mr. Acquario gave a brief summary of his day spent in Plattsburgh, including visiting WIRY Radio Station and the Press Republican, and spoke of his local ties to the Peru area.

Mr. Acquario addressed the Legislature by noting some key priorities his Association is working on. The first topic is to address the State to stop taking sales tax and diverting it. Mr. Acquario touched on the COVID-19 Pandemic Book that was published by NYSAC and distributed a talking point paper detailing various metrics about the virus. A copy has been attached hereto and made part of the minutes. Mr. Acquario commended the Public Health Director John Kanoza and his team for their outstanding efforts.

Mr. Acquario spoke about the upcoming administration change in Albany, with the new Governor being sworn in on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Acquario is looking forward to the change, noting former Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul's time spent as a County Clerk and her experience with local County Government.

Mr. Acquario spoke about the \$15.6 million American Rescue Plan (ARP) federal funding that was received and reviewing the treasury and reporting guidance by August 31<sup>st</sup>. He also spoke about the Infrastructure Bill that would provide funding for the Plattsburgh International Airport and renewable energy.

Mr. Acquario thanked the Legislators, County Administrator Michael Zurlo, and Deputy County Administrator Kim Kinblom, for their upcoming attendance of the NYSAC Conference in September. Mr. Acquario reviewed some of the topics expected to be discussed at the conference.

Lastly, Mr. Acquario spoke about the Opioid Settlement Funds and his push for the State to release the settlement money to local Counties. The County Attorney, Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq. has been reviewing the settlement offer. The County saw a large increase in Opioid-related overdoses during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Mr. Acquario thanked the Legislature for their time and again commended the excellent job Mr. Kanoza and his team at the Health Department have done.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Tom Donahue, the President of 1814 Commemoration, Inc., was present to discuss possible funding for the upcoming Battle of Plattsburgh being held September 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. He noted the City of Plattsburgh no longer provides any funding for this event. Mr. Donahue spoke of a grant foundation that will match \$10,000 if they are able to raise this amount themselves. Mr. Donahue has about \$5,000 so far and asked the Legislature if they would be willing to donate the other \$5,000. Mr. Donahue spoke of the financial benefits this event provides to local businesses and the County. Mr. Zurlo inquired if Mr. Donahue had approached others to donate. Mr. Donahue replied yes, he is pulling out all the stops.

Chairperson Henry stated he would like to see this presented to the Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting being held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Donahue thanked the Legislature for their time.

Beth Ashburger, a resident of Plattsburgh and 30 year nurse, asked to speak to the Legislature regarding the two Health Department resolutions on tonight's agenda awarding the bids for COVID-19 testing for local schools and the general public. Ms. Ashburger's concern is regarding what type of rapid testing is being used, as she noted concerns over the PCR testing. Ms. Ashburger distributed a talking-point paper from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Chairperson Henry closed by stating he will have a member of the Health Department contact Ms. Ashburger.

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

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, reported the Department has completed expanding the file storage area in the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Cleveland also reported on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> there was a pre-construction meeting for the upcoming Government Center Roof Replacement Project. The Project is anticipated to start at the end of September.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #527 and #528 on the agenda.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

### **Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker**

Legislator Potiker stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with Clinton County Office for the Aging." Mr. Redden also discussed the Family First Prevention Act and the Enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage reconciliation that is due to Clinton County.

Resolutions #529 through #534 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met on Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Dyer, the Democratic Commissioner, and Hunter Sartwell, the Deputy Commissioner, were present to discuss resolutions, "Authorizing Early Voting Expansion Grant Acceptance" and "Authorizing Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant Program Acceptance."

Resolutions #535 through #538 have been placed on the agenda.

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

### **Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

As his last official duty as President of Clinton Community College, Ray DiPasquale was present to discuss the College's 2021-2022 budget request.

Representatives from Lumsden & McCormick presented findings on the County's 2020 Audit. The County received a clean audit for 2020.

Rebecca Murphy, the Deputy County Treasurer, was present to provide reports on sales tax, occupancy tax, the Correction of Errors Report and a resolution, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write-off Uncollectible Weights and Measures Invoices."

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, was also present to update the Committee on the Broadband Expansion Grant. No action was taken on the proposal.

Resolutions #539 through #545 have been placed on the agenda.

The Committee was also polled on Resolutions #546, #547 and #611 (under Waive Rule 13.2).

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Health Committee – Legislator Hughes**

Legislator Hughes stated the Health Committee met on Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss a resolution, "Authorizing Contract with Complete Property Management."

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, is present to provide an update on COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Mr. Kanoza stated on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> there were five new positive cases and two cases on Monday. Mr. Kanoza attributes the increase to surplus travelers to the County and the new Delta variant. There are 34 total active cases in the County. Mr. Kanoza stated these are breakthrough cases (vaccinated individuals). These cases were mostly asymptomatic, with zero hospitalizations or deaths. Mr. Kanoza attributes this to the vaccine effectiveness.

Vaccination clinics are being held every Thursday at the County Health Department. There are also mobile clinics still being held, with a recent one at the Clinton County Fair, where there were 17 people vaccinated. With the upcoming return of the SUNY Plattsburgh students, several clinics will be hosted there. There is also an upcoming migrant camp vaccination clinic, with 700 workers needing vaccinations.

Mr. Kanoza stated there is a press conference on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. being held at the Emergency Services Amphitheater.

Legislator Hall inquired about booster shots. Mr. Kanoza stated they are waiting for the Federal government to provide further guidance and will go from there, he is estimating to hear around October to November.

Resolutions #548 through #553, have been placed on the agenda.

The Committee was also polled on Resolutions #609 and #610 under Waive Rule 13.2.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:15 p.m.

#### **Human Services Committee – Michael Zurlo on behalf of Legislator Peryea**

Mr. Zurlo reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> was cancelled.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m.

#### **Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry**

Chairperson Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Resolutions #554 through #571 have been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendations.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier today.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to provide an update on the Runway Closure Project and the New York State Upstate Airport Initiative.

Resolutions #572 through #579 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee, as well as, Resolutions #612 and #613 under Waive Rule 13.2.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine**

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Sheriff Dave Favro was present to discuss the purchase of three new vehicles for the Department.

Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with University of Vermont Health Network Medical Group."

Chad Deans, the County Coroner, was also present to discuss the purchase of a new Case Management System.

Resolutions #580 through #586 have been placed on the agenda.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

#### **Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser**

Legislator Kretser stated the Transportation Committee met on Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Technician, was present to discuss the introduction of “Visually Verified” Tickets and the removal of City Fare Zone.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was also in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Clinton Abstract Co., Inc.” and “Authorizing the Purchase of a 2022 Ford F-650 Crew Cab with a Dump Body.”

Resolutions #587 through #593 have been placed on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker**

Legislator Potiker reported the Chamber of Commerce breakfast was moved to Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and he did not have an update on the Canadian Border closure. Mr. Zurlo stated he hopes the border closure is not extended past August 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Cornell Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons stated the 4-H Group did not attend the Clinton County Fair this year. They are still in search of an Executive Director and Mr. Timmons asked if anyone had any recommendations to please let him know.

#### **Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron stated the Committee met last month at Gore Mountain. Much of the discussion was based on the 2023 World Cup Games coming to the area, primarily Lake Placid, with Gore Mountain and facilities in Potsdam also being used for these events. Ms. Waldron stated there would be about 16 different countries participating.

#### **Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons stated there have been two successful tire recycling events. They are also looking to hire another technician.

## **Workforce Development Board – Legislator Kretser**

Legislator Kretster did not have a report, but stated Sylvie Nelson, the Executive Director of the North Country Workforce Development Board, would like to speak with the Legislature at a Regular Session meeting in September. Mr. Zurlo responded that Ms. Nelson is on the agenda for the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Assistant County Attorney – Gary Favro, Esq.**

Mr. Favro did not have a report.

### **County Administrator – Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo stated Rodney Brown, the former Deputy County Administrator, was invited to participate in Executive Session tonight to discuss the sale and lease of real property.

### **Chairperson’s Report – Legislator Henry**

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 #527 through #535 were approved.

Resolution #536 titled, “Authorizing Clinton County Foreign Trade Zone No. 54 Site Operating Agreement” was moved by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained Clinton County is in Foreign Trade Zone No. 54 and changes needed to be made due to the sale of Swarovski Lighting to W. Schonbeck, LLC.

Resolutions #537 through #539 were approved.

Resolution #540 titled, “Authorizing the Clerk of the Clinton County Legislature to Advertise for a Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Clinton Community College Budget” was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained the Public Hearing for the budget will be on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers. John Kowal, the Administrator in Charge at Clinton Community College, was present at the meeting.

Resolutions #541 through #545 were approved.

Resolution #546 titled, “Adopting a Credit Card Policy” was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this policy was sent to the Legislators for review and has been vetted by the County Attorney. This was needed for auditing purposes in order to begin the policy.

Resolutions #547 through #553 were approved.

Resolution #554 titled, “Approving Appointment of Director of Veterans Service Agency” was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Chairperson Henry recognized Kevin LeBeouf, the new Director of the Veterans’ Service Agency, who was in the audience tonight and wished him well on his new position.

Resolutions #555 through #586 were approved.

Resolution #587 titled, “Authorizing the Purchase of a 2022 Ford F-650 Crew Cab with a Dump Body” was moved by Legislator Kretser and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained this is 100 percent funded by the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Plan (CHIPS) and there is no County cost.

Resolution #588 titled, “Authorizing Clinton County to Accept Fee Title Obtained by the State of New York Relative to the NY Route 190 Highway Reconstruction Project, Town of Altona, Clinton County, Specifically PIN 7019.15” was moved by Legislator Kretser and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated New York State Department of Transportation has completed this Project and now wants to turn the title back over to the County.

Resolutions #589 through #593 were approved.

Resolution #594 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation from the District Attorney’s Federal Justice Seizure Reserve Account” was withdrawn due to duplication.

Resolutions #595 through #608 were approved.

Legislator Timmons motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolutions #609 through #613 were approved.

Legislator Kretser motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 7:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

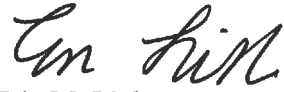
Legislator Hall asked his fellow members if they wished to discuss the funding for the Battle of Plattsburgh before adjourning. The Legislature decided to discuss this further at the next Finance meeting on Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Legislator Waldron asked if anyone had an update on visitation at the County Jail. Mr. Zurlo stated he had not heard of anything but would look into this.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin M. Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin M. Light  
Senior Typist

:EL



# Responding to the Delta Wave

Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Infection Rates, Hospitalizations, and Vaccination Coverage

## TIER 1: Moderate Mitigation

- <50 new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- At least 30% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- At least 30% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- >70% vaccination rate among eligible adults (at least one dose)

## TIER 2: Substantial Mitigation

- 50-100 new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- <30% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <30% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <70% vaccination rate among eligible adults (at least one dose)

## TIER 3: High Mitigation

- 100+ new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- <15% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <15% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <70% vaccination rate among eligible adults (at least one dose)

## Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Face masks for non-vaccinated residents.
- Promote behaviors that prevent spread and maintain healthy environments.

## Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Vaccine proof for mass gatherings.
- Face masks for indoors.
- Face masks for mass gatherings where social distancing is not achievable.
- Face masks for facilities that care for vulnerable residents.
- Social distancing.
- Remote work where appropriate.

## Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Vaccine proof for dining indoors and/or attending events.
- Face masks in indoor spaces.
- Limit mass gathering capacities to 25.
- Social distancing.
- Remote work where appropriate.

## Ongoing Mitigation Strategies

- Promote behaviors that prevent spread, such as getting vaccinated, staying home when sick or exposed to COVID, and practicing proper personal hygiene.
- Maintain Healthy Environments, such cleaning high touch surfaces, ensuring clean ventilation systems, allowing for social distancing or barriers.
- Maintain Healthy Operations, such as protecting those most vulnerable, clarify regulations, allow for flexible schedules, telework, and virtual meetings.
- Continue vaccine uptake efforts in underperforming zip codes.

**NYSCEA recommends consulting with your LHD about local conditions and trends, as well as the appropriate interventions for each tier.**

More robust prevention strategies may be necessary to prevent hospitalizations, decrease transmission, and allow for in-person K-12 instruction.