

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
:SS  
STATE OF NEW YORK)

August 25, 2016

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, August 24, 2016 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Samuel Dyer, Area 3  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
Harry McManus, Chairperson, Area 1  
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9  
Sara Rowden, Area 4  
Rob Timmons, Area 7  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator  
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney  
Jeanene Bell, Senior Stenographer

Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Dyer motioned to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2016 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked Mr. Zurlo to read the notice of public hearing in regards to the Clinton County Homebuyer Program. Legislator Rosenquest motioned to open the public hearing at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dame. (Carried 10-0-0).

Rodney Brown, the Planning Director and Deputy County Administrator, reported the Homebuyer Grant has been closed, but the County is required by audit to conduct the public hearing. He reported the Grant was awarded in 2012 (typically two-year time periods) and are typically in the amount of \$400,000. There were 17 households assisted that were comprised of 36 people; 10 of the 17 households located in the City or Town of Plattsburgh and seven of the households located in rural areas. Mr. Brown reported \$328,000 of the \$400,000 is devoted to program activities. Program activities consist of principle reduction on the closing, assistance with closing costs and rehabilitation. The amount of \$72,000 is used to administer the Grant. The County contracts with the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County to administrator the grants. Mr. Brown reported this is the fifth grant the County has been awarded and has used the Housing Assistance Program to administer each. He reported 61 percent of program monies went towards principle reduction and closing costs, and 39 percent of the monies went towards rehabilitation and repairs. The program allows individuals to obtain homes they otherwise would not be able to obtain, and it improves housing costs throughout the County. Local contractors are hired to conduct the work to repair the homes.

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature. There being no one to address the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked Mr. Zurlo to read the notice of public hearing in regards to the 2016-2017 Clinton Community College budget. Legislator Rosenquest motioned to open the public hearing at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dame. (Carried 10-0-0).

Jack Hills from Cliff Haven, New York (and a former employee of Clinton Community College) believes recruitment at local schools is necessary to improve College enrollment. He questioned who will be responsible for building the reserve. He also feels the College's website could be improved and that accountability needs to be improved.

Legislator Dame responded to the comments stating there are reinvigorated efforts to aggressively seek new students and to better market the College. The Board of Trustees has recently hired a very talented individual as the Dean for Enrollment to accomplish this. Legislator Dame reported the Legislature and the Board of Trustees has been aware of the declining enrollment, and he feels there will be improvement.

Lisa Shovan, the Officer-in Charge at the College, reported a Dean for Enrollment has been hired. She reported the web page is currently being revised, and there are many new initiatives taking place at the College. Ms. Shovan reported Text Free Educational Classroom Delivery is offered to students through a grant which was awarded to the College.

Ken Delafrange from Champlain, New York, feels the Clinton Community College Board of Trustees lacks vision. He recommended the Legislature not fund the College budget until the College comes forth with a plan to address the issues confronting it.

Legislator Dyer responded to the comments stating he toured the College with Agri-Mark Farm and Cheese Store (a co-op) two to three years ago. Agri-Mark purchased the plant in Chateaugay, New York to re-tool the plant. The co-op has worked very well with the College in manufacturing. Legislator Dyer reported Ms. Shovan has worked very hard on the 2016-2017 College budget and spends time obtaining revenue for the College. He feels Ms. Shovan and her staff has done a very good job on the budget. Legislator Dyer reported should the Legislature vote no on the College budget, it is not doing the justice that it needs to do.

Chairperson McManus responded to the comments stating the number of College liaisons has been increased to two Legislators who attend the College meetings and report back to the Legislature once each month. He reported the College is on the right path with the search for a new president and construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI).

Legislator Dame responded to the comments stating the College budget does not increase any contributions of County taxpayers. The County's contribution for the 2016-2017 College budget is the same as the 2015-2016 budget. The Board of Trustees has articulated the problem will be solved, and Legislator Dame stated he has a great deal of respect for the Board of Trustees. He reported the Board of Trustees has the interest of the College at heart. Program efforts are being reviewed, recruitment efforts are being made and challenges will not go away. The Board of Trustees and management staff have recognized the challenges. Positive trends will be seen next year, especially with the AMI and programs being reviewed.

Legislator Beach responded to the comments stating every college in America is facing enrollment issues but, unlike other schools, the College will soon have the AMI. The College is working hard to find its niche in society and will be working with Norsk Titanium and projects at the Plattsburgh International Airport.

Legislator Rowden responded to the comments stating she understands the desire to lower tuition; however, now is not the time to do so. It may be possible at a future date.

There being no one further to address the Legislature, Legislator Dyer motioned to close the public hearing at 7:29 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dame. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Ken Delafrange from Champlain, New York, stated he is not suggesting that Clinton Community College cut anything, but that the College come up with a vision. He stated tuition needs to be lowered.

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

### **Committee Reports**

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

Legislator Timmons reported the next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Children and Family Services – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported the next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15 p.m. due to the Health Committee meeting being cancelled.

### **County Operations – Legislator Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported the next County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### **Economic Development Ad Hoc – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported Resolutions #597 and #598 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Finance – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. The Chamber of Commerce will be present to discuss their marketing plan for tourism. He reported requests for Tobacco Settlement funding are due to the Legislative Office by Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Finance Committee will discuss the proposals at its meeting of Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Health Committee – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported Resolutions #599 and #600 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. The Health Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> has been cancelled.

### **Human Services – Legislator Keenan**

Legislator Keenan reported the next Human Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> following the Finance Committee meeting.

### **Personnel – Legislator Dyer**

Legislator Dyer reported Resolution #601 has been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier. There was a presentation on the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) by the Federal Security Director at TSA.

Resolutions #602, #603 and #605 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. Resolution #604 has been withdrawn.

Legislator Hall reported the concourse is now open in the Terminal Building. He encouraged Legislators to visit the Airport.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### **Public Safety – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Transportation Committee – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported the next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **Board of Health – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the 2017 Health Department budget was discussed at the Board of Health meeting.

#### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the marketing plan for the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce will be presented at the Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. He reported he went on a farm tour in Quebec on Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. It was an amazing opportunity that is seen as being developed in Clinton County. Legislator Rosenquest reported two cuisine trails are being developed through the Agricultural and Tourism Board at the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, and we are looking forward to contributing.

#### **Clinton Community College – Legislators Dame and Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Legislature will be voting on the approval of the College's 2016-2017 budget. He reported he attended the first of the Presidential Search Committee meetings hosted by The Development Corporation (TDC) and Chairperson Paul Grasso. Legislator Rosenquest reported he left the meeting feeling enthusiastic and very optimistic about the future of the College.

#### **Community Services – Legislator Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported one interview has been conducted for the Director of Community Services. She reported she will be emailing the Legislature information on an event scheduled for Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Strand Theater from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. which is sponsored by the Substance Abuse Community Coalition. The event will address the issue of opiate addiction. Legislator Rowden reported the public is invited, and she encouraged Legislators to attend.

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

Legislator Timmons reported programs are currently running well. There are two openings on the Family and Youth Board and openings on the Board of Directors. He asked that anyone please contact Cooperative Extension should you know of anyone interested in serving.

### **LC/LG Regional Planning Board – Legislator Keenan**

Legislator Keenan reported he will be attending a meeting of the LC/LG Regional Planning Board on Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Soil and Water – Legislators Dyer and Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported Soil and Water has been working hard with local highway departments to deal with erosion problems. There has been a part-time and a full-time Technician in the field working on the issue.

### **Staff Reports**

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss a matter of collective negotiations with the Deputy Sheriff's Unit and Article 7 Proceeding in regards to Champlain Centre vs. the Town of Plattsburgh.

Chairperson McManus reported while at the Regional Economic Council meeting, he was asked to be the Chairperson on the Opportunity Agenda Priority Projects Committee. He reported there are three priorities to develop strategies for: 1) building workforce readiness 2) removing transportation barriers to employment and 3) expanding child care. A report will be submitted to the Regional Economic Council, and points will be awarded based upon grants which will be submitted.

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

Resolutions #596 titled, "Adopting the Clinton Community College Budget"

Discussion: Legislator Dame reported it is prudent to pass the College budget and let the community know the College is alive, well and will survive. He reported the Board of Trustees and management have spent a considerable amount of hours on the budget.

Legislator Rosenquest reported he was vocal in letting it be known the College budget be passed with a plan and a vision. He is very confident in the budget. He reported the Board of Trustees has done a lot of work on the budget, and he is proud to vote yes on the budget. He looks forward to the College training students and the workforce. (Carried 10-0-0).

Resolutions # 597 through #603 were approved.

Resolution #604 titled, "Amending Plattsburgh International Airport Rates and Charges – Plattsburgh International Airport" was withdrawn.

Resolutions #605 through #610 were approved.

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

Resolutions #611 titled, "Complying with New York State Comptroller Regulations by Establishing Standard Work Day and the Reporting of Retirement Credit for Elected and Appointed Officials – Legislature"

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported Resolution #458 dated July 13, 2016 established the standard work day and the reporting of retirement credit for elected and appointed officials. The reporting for the Board of Elections Commissioners is deemed late because their records of activity began later and, therefore, require a separate resolution. (Carried 10-0-0).

Resolutions #612 and #613 were approved.

Chairperson McManus asked if there was anything further to come before the Legislature.

Chairperson McManus entertained a motion from Legislator Dyer to enter into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations concerning the Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association and Article 7 Proceeding regarding the Pyramid Mall property, seconded by Legislator Hall.  
(Carried 10-0-0).

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:37 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. (Carried 10-0-0).

Resolutions #614 titled, "Authorizing the Chairperson to Execute an Agreement Between the County of Clinton and Sheriff of Clinton County and the Clinton County Deputy Sheriffs' Police Benevolent Association – Sheriff's Department"

Discussion: Legislator Dame commented that although he thinks the terms of the negotiated agreement are fair and would otherwise be in support of them, he is voting no solely based on the fact that a manning clause remains in the contract. Legislator Dame voted no. (Carried 9-1-0).

Resolution #615 was approved.

There being no further business, Legislator Keenan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. (Carried 10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanene Bell  
Senior Stenographer