

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 22, 2015

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Monday, December 21, 2015 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Chairperson, Area 3
John Gallagher, Area 9
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
James Langley, Jr., Area 7
Harry McManus, Area 1
Colin Read, Area 4
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer
Robbie Timmons, Area 7 Legislator-Elect
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9 Legislator-Elect

Chairperson Dyer 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 Keenan motioned to accept the minutes of the December 9th Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson Dyer invited Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer of the Clinton County Legislative Office, Legislator Pete Keenan and County Administrator Michael Zurlo to the podium. Legislator Keenan presented Mrs. Lemieux with a plaque acknowledging her for thirty years of service to Clinton County.

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Keith Defayette of 7 Riverbend Drive, Plattsburgh (and former County Legislator from Area 5) recognized Legislators James Langley and John Gallagher for their years of service on the Clinton County Legislature. Mr. Defayette stated prior to Legislator Langley being appointed as Chairperson of the Legislature, Mr. Defayette asked him how Legislator Langley would see himself running the Legislature as Chairperson. Legislator Langley replied in the past, he has seen people use this as a position of power; however, he stated he would rather see it as a position of leadership. Mr. Defayette stated during Legislator Langley's tenure as Chairperson, he was a tremendous leader and all Legislators highly respect him for the way he treated everyone. The Legislature worked very well together. Mr. Defayette stated it was a pleasure to have worked with Legislators Langley and Gallagher and wished them well.

Sara Rowden of 70 Gravelly Point, Plattsburgh (and former County Legislator from Area 4) stated she began serving as Legislator from Area 4 when Legislator Langley became Chairperson. Shortly after she was sworn in, Ms. Rowden was diagnosed with breast cancer. Legislator Langley was very helpful and supportive to her during that difficult time. Ms. Rowden stated she believes the reason we have Plattsburgh International Airport is because of Legislator Langley. Legislator Langley's ability to work with individuals at the federal level has been amazing. Plattsburgh is one of the few communities that have a positive relationship with the Federal Aviation Administration. Ms. Rowden stated it was an absolute pleasure serving with Legislators Langley and Gallagher.

Robert Heins of 80 Beekman Street, Plattsburgh (and former County Legislator from Area 10) congratulated Legislator Gallagher for his service. Mr. Heins stated Legislator Langley was his leader for twelve years, and is very apolitical. Mr. Heins recently visited the Plattsburgh International Airport and was amazed how the Airport has grown. He noted the time and energy Legislator Langley has spent with the Federal Aviation Administration was tremendous. Mr. Heins stated Legislator Langley is very comfortable working with high-powered players in Washington, D.C.

Susan Sunderland of Peru spoke on behalf of a wheelchair-bound gentleman from Ausable Forks who requires public transportation for his medical care. She addressed the recent changes made to the Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) bus routes. Ms. Sunderland stated the gentleman had been getting picked up at his home for over five years. Since changes have been made to the CCPT bus schedule, he is now required to travel five blocks in his wheelchair, through busy intersections, to catch the CCPT bus at Stewart's.

Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator, stated Ms. Sunderland has spoken with James Bosley, the Planning Technician in the Planning Department, and explained that because the gentleman lives in Essex County, Clinton County is not allowed to cross the county line to pick up the gentleman as the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) does not want Clinton County to infringe upon Essex County's system. Mr. Brown stated with approval from the Legislature, he could call NYSDOT to explain the situation and see if they will allow Clinton County to cross the County line to pick the gentleman up to bring him to his medical appointments in Plattsburgh. It was the consensus of the Legislature to allow Mr. Brown to contact the NYSDOT.

There being no one further who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer called for standing committee and liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported finalized 2016 County budgets have been placed on all Legislators' desks.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Langley

Legislator Langley reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier in the day. Representatives from the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce provided the committee with an update.

Transportation Committee – Legislator McManus

Legislator McManus updated the Committee on McDonald Transit Associates, Inc.'s failure to adhere to the NYSDOT requirements regarding mechanics checking on problems that drivers bring to their attention. Mr. Brown discussed this with McDonald Transit Associates, Inc. who said they would remedy the situation. However, DOT came back later to find the problems had not been addressed. The Clinton County Planning Department has outlined short and long-term steps that McDonald Transit Associates, Inc. will take to resolve the matter and submit the document to NYSDOT. Legislator McManus stated McDonald Transit Associates, Inc. currently has only one part-time mechanic and will be advertising for a second position. Mr. Brown has communicated this with the NYSDOT, and he hopes this will take care of the problem.

Liaison Reports

Clinton Community College – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Board of Trustees met to discuss the College's financial difficulties, and he will be meeting with several Trustees to discuss this issue. Although there will be difficult decisions to make, Legislator Dame is hopeful issues can be resolved. Mr. Zurlo stated he will be meeting with the Interim President on Tuesday, December 22nd.

Soil and Water Conservation – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported a meeting was held Thursday, December 17th. He had an opportunity to meet Soil and Water Conservation's new employee. The Committee agreed they would like to see Soil and Water play a larger role in the community, facilitating with soil samples, etc.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – James Coffey, Esq.

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss the following matters: a settlement agreement with The Development Corporation regarding omitted taxes, the Turtle Island Trust litigation and litigation involving construction issues at Plattsburgh International Airport.

Chairperson – Samuel Dyer

At this time, Chairperson Dyer stated he would like to present Legislators Langley and Gallagher with plaques commemorating them for their numerous years of service to Clinton County.

Legislator McManus stated during the last eight years, he has had the pleasure of serving with Legislators Langley and Gallagher. He stated at their meetings, issues were discussed openly, opinions were put forth, and these two individuals brought out the best in all the people they served. These two gentlemen were able to express their points of view without regard to party labeling, just strongly-held beliefs. Legislator McManus stated their titles, as they leave their last meeting, are "Majority Leader" and "Minority Leader," but to him, they will always be "leaders."

Legislator Waldron stated when she first became a legislator two years ago, it was quite intimidating. However, she was pleasantly surprised there were no party politics. She thanked both Legislators Gallagher and Langley for their leadership.

Legislator Keenan stated he has had the fortune of knowing both of these two gentlemen before serving as a Legislator and stated they are both true gentlemen.

Legislator Dame stated when he became a legislator four years ago, it was an interesting environment that continually improved. He thanked Legislator Langley for being so congenial to him and for being fair and balanced. He stated Legislator Langley is a true asset to the County, and he played a critical role in the development of Plattsburgh International Airport which will play a critical role in the County's future for generations to come.

Legislator Dame stated he and Legislator Gallagher come from different opposites of the political spectrum. Because of Legislator Gallagher's determination and his ability to stick to his beliefs, he has even moderated Legislator Dame just a bit. He stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Personnel Committee with Legislator Gallagher and noted his respect for the County workforce is commendable. Legislator Dame stated he also served with Legislator Gallagher on the Grievance Committee, where many times, issues are difficult to resolve. Legislator Dame stated he has nothing but admiration for Legislator Gallagher's sympathy and respect.

Legislator Hall stated he spent eight years on the City Council where it was Republican versus Democrat, and there were arguments every single week, week in and week out. When Legislator Hall was elected to the County Legislature, he was worried that it would be the same way. Legislator Hall stated it has not been the same way; it has been ten people really working together for the betterment of Clinton County and the City of Plattsburgh. Legislator Hall stated Legislator Gallagher has helped him tremendously over the years. When Legislator Hall first became a Legislator, he was very interested in Plattsburgh International Airport as he felt it will play an important role in the County's future. Legislator Hall stated he met with former Legislator Robert Heins who chaired the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee. Mr. Heins provided him with a wealth of knowledge regarding the Airport. Legislator Hall stated one piece of advice former Legislator Heins gave him was to listen to Legislator Langley. He stated Legislator Langley has taught him so much.

Legislator Read stated both Legislators Langley and Gallagher share his interest in economic development. Plattsburgh International Airport will return dividends to the County for generations to come, and it raises the bar for Legislators to figure out how they can play an important role in this as well. He stated he was very grateful to both of them. He recognized the vast number of hours Legislator Langley spends per week on behalf of the taxpayers.

Legislator Beach stated Legislators Langley and Gallagher are phenomenal with what they've done. They have been a tremendous asset to the County. Both gentlemen, from two different parties, took him under their wings, and showed him their amazing ability to run this County. In his years of service, Legislator Beach has not witnessed such battles between the parties that Legislator Hall referenced, and he attributes this to the experience and leadership of these two gentlemen.

Chairperson Dyer and Mr. Zurlo presented Legislators Langley and Gallagher's with plaques.

Legislator Gallagher stated they all started on the right foot, they all have worked together for the betterment of Clinton County and its citizens and tried to avoid cutting essential services our residents need. Legislator Gallagher stated Clinton County has an excellent labor environment, and it has been a great pleasure to serve as a County Legislator.

Legislator Langley thanked his former colleagues for coming and stated he appreciates all of the kind comments that were made. However, he stated it is not one person, its one group that did things together and knew what the other was doing, and helped each other. He hopes everyone continues on with this practice. Some things that occur just occur, it's nothing personal. He stated as long as you focus on not looking at yourself, but the overall responsibility while you're here, everyone will be fine. Legislator Langley thanked everyone and stated it has been a pleasure.

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

Resolutions #917 through #920 were approved.

Resolution #921 titled, "Approving Appointment of Mary R. Dyer as Board of Elections Commissioner - Board of Elections" was moved 5/4 with Chairperson Dyer abstaining. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Resolutions #922 through #944 were approved.

Resolutions #945 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Crystal Rock – Plattsburgh International Airport" was withdrawn.

Resolutions #946 through #966 were approved.

Resolution #967 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Transfer Funds from the Contingent Fund to 130 Arizona Avenue's Budget – Legislative Office" was moved by Legislator Dame and seconded by Legislator Read.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported this Energy Efficiency Lighting Project had not been contemplated when the County purchased the 130 Arizona Avenue property. The Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds had been made aware of this Project, and recognized the building's inferior lighting system. Mr. Zurlo noted the return on this investment would be one and one-half years. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #968 through #974 were approved.

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

Resolution #975 titled, "Authorizing Contract with the Village of Tupper Lake – Planning Department" was moved by Legislator Read and seconded by Legislator Gallagher. Carried (9-0-0-1). Legislator McManus abstained.

Resolutions #976 and #977 were approved.

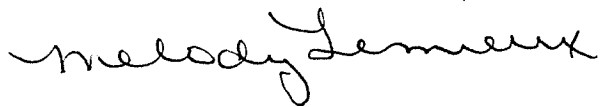
Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to enter into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:27 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #978 titled, "Authorizing Settlement Agreement with The Development Corporation, Clinton County, New York" was moved by Legislator Read and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business, Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Lemieux". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer