

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 16, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, February 14, 2024 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

EXCUSED: Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney  
Erin Light, Senior Typist

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislators Henry and Waldron asked to be excused.

Legislator Hughes motioned to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Deputy Chairperson Hall asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

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

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

Legislator Bezio stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds James Cleveland discussed the Wendel Energy Update, the Government Center Brick Repair Project and the Master Plan. He noted the bid opening will be held Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Peryea stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Christine Peters, the Department of Social Services Commissioner, reviewed several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Clinton County” and “Authorizing Safe Harbour Grant Application and Acceptance.” She also discussed several topics including a migrant update and the Warming Center.

Resolutions #69 through #74 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee, as well as, Resolution #75 under Waive Rule 13.2.

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

### **Economic Development and County Operations Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

On behalf of Legislator Waldron, Mr. Zurlo reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

Dave Randall, the Information Technology Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract Extension with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services” and “Authorizing Contract Extension with SymQuest Group, Inc.”

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was also present to discuss a FAST NY update, a BETA Technologies, Inc. update and the sale and lease of real property (in Executive Session).

Resolutions #76 through #79 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, and Rebecca Murphy, the Deputy Treasurer, were present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds to Various Accounts” and “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish a Capital Project titled, “Installation of the Passenger Boarding Bridge Gate Two” – Plattsburgh International Airport.” They also reviewed the 2023 Sales Tax Chart, 2023 Sales Tax Distribution, Total Sales Tax Comparison 2019-2023, Occupancy Tax, In Rem Foreclosure, the Corrections of Errors Report and the 2024 Sales Tax Chart.

Kim Kinblom, the Deputy County Administrator, was also present to review pending Tobacco Settlement funding. Additionally, Mr. Zurlo discussed the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with Northway Solar, LLC.”

Resolutions #80 through #87 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Policy Strategy Consultants, LLC” and “Authorizing Systems of Care (SoC) Implementation Support Grant Application.”

Jeffrey Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was also present to discuss several resolutions including, “Approving Appointment to the Clinton County Board of Health” and “Authorizing Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program Grant Application.” He also reviewed several reports including the 2023 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Grant Report and the Director’s Report for December, 2023 and January, 2024.

Resolutions #88 through #99 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall**

Legislator Randall reported the Human Services Committee met on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing an Increase in Room and Board Rates for Skilled Nursing Facility Residents.”

Darleen Collins, the Director of the Office for the Aging, was also present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with Senior Citizens Council of Clinton County, Inc.” and “Approving Appointments to the Office for the Aging Advisory Committee”, as well as, a discussion item on GoGoGrandparent.

Kevin LeBeouf, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, was also in attendance to discuss monthly statistics for January, 2024 and the current VA Backlog of Claims and Staffing.

Resolutions #100 thorough #102 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m.

### **Personnel Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

On behalf of Legislator Henry, Mr. Zurlo stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, was present to discuss the resolutions including, “Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Paralegal Position” and “Authorizing Payment of 2024 Membership Dues.”

Resolutions #103 through #126 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Resolution #127 has been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Castine stated the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, and Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant, were present to discuss the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Clark Fredricks” and “Authorizing Out-of-State Travel.”

Chad Deans, the Coroner, was also present to discuss the resolution, “Amending Resolution #26 dated January 11, 2023 titled, “Authorizing a Written Mutual Aid Agreement for Coroner Services.” Mr. Deans also continued discussion on the Mortuary Cooler (Mr. Wylie and Dr. Michael Sikirica, the Forensic Pathologist, also participated in this discussion). Sheriff David Favro was present to discuss a border update.

Lastly, Mr. Castine is requesting a County resolution seeking help from the Federal government with the large number of illegal immigrants crossing the border into Clinton County. Deputy Chairperson Hall requested the Legislature bring forth a resolution regarding this issue.

Resolutions #128 through #131 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee met on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was present to discuss the Student Association Shuttle Service.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for the Replacement of CR 1 Standish Road Bridge over Separator Brook; BIN 3363270” and “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for One Standardized Road Widener Attachment.”

Resolutions #132 through #135 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Board of Health – Legislator Hughes**

Legislator Hughes stated he attended his first Board of Health meeting on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Ryan Davies, the Director of Environmental Health, presented on the 2024 Clinton County Sanitary Code and the fine policy revisions.

### **Clinton Community College – County Administrator Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo stated the State University of New York has selected a point person, Ken Knelly, to ensure discussion items from both colleges are actively being discussed.

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

Legislator Timmons stated the organizational meeting was held. He noted the Board is a new and young board with Legislator Timmons serving as Chairperson. Linda Gilliland, the Executive Director, received the new Agricultural assessment, which has been distributed to the Legislators for their review.

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

Legislator Randall stated the Committee met on Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> in Old Forge in Herkimer County. They reviewed the New York State budget, the Medicaid issue, \$2.4 billion for the illegal immigrants in New York State and the fact that 45,000 residents left New York State in 2023.

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

Legislator Bezio reported the next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.**

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

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

Mr. Zurlo stated he would like to discuss the sale and lease of real property in Executive Session.

He also stated at the Finance meeting, during the Treasurer’s Report on In Rem Foreclosure, it was discussed that a Veterans’ Post in the County was in jeopardy. Mr. Zurlo reported Legislator David Bezio and Kevin LeBeouf, the Director of the Veterans’ Service Agency, had conversations with the Post in an attempt to avoid foreclosure. Mr. Zurlo reported that liability has been paid in full and they are no longer in the foreclosure process.

Additionally, he noted there is package on each of the Legislators desks from Jennifer Jewett. She will be speaking at the February 28, 2024 Regular Session. She asked that you review the material and have a primer on what she will be discussing.

### **Deputy Chairpersons Report**

Deputy Chairperson Hall did not have a report.

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

Resolutions #69 through #78 were approved.

Resolution #79 titled, “Authorizing Contract Extension with Symquest Group, Inc.” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo clarified there was no change to this resolution. In Committee, there was a question as to why the previous year’s cost was \$50,000. The answer to that question is that the previous year’s cost included both the photos copiers in addition to the printers. This resolution is just dealing with the printer maintenance. The resolution will be administratively corrected to reflect that the previous year’s cost included both printing maintenance and photo copier maintenance.

Resolutions #80 through #92 were approved.

Resolution #93 titled, “Authorizing Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program Grant Application” was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported there was a question in Committee regarding the local share. The agreement with Casella is a 100 percent obligation by the County, up to \$30,000.

Resolutions #94 through #139 were approved.

Resolution #140 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Legislator Krester abstained.

Resolutions #141 through #144 were approved.

Resolution #145 titled, “Approving Home Rule Request for New York State Senate Bill 6434 and New York State Assembly Bill 7108” was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported the Legislature asked for legislation to be introduced for State Troopers to be reinstated for Special Patrol Officers in 2023. That Bill is now moving through the State Legislature. This resolution will show the Legislature’s support for the legislation as drafted.

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

Resolution #146 was approved.

Legislator Timmons motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Timmons motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (8-0-2).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Peryea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat

Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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