

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 26, 2015

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, February 25, 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  
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

EXCUSED: John Gallagher, Area 9

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

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. Legislator Gallagher had asked to be excused, but he would be listening by phone.

Legislator Keenan motioned to accept the minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. (Carried 9-0-1).

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Margarita Garcia-Notario of 37 Draper Avenue in Plattsburgh, New York, and an employee of Plattsburgh State University College addressed the Legislature regarding her concerns with the Common Core Standards Initiative. Ms. Garcia-Notario stated public schools are experiencing a great change due to the Common Core. She stated the North Country Alliance Group for Public Education was formed last year. The movement is to repeal State exams in schools. She stated children are being over tested and often on material they know nothing about. Ms. Garcia-Notario stated she is bringing this concern to the Legislature in the hopes that a resolution could be done. She is fearful that students will not want to pursue college; they are being set up for failure. As a parent, she is concerned that education is not something children can now enjoy. Ms. Garcia-Notario reported this is a pro-public and pro-teacher movement and is being promoted again this year.

Kristy Bezrutcyk of 25 Bushey Boulevard in Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature regarding her concerns with the Common Core Standards Initiative. Ms. Bezrutcyk stated she presented information to the Legislature at the February 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Session regarding this matter. She stated for 17 years, she has been a Special Education teacher in the Preschool and Early Intervention Programs in Clinton County. She also has a daughter who is in the third grade at Momot Elementary School in Plattsburgh, New York. Ms. Bezrutcyk stated she is part of the refuse movement. She asked the Legislature to please research Common Core. She stated schools are unfunded to provide the State mandates of the program, and the cost will be borne by the taxpayers of Clinton County. Ms. Bezrutcyk stated teachers are fearful of their positions; they are afraid, like her, to speak up. She stated, however, she is here today as a voice for her daughter and all of the other children. We need to stand up and provide a voice to the voiceless. Legislator Langley asked for information regarding the rally scheduled in February. Ms. Bezrutcyk replied the New York State Union for Teachers has a bus rally on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Plattsburgh High School parking lot. In addition, The North Country Alliance for Public Education has a rally on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Yokum Hall at SUNY Plattsburgh regarding information on education reform.

Katherine Brown of 21 Kimberly Lane in Morrisonville, New York addressed the Legislature regarding her concerns with the Common Core Standards Initiative. Ms. Brown stated the Common Core was created to ensure that all students graduate from high school and succeed in college and life. She stated it is not what it proposes to be, and it must be stopped before irreversible damage is done to our students. She further stated there are no accommodations for students with special needs, for English as a second language or for those not currently at grade level. Ms. Brown urged the Legislature for its support in repealing the Common Core so children can become the best they can be.

Fred Hofer of 121 Cornelia Street in Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature. Mr. Hofer stated he is a student at Plattsburgh State University College and wanted the County Legislature to be aware of what the Public Relations Management Class at Plattsburgh State University College is doing in honor of Earth Day, April 22, 2015. He stated the College is teaming up with the Ted K Center to redeem one million cans and bottles throughout the month of April. He stated the proceeds will go to benefit the Ted K. Center to provide educational, social and recreational opportunities, as a result of the

Center losing some of its funding. He stated this is a community-wide effort and provided information to the Legislature which is attached and part of the minutes. Mr. Hofer will return in April to update the Legislature on the campaign as it progresses.

Douglas Selwin of 256 Cornelia Street, in Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature regarding his concerns with the Common Core Standards Initiative. He stated there is an enormous cost attached to the Common Core for providing the materials for this initiative, and that schools do not have the necessary funds. He also stated that instead of enriching education, it is being reduced. The tests are developmentally inappropriate and are a poor assessment of measurement. The Common Core is costing an enormous amount of money and narrowing what the school can offer. Mr. Selwin stated the public is not hearing about what is going on as the teachers are ordered not to talk about it; a lie of silence exists. Mr. Selwin urged the Legislature to look into this more and be involved in the effort to repeal the Common Core.

Mark Betham of 37 Draper Avenue in Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature regarding his concerns with the Common Core State Standards Initiative and the changes occurring in public schools. He stated the school boards are losing local control and are being overtaken at the State level due to the new guidelines. He urged the Legislature to provide a voice for those who teach in schools as they cannot provide a voice for themselves in repealing the Common Core. He further urged the Legislature to join the cause and support the local community, teachers and students and put public education back where it belongs, away from political hands.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, addressed the Legislature. Ms. Davis discussed the County's In-Rem Foreclosure process. She distributed a list to the Legislature of the 92 parcels facing foreclosure action later this spring. Ms. Davis stated there is also an automatic 20 percent addition to the taxes once the order is signed. Ms. Davis stated the Judge was asked to sign the order by March 6th; however, the Judge can sign it at any time prior to March 6<sup>th</sup>. She made it clear that the penalty will be incurred as soon as the Judge signs the order. Ms. Davis encouraged the Legislature to review the list and reach out to anyone they might know who is on the list to address them of the ramifications without paying prior to a Judge signing the order.

Legislator Dame asked if the 20 percent fee the County imposes against the property after the Judge signs the Order is a Clinton County fee. Ms. Davis replied no, and stated 10 percent of the fee goes to Haroff's Auction. Starting the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>, the signs will be put out by Haroff's Auction. Legislator Dame asked for confirmation the County receives 10 percent of this fee, plus the percentage they get when they sell the property at auction. Ms. Davis replied that is correct. Legislator Dame stated the Legislature should revisit this 20 percent fee as the property owners are obviously having a hard time paying the taxes. He further stated since this is a mandated fee by this body, we may want to think about changing this prior to the next auction. Legislator Dame also asked if someone on the list is deceased, how the Treasurer's Office would notify their estate or next of kin. Ms. Davis stated the address on record must be used by the Treasurer's Office when notifying the property owners. Legislator Dame asked if there is any process to change the property owner's information on the listing. Ms. Davis replied only an Administrator or Executor of the Will can officially change the address. She also stated the United States Post Office is contacted to see if they have any other address on record.

Legislator Waldron asked if Ms. Davis could provide her with a letter to explain the reason for the 20 percent fee to provide to the Towns. Ms. Davis replied she would provide a letter to Legislator Waldron. She also stated the property owners are aware of the foreclosure process through correspondence sent from the Treasurer's Office.

Legislator Hall asked what is the penalty and interest on someone already late. Ms. Davis replied it is an additional one percent per month.

Legislator Langley referenced the list of parcels, and in particular, the code for a vacant lot. Ms. Davis reviewed what each code represents on the list.

Legislator Hall asked if there is a way to see if this is the first year someone is late in paying their taxes (which may be due to unforeseen circumstances). Ms. Davis replied yes, and stated she can be contacted for that information.

Chairperson Dyer thanked Ms. Davis for bringing the status of process to the Legislature's attention today.

Ms. Davis stated the date of the auction is Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

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

### **Committee Reports**

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

Legislator Read reported Resolution #126 is included on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The resolution will award the bids for the Human Services Center First Floor Renovation Project. Mr. Zurlo stated Resolution #138 on the agenda will authorize the County Treasurer to establish the Capital Project. He indicated the bids came in a little higher than anticipated, but the Committee discussed this and reduced the costs. Mr. Zurlo stated originally, \$500,000 from the 2013 Master Plan and \$125,000 from the 2014 Master Plan was to cover the full cost for this Project; however, it was not enough. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, with the assistance and concurrence of Department of Social Services Commissioner John Redden, was able to use some Medicaid Administration funds, as well as funding from an old Master Plan. Mr. Zurlo stated this will get the Project where it needs to be without having to borrow any additional monies. Legislator Read noted the bulk of the contractors are local and through a best-bid process.

The next meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Waldron reported the next meeting of the Children and Family Services Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

#### **County Operations Committee – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported Resolution #127 is included on the agenda upon the recommendation of the County Operations Committee at its meeting of February 11, 2015. Resolution #128 is also included on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee.

The next meeting of the County Operations Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

### **Finance Committee – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Beach congratulated Darlene Eddy, the Health Facility Comptroller of the Clinton County Health Department, who was nominated for a Clinton County Public Health Works Award.

The next meeting of the Health Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Keenan reported the next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

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

Legislator Langley reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met this evening at 5:15 p.m. Resolutions #131 through #135 are included on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. He reported a few generators will be repurposed for use by Volo Aviation and the Airport's Firehouse. Legislator Langley stated Resolution #133 will authorize a contract with McFarland-Johnson, Inc. for the Design Phase of the Federal Inspection Service (FIS) station. He indicated he visited the Terminal Building on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and noted good progress is being made in its expansion.

The next meeting of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall reported Resolution #148 is included on the agenda for the District Attorney's Office as a result of a poll of the Public Safety Committee.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

### **Transportation Committee – Legislator McManus**

Legislator McManus reported Resolutions #136 and #137 are included on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Transportation Committee. He thanked the Legislature for the \$20,000 guarantee of Tobacco Settlement funds for the Northern Tier Recreation Trail made at the last meeting. He stated this guarantee of funding, along with the other grants, convinced the three local boards that their salary cap concerns could be met with a positive vote and all three boards accepted the grant.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported the Destination Master Plan author and consultant, Robert Harvey, will be coming to speak with the community regarding the Destination Master Plan on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers. Mr. Harvey is interested in speaking with members of the Legislature. Legislator Read stated anyone interested in hearing about the Destination Master Plan is invited to attend. The Destination Master Plan is very important for the planning of tourism in Clinton County.

### **Community Services – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Clinton County Community Services Board met Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. He stated Clinton County Mental Health and Addiction Services' billing has improved from 70 percent to upwards of 90 percent. Mr. Zurlo stated Peter Trout, the Director of Community Services, is doing an outstanding job.

### **Soil and Water – Chairperson Dyer**

Chairperson Dyer reported changes to the Soil and Water Conservation District's administration and procedures is underway.

### **Workforce Investment Board – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read thanked Mr. Zurlo for inviting Sylvie Nelson, the Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board, to speak at the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> regarding her vision for the Workforce Investment Board.

## **Staff Reports**

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss the Castine litigation, the Risetto arbitration matter before PERB, the potential sale of land by the County Treasurer, as well as the CD Perry litigation against Clinton County.

Mr. Zurlo stated it was brought to his attention recently that the County should streamline a better way to get members of the Legislature to attend Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce functions. He stated the County is a member of the Chamber and, if any Legislator wants to attend any function sponsored by the Chamber, you do not need to pre-pay. Legislators can request the Chamber invoice Mr. Zurlo in the Legislative Office. Mr. Zurlo noted a Legislative Breakfast Forum is scheduled for Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn in Plattsburgh, New York.

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

Resolutions #126 through #130 were approved.

Resolution #131 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Intercounty Appraisal Services, Inc. – Plattsburgh International Airport" was motioned by Legislator Langley, seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion:

Mr. Zurlo asked Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator, for a brief explanation regarding the purpose for the services being contracted.

Mr. Brown stated this is the site at the former Clinton County Airport where the County hopes to have a solar farm complex. The Federal Aviation Administration requires that an appraisal be done to verify the amount of revenue obtained from the site is at least the value of what the fair market established by an appraisal. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #132 through #138 were approved.

Resolution #139 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP-ET) Program – Employment and Training" was motioned by Legislator Dame, seconded by Legislator Waldron.

Discussion:

Legislator Langley reported he heard on the news today of a change in this funding by the Federal Government. Mr. Zurlo replied he would look into this and would report back to Legislator Langley. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #140 through #146 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Dame. (Carried 9-0-1).

Resolutions #147 and #148 were approved.

Legislator Keenan motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Read motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:31 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #149 titled, "Authorizing Write Off and Chargeback for Taxes, Town of Schuyler Falls – Treasurer's Office" was motioned by Legislator Hall, seconded by Legislator Read. Carried (9-0-1).

There being no further business, Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Hall to adjourn Regular Session at 8:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. (Carried 9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Brown  
Senior Stenographer



# Ted K Earth Day Million Can Redemption Plan

*Redeeming To Keep Kids Dreaming*

## What's this?

In honor of Earth Day (April 22nd), the Ted K. Center is teaming up with SUNY Plattsburgh to collect one million redeemable cans and bottles throughout April.

This community-wide effort might seem almost inconceivable, but it's not impossible -- especially with your support!

## Help the environment!

Making new containers out of recycled products rather than from raw materials reduces energy usage, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

### Recycling one million beverage containers will...



- Conserve enough energy to power more than 30 homes for an entire year.



- Prevent the emission of greenhouse gases equivalent to those produced by 14 cars yearly.



- Save 488.58 tons of landfill space (38 garbage trucks filled with compacted cans and bottles!).

## Support your community!

All proceeds will benefit the Ted K. Center, providing educational, social and recreational opportunities to children of the Plattsburgh Housing Authority.



## How your business can help:

We're looking for businesses to participate!

Collect your redeemables,  
challenge your coworkers,  
compete with other departments!



## We'll make it easy for you.

1. Sign up
2. Collect
3. Encourage others to participate!

We'll provide collection boxes, bags and promotional materials to help your business collection campaign be a success.

## Regarding Zero-Sort® Recycling:

If you have Casella Zero-Sort®, no problem! Just toss your redeemables into a Ted K. Earth Day collection box for the month of April, and we'll do a weekly pick-up at your business!

## Want the latest update? Connect with us!



[fb.com/TedKCenter](https://fb.com/TedKCenter)



[@TedKCenter](https://twitter.com/TedKCenter)



[tedkearthday@gmail.com](mailto:tedkearthday@gmail.com)



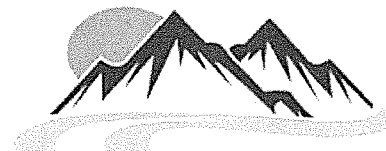
(518)-564-2408



PEPSI BEVERAGES  
COMPANY



Plattsburgh  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Northern Cakes  
Redemption Center



TOMRA



# **Ted K Earth Day Million Can Redemption Plan**

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## ***Redeeming To Keep Kids Dreaming***

### **Campaign Summary**

In honor of Earth Day (April 22nd), the Ted K. Center is teaming up with SUNY Plattsburgh to collect one million redeemable cans and bottles throughout April.

Imagine if the Plattsburgh community banded together to recycle one million cans and bottles in just one month. The visualization of such an operation is almost inconceivable, but it doesn't mean that it is impossible.

Students in Public Relations Management have worked closely with the Plattsburgh Housing Authority as a service learning client to develop a campaign that would provide funding for the Ted K. Center. Although classes worked with the youth center previously, this semester's work was especially imperative because the Ted K. Center's van broke down last summer while transporting children. With funding already minimal, the center looked to us for help in raising \$20,000 for a new vehicle by planning a full-scale public relations campaign.

After countless hours of research and brainstorming sessions, our group devised the Ted K. Earth Day's Million Can Redemption Plan, an event that will recycle and redeem one million beverage containers through SUNY Plattsburgh, Clinton Community College, area businesses and residents.

By recycling one million redeemable cans and bottles instead of creating new ones out of raw materials, this event will conserve enough energy to power more than 30 homes for an entire year, prevent the emission of greenhouse gases equivalent to those produced by 14 cars yearly and save 488.58 tons of landfill space (38 garbage trucks filled with compacted cans and bottles!).

SUNY Plattsburgh's 2018 Campus Plan outlines the college's need to expand experiential learning opportunities and build community connections while promoting the college's values of environmental sustainability and stewardship of resources. This project is in direct alignment with these aspects of the campus plan. By working with the Ted K. Center on such a large-scale event, we have a chance to implement a successful campaign with a local non-profit client.

Casella, Northern Cakes, Pepsi and TOMRA have already shown interest in partnering with us to make this campaign happen. It's a true college – community – business partnership.