

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 21, 2023

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, September 20, 2023 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Robert Hall, Area 10
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: Calvin Castine, Area 1

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Castine asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2023 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Henry moved onto the public hearings.

Chairperson Henry reported the first public hearing is on the 2023-2024 Clinton Community College budget. He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Bezio motioned to open the public hearing at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone present wished to address the Board regarding this matter.

Clinton Community College Board of Trustees member Devi Momot addressed the Legislature speaking in favor of the Community College and thanking them for their support of the 2023-2024 budget.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Hall motioned to close the public hearing at 5:19 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry stated there is a second public hearing regarding Local Law #2 titled, "Amending Local Law #1 of 2010 titled, "Authorizing a Real Property Tax Exemption to Qualified Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers." He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Potiker motioned to open the public hearing at 5:20 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone present wished to address the Board regarding this matter.

There being no one who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Waldron motioned to close the public hearing at 5:21 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday,

September 18th was cancelled.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, provided an update on various Capital Projects. He reported the roof projects at the Surrogate and Probation Buildings are awaiting the curb cap metal to arrive and at that point will be completed.

He stated the new boilers have also been installed at the Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services and 213 Connecticut Avenue, and the contractor is working on piping.

Superintendent Cleveland also stated the infrared heating is 95 percent completed at the Highway Department and is awaiting NYSEG for installation of the new gas meter.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #633 and #634 on the agenda.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, September 5th.

Commissioner Christine Peters was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with the Clinton County Office for the Aging” and “Authorizing Contract with the Town of Clinton.”

Ms. Peters also discussed a Warming Center, area hotels and homelessness.

Resolutions #635 through #639 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was present to provide an update on the public hearing held for the New York State Office of Housing and Community Renewal Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Grant Program.

Dave Randall, the Director of Information Technology, was in attendance to discuss three resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract Extension with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services” and “Authorizing Contract with the City of Plattsburgh.”

Mr. Randall also discussed phone paging.

Resolutions #640 through #642 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, October 11th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 6th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract Extension with Lumsden & McCormick, LLP. Ms. Davis also discussed sales tax.

Garry Douglas, Kristy Kennedy and Alyssa Senecal, of the North Country Chamber of Commerce, were in attendance to present the Chamber’s 2024 Marketing Plan.

The resolution, “Approving State Aid Application for the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce” was approved by the Committee.

Resolutions #643 through #645 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, September 6th.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was in attendance to discuss the Local Services Plan. Ms. Gregory also discussed three Community Services Board resolutions.

Jeff Sisson, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Teletask, Inc.” and “Authorizing Contract with Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.”

Mr. Sisson also discussed the Director’s Report, the Health Department Report and the Breastfeeding in the Community NACCHO Publication featuring Kayleigh Raville, Supervising Public Health Educator.

Resolutions #646 through #652 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 5th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #653 through #655 on the agenda.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 3rd at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, September 11th.

Sarah Cayea, the Deputy Personnel Director, was present to discuss the revisions to the Clinton County Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy in the Workplace.

Resolutions #656 through #666 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Air Service Minimum Revenue Guarantee Agreement" and "Authorizing the Airport-Wide Access Gate Control and Security Upgrades (Design) Project Revised Grant Application."

Resolutions #667 through #674 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Resolutions #700 and #701 have also been placed on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Castine, Mr. Zurlo reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, September 11th.

Andrew Wylie, the District Attorney, and Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, were present to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing Contract with KB Solutions" and "Authorizing Contract with SUNY Plattsburgh College Auxiliary Services."

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, was in attendance to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing 2023 Statewide Interoperable Communications Targeted Grant Program Application and Acceptance" and "Authorizing 2023 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations Grant Program Application and Acceptance."

Chad Deans, the Coroner, and Jennifer Facticeau-Rabideau, the Deputy Coroner, presented on the resolution, "Authorizing a Written Mutual Aid Agreement for Coroner Services."

Resolutions #675 through #686 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 2nd at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, September 18th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #687 and #688 on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Board of Health met on Monday, September 18th and the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee (STPC) meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 21st was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 9:00 a.m.

Clinton Community College – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio stated the Board of Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, September 26th at 5:00 p.m. Legislator Bezio welcomed his friends and colleagues in the audience from Clinton Community College.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Committee met on Friday, September 15th at the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference in Verona, New York. The guest speaker was Jennifer Wightman of the School of Integrative Plant Science Soil and Crop Sciences of Cornell University.

Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Forward Together Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 25th in Lake Placid and requested if anyone is interested in attending to please let him know.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the health insurance buyout pre-open enrollment begins on Monday, September 25th and the Personnel Office will be visiting various departments to assist with any questions.

He also stated the Legislative Office received new COVID-19 tests with new expirations dates and to reach out if anyone is needing any.

Mr. Zurlo provided an update on the sale of the Clinton County Nursing Home noting he spoke with the Principle of the Purchasing Entity and has been assured the application will be heard by the Public Heath and Planning Counsel at its next meeting and then hopefully for full consideration in November.

Mr. Zurlo noted he is currently meeting with Department Heads to review budgets for 2024. He understands the Legislature's desire to keep the tax levy as stable as possible.

Mr. Zurlo closed by thanking the Legislature for affording him the opportunity to serve as NYSAC President this past year. The role has now been handed over to Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy. Mr. Zurlo will continue to serve on the NYSAC Board for one additional year.

Chairpersons Report

The Chairperson did not have a report.

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

Resolution #631 titled, "Adopting the Clinton Community College Budget" was motioned by Legislator Bezio and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-1-1).

Discussion: Legislator Waldron voted in the negative noting this is due to enrollment numbers.

Resolution #632 titled, "Adopting Local Law #2 of 2023 titled, "Amending Local Law #1 of 2010 titled, "Authorizing a Real Property Tax Exemption to Qualified Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Legislator Peryea inquired how much tax exemption this amounts to per firefighter. Mr. Zurlo responded he believes \$500 but an individual cannot have this exemption and the personal income tax exemption. Mr. Zurlo noted New York State changed this law and in turn, the local law needed to be amended. Mr. Zurlo stated he would check with the Real Property Director Tammy Lacey to find out the exemption amount.

Resolutions #633 through #665 were approved.

Resolution #666 titled, "Approving Policy Revision to the Clinton County Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy in the Workplace" was motioned by Legislator Kretser and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo noted Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, worked with Ms. Kelleher on updating the County's policy to ensure compliance with New York State regulations. Ms. Kelleher noted updating the policy will occur every four years.

Resolution #667 titled, "Authorizing the Installation of the Passenger Boarding Bridge Gate Two (Construction) Project Revised Grant Application" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo noted C & S Engineers, Inc. discovered the County is eligible for a local share of 2.5 percent and this resolution, along with the two following resolutions, will be for revised grant applications reflecting the change in the local share.

Resolutions #668 through #670 were approved.

Resolution #671 titled, "Authorizing Lease Extension with Northern NY Driving Academy" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Discussion: Legislator Potiker abstained.

Resolutions #672 through #690 were approved.

Resolution #691 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for 2023 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Various Program Grants" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Discussion: Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #692 through #698 were approved.

Resolution #699 titled, "Resolution Approving the Issuance of Certain Obligations by the County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency to Finance a Certain Project for Beekman Towers LLC" was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated he sent a memo to the Legislature from the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) counsel. Since this body established the CCIDA many years ago, the Legislature has to approve the issuance of bond transactions of the Board. Mr. Zurlo noted this has been done on multiple occasions and there is no liability whatsoever, as this is part of the General Municipal Law. This is for the refurbishment of Beekman Towers facility for several million dollars.

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

Resolution #700 titled, "Authorizing Contract Amendment with Volaire Aviation, Inc." was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this came to light due to the fact that the current arrangement with Volaire Aviation, Inc. affords remuneration for each new destination. This resolution now caps the amount paid to Volaire Aviation, Inc.

Resolution #701 was approved.

Mr. Zurlo welcomed the newest Sheriff's Deputy Skylar Morales to the Legislature.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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