

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 14, 2011

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, February 8, 2012 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Robert Butler, Area 6
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3
John Gallagher, Area 9
Robert Heins, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
James Langley, Jr., Chairperson, Area 7
Harry McManus, Area 1
Sara Rowden, Area 4

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
William Favreau, County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Langley 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 Heins offered a motion to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2012 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Dyer. (Carried 10-0-0).

Legislator Butler presented the \$500 Off Track Betting Scholarship Award to Stephanie Howard, a former graduate of Plattsburgh High School, to support her efforts at Clinton Community College.

Chairperson Langley asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Legislature. Jim Coursen, Vice President of CSEA Local 884, and a resident of Grace Avenue, Plattsburgh spoke regarding the sale of the Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) license to Health Care of Rochester (HCR). He stated the membership was opposed to the sale, and this issue was heavily debated, but was respectfully handled by both sides. In the interest of the patients that receive home health care services, the County and CSEA have worked very hard to provide a seamless transition from County-provided home health care services to services provided by HCR. The Legislature has a resolution on the agenda this evening for the Memorandum of Agreement with CSEA regarding the staffing agreement with HCR. He encouraged the Legislature to vote for this resolution. He thanked County Administrator Michael Zurlo, Labor Relations Specialist Jaci Kelleher and Personnel Director Alan Gibson for all of their hard work.

Clinton County Board of Election Commissioners Greg Campbell and Susan Castine explained the 2012 estimated costs for elections at the municipal level and the efforts to attempt to reduce the costs in order to save local municipalities funding. Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Castine noted that the number of election districts County-wide have been reduced from 70 to 53. Polling sites have been reduced from 41 to 32. Printing costs, as well as personnel costs have been reduced by approximately 50 percent (which results in an approximate savings of \$136,000). Savings to the towns ranged from 35 to 54 percent.

Legislators commended the Board of Elections Commissioners for saving money for the taxpayers of Clinton County.

There being no further speakers, Chairperson Langley called for standing committee and liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Samuel Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet Thursday, February 9th at 5:15 p.m.

County Operations Committee – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the County Operations Committee met Tuesday, February 7th at 6:15 p.m. The Board of Elections Commissioners also gave a presentation at last night's County Operations Committee meeting.

John Zurlo, the County Clerk, discussed a shared-services grant with the City of Plattsburgh which they have applied for.

Real Property Director Martine Gonyo discussed the 2012 Residential Level of Assessment and possible State legislative changes that would affect the STAR Program.

The next County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th at 6:15 p.m.

Finance Committee – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported the Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, February 15th, at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Jonathan Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee met Thursday, February 2nd at 5:15 p.m. Legislator Beach commended Mr. Zurlo, the Health Department and Mental Health Department on briefing him on current activities.

The next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Pete Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee met Tuesday, February 7th at 5:15 p.m. Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans' Service Agency, has been active in providing numerous services to Clinton County veterans. Mr. Bowman continues to pursue a Veterans' Cemetery in Clinton County.

Crystal Carter, the Director of the Office for the Aging, presented Resolutions #84 through #88 which are included on the agenda. Ms. Carter reviewed fourth quarter Grant reports for 2011.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, discussed the New York State Department of Health Article 28 and Medicare/Medicaid Survey, as well as the status of the Sprinkler Project at the Nursing Home.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – John Gallagher

Legislator Gallagher reported the Personnel Committee has not met in 2012. The next meeting of the Personnel Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14th at 5:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Robert Heins

Legislator Heins reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met in 2012. There is one resolution on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2, Resolution #117, which will authorize a contract with Butler Fencing to assist with the parking lot expansion. Mr. Zurlo stated this is not temporary expansion for just a month or so, this expansion will be for several years until the Terminal Building expands. The Airport is anticipating parking at maximum capacity by the last week of February, first week of March. The fees generated by this additional parking will far exceed the amount of money that will be spent on the Parking Lot Expansion Project.

Mr. Zurlo reported Chairperson Langley, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown and Airport Manager Chris Kreig will be travelling to Garden City, New York on Thursday, February 9th to meet with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Airport District Office (ADO) officials to discuss funding opportunities for expansion at Plattsburgh International Airport.

Public Safety Committee – Robert Butler

Legislator Butler reported the Public Safety Committee will meet Monday, February 13th at 5:15 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Harry McManus

Legislator McManus reported the Transportation Committee met Monday, February 6th at 5:15 p.m. There are five resolutions on the agenda for the Highway Department this evening.

The Committee was provided with a brief overview of Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) operations, its history, bus schedules and travel routes. Two resolutions are included on the agenda for CCPT.

Legislator McManus reported the Committee discussed information regarding ridership figures and finances which led to discussions regarding possible changes to combat budget deficits. Rodney Brown, Planning Director, distributed information regarding potential changes in bus routes and how it may remedy the budget shortfall for 2011. The Committee decided to cancel the March Transportation Committee meeting in order to wait for supplemental figures which will be received in late March to see where the shortfall stands. These changes may have an affect on CCPT operations and bus routes. These proposed changes will be further discussed at the April 9th Transportation Committee meeting. All Legislators are invited to attend.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Sara Rowden

Legislator Rowden reported that the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee will meet Friday, February 10, 2012.

Clinton Community College – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported he will be meeting with President John Jablonski at Clinton Community College next week.

Inter-County Legislative Committee – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported the next Inter-County Legislative Committee meeting will be held Thursday, February 16th in Essex County.

LC/LG Regional Planning Board – Mark Dame

Legislator Dame reported he has not received information from the LC/LG Regional Planning Board. Mr. Zurlo will contact Walt Young, the Director, and request that information be forwarded to him.

Soil and Water Conservation Board – Sam Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the Soil and Water Conservation Board will meet in two weeks.

Staff Reports

County Administrator's Report

Mr. Zurlo reported he would like to request an Executive Session to discuss a matter of collective negotiations.

Deputy County Administrator's Report

Mr. Brown reported there is a round of funding available for residential buyouts as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. There were a few residential homeowners who have expressed an interest in the Federal buyout program. The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) will be holding a public briefing on Thursday, February 16th at 7 p.m. in the Jay Community center, 11 School Lane, Ausable Forks, New York. FEMA will explain the program and its eligibility requirements for interested homeowners and businesses. Individuals and businesses cannot apply directly for funding, the County must be the one submitting applications on their behalf. These must be primary/secondary residences or businesses that are located in the

flood plain and have received at least 50 percent in damages to the value of their property as a result of Tropical Storm Irene. Mr. Brown explained that any property that is bought out, the house is demolished and a conservation easement on the property is filed, thereby prohibiting anyone from building on the property in the future.

Chairperson Langley reported all Legislators received a list of potential properties that may be up for the Tax Auction. There are approximately 14 properties that are still occupied and will be up for the Tax Auction.

There being no further reports, Chairperson Langley moved onto resolutions. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted unless otherwise noted.

Resolution #64 through #114 were unanimously adopted.

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

Resolutions #115 through #117 were unanimously adopted.

Legislator Gallagher motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. to discuss a matter of collective negotiations, seconded by Legislator Butler. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 8:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislators Gallagher, Langley, Butler, Heins and Rowden moved Resolution #118, seconded by Legislators Beach, McManus, Dyer, Keenan and Dame. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

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