

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

August 23, 2012

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, August 22, 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  
Robert Heins, Area 10  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
James Langley, Jr., Chairperson, Area 7  
Harry McManus, Area 1  
Sara Rowden, Deputy Chairperson, Area 4

EXCUSED: John Gallagher, Area 9

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Brian Snell, Assistant County Attorney  
Katherine Brown, Senior Stenographer

Chairperson Langley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. Legislator Gallagher had asked to be excused.

Legislator Butler offered a motion to accept the minutes of the August 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Dyer. (Carried 9-0-1).

A public hearing was conducted on the 2012-2013 Clinton Community College budget. Legislator Beach offered a motion to open the public hearing at 7:06 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dyer. There being no speakers, Legislator Dyer motioned to close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Heins. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Langley asked if anyone present wished to address the Legislature.

Chairperson Langley recognized Dave Siskavich, a resident of Clinton County. Mr. Siskavich addressed the Legislature regarding the possibility of the County establishing a recreational trail system throughout Clinton County. Mr. Siskavich stated he has attended a few meetings in Franklin County regarding this, and they are willing to help Clinton County duplicate what they are doing. Mr. Siskavich stated the District Manager of the Soil and Water Conservation District in Franklin County is the head of the Franklin County Recreational Trails Association and is willing to talk to the County Legislature. Mr. Siskavich stated this would be a great economic opportunity for Clinton County to link up a trail system with Franklin County. He is willing to volunteer his time to work on this. Mr. Zurlo advised Mr. Siskavich that he has met with a representative from the Adirondack Trail Riders Club, as well as representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and he is aware of the infrastructure that exists in Franklin County. Mr. Zurlo stated the County Legislature has heard a presentation from a Club that is actively pursuing a trail system and would be happy to review his material. Mr. Zurlo stated he has spoken to a representative from Senator Little's Office due to the increasing level of support in the western portion of the County where the railroad bed exists.

Chairperson Langley recognized Jay LePage, the Clinton County Commissioner of Social Services. Mr. LePage addressed the Legislature regarding Resolution #645 on the agenda titled, "Authorizing the Chairperson to Respond to the New York State Department of Health Statement of Interest." Mr. LePage stated at the August 6, 2012 Children and Family Services Committee meeting, he and Deputy Commissioner John Redden explained Medicaid administration in New York State and was asked to attend the August 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session to answer any questions the Legislature might have. He stated since 2005, Medicaid administration has been fully funded by the State and is one of the few in which the County receives 100 percent funding. The State is now planning to take over Medicaid administration from the counties by March, 2018 by either utilizing State employees, contracting with counties or private companies. Mr. LePage stated the State Legislature passed a law whereby the New York State Commissioner of Health is to reach out to counties to see what role County Governments want to play in Medicaid administration by the completion of a New York State Department of Health Statement of Interest survey. Mr. LePage suggested the County state it wishes to continue its role in Medicaid administration. Chairperson Langley stated the point of the resolution is to explain why the Legislature should answer the questions in the affirmative with authorization from the Board. Legislator Dame stated in general, Medicaid has been a noose around our neck. Mr. Zurlo stated the administration thereof has been the issue, not the Program.

Chairperson Langley asked if there was anyone else who wished to address the Legislature. There being no one further, Chairperson Langley called for standing committee and liaison reports.

### **Committee Reports**

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

Legislator Dyer reported there is a minor issue at the Nursing Home with regard to piping which is being addressed. Resolutions #644 and #673 are included on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

#### **Children and Family Services – Legislator Heins**

Legislator Heins reported the Children and Family Services Committee met Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Resolution #645 is included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

#### **County Operations Committee – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the next meeting of the County Operations Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Finance Committee – Legislator Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported the next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. She stated the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce will make its 2013 budget presentation to the Committee.

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

Legislator Heins reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met prior to Regular Session. Resolutions #647 through #649 are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. PenAir representatives were present to discuss marketing plans. A construction update on Airport projects was provided by C & S Engineers, Inc.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Butler**

Legislator Butler reported the Public Safety Committee met Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

The July, 2012 Public Safety Report for Traffic Safety and the Quarterly Grant Status Report for the Probation Department were provided to the Committee.

Resolutions #650 through #661 are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Legislator Butler reported Essex and Franklin Counties have elected not to participate in the purchase of the Bookmobile from the C-E-F Library System. He hopes it does not take a disaster to realize that we should have done something when we didn't. The Bookmobile is back in the hands of the Library. Legislator Butler stated he and Emergency Services Director Eric Day will meet with the C-E-F Library System Board on Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss this further. Legislator Butler indicated there is

now an issue where the Library is caught in the middle with concerns for its budget on the part of Franklin County. He stated he has discussed with the Sheriff the possibility of using asset seizure money to fund some of the investment, if it goes through. He further stated this is a small amount to pay for a vehicle of this magnitude. This could protect the interest, health and safety of constituents and hopefully the right move will be made to make this happen.

Legislator Dame stated he would like to defend the County's neighbors to the west and south. He stated Essex and Franklin Counties are in a different situation than Clinton County. This County has been more fortunate in its sales tax base; Essex and Franklin Counties have been struggling for quite some time due to a lack of tax base. Legislator Dame stated the Legislature might be somewhat naïve to think the Bookmobile might cost only \$1,500 or \$2,000 a year. He also stated he does not believe anyone from Emergency Preparedness has demonstrated an emergency where this command center would have saved life or property. Legislator Dame stated he believes Essex and Franklin Counties have taken a hard look at this and made the best decision they could have for their constituents.

Legislator McManus stated it is one thing for Essex and Franklin Counties to make these decisions independently for themselves. They have gone a step further and have said they will go back to the Library Board and reduce their funding because they did not sell the Bookmobile. If they force the Library Board to withdraw the Bookmobile completely and sell it, it could potentially affect the entire project and the safety of the people in Clinton County.

Legislator Butler stated we all need to work together. He stated he does recognize the economic concerns of all three counties. However, for something so minimal, we need to take a good look at this.

Chairperson Langley asked Legislator Butler to report back to the Legislature at the September 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Session regarding the outcome of his August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with the C-E-F Library System Board.

Mr. Zurlo noted the resolution that Clinton County adopted expressing its support for the takeover of the Bookmobile explicitly connected its support based on the other two Counties' support. If the decision is to continue to move forward, it will require another action by the Board. Chairperson Langley stated if the Library decides not to withdraw the sale of the Bookmobile and offers it to Clinton County, the Legislature will need some numbers with regard to the cost for rehab, maintenance and payment.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

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

Legislator McManus reported when "The Complete Streets" resolution was approved by the Legislature on July 11, 2012, it was discussed it would be shared with our constituents. To date, Legislator McManus has made three presentations in the Northern Tier. He urged Legislators to attend Town and Village Board meetings to explain the program.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Liaison Reports**

### **Clinton Community College – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported a public hearing on the proposed 2012-2013 budget for Clinton Community College was held earlier this evening. Resolution #643 on the agenda will adopt the budget.

Legislator Dame reported the beginning of the Fall 2012 semester commences next week.

### **Cooperative Extension – Legislator McManus**

Legislator McManus reported Cooperative Extension met on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. He reported the Legislature's Agricultural Tour is scheduled for Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The tour will consist of a wind power station in Ellenburg, New York along with Latremore's Poultry and Duprey Feeds in Chazy, New York. Lunch will be provided at Miner Institute in Chazy, New York and will be catered by the Amazing Grace Vineyard and Winery and Vesco Ridge Winery.

Legislator McManus reported Cooperative Extension has applied for a CDC Community Transformation Grant. If awarded, the Grant will be used to provide one year of funding for a full-time Coordinator for Cooperative Extension and the County Health Department to coordinate healthy lifestyle habits in the North Country.

Legislator McManus reported Cooperative Extension's 2013 budget was reviewed. It will be presented to the County in September. A budget shortfall does exist, and a request for a small increase in funding may be made.

Legislator Butler reported last week, Highway Superintendent Al Rascoe and County Attorney William Favreau, met with Town of Black Brook Board officials in Albany, New York to come to resolution regarding the ownership of the Nelson Road, which the County has been maintaining. The Town will now maintain this road, as well as two streets in AuSable Forks. The County will continue to maintain the Palmer Street connection road. This is a positive outcome for the County and final resolution of road ownership.

### **Board of Health – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Soil and Water – Legislator Dyer**

Legislator Dyer reported he and Legislator Rowden attended a meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation District last week. The Natural Resource Conservation Service is working closely with Soil and Water. The hydro seeder is being used in Saranac, New York. The two plastic agriculture balers are being utilized around the County. "A Day on the Farm" event was held at the LaPierre Farm in Chazy, New York on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success.

Legislator Rowden reported Soil and Water's 2013 budget was reviewed and approved. It will be presented to the County in September with no request for additional funding.

### Staff Reports

Assistant County Attorney Brian Snell stated he had no report.

Mr. Zurlo stated he had no report.

There being no further business, Chairperson Langley moved onto Resolutions. The following resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #643 through #669 were approved.

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

Resolutions #670 through #673 were approved.

Chairperson Langley asked if there was anything further to come before the Legislature. There being no further business, Legislator Heins motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dyer. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine A. Brown  
Senior Stenographer