

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 16, 2019

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, December 11, 2019 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Simon Conroy, Area 4
Mark Dame, Area 8
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Area 3
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Area 1, Chairperson
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq., County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson McManus 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 Rosenquest motioned to accept the minutes of the November 26, 2019 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus announced there would be a public hearing regarding Clinton County's development needs and possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2019 program year. He asked the Clerk of the Board, Michael Zurlo, to read the notice of public hearing. (A copy is attached and made part of the minutes).

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to open the public hearing at 7:03 p.m., seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (10-0-0).

Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator, provided a summary of the CDBG application for the public hearing. He noted it was the intent of Clinton County to submit a Grant application in the amount of \$400,000 under the Community Development Block Grant Homeownership Program. The purpose of this program is to assist low and moderate income individuals and families with the costs to purchase and rehabilitate, if necessary, a home. Clinton County has received and successfully administered a total of seven Homeownership Grants since 2003, assisting in approximately 118 home closings. The current Grant, if awarded, is expected to support the purchase of approximately 15 homes. The Grant submission deadline is December 18, 2019.

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature on this issue. There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to close the public hearing at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Geoffrey Barker of Plattsburgh, New York addressed the Legislature regarding several concerns at the Plattsburgh International Airport. A copy of Mr. Barker's comments are attached and made part of the minutes.

There being no one further who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson McManus moved on to Committee reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met Monday, December 9th.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, was present and reported on the Government Center parking lot project. The project has successfully been completed.

Resolutions #979 and #980 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Children and Family Services Committee met Tuesday, December 3rd.

John Redden, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, was present to discuss Resolutions #981 through #992 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier in the evening.

Joel Wood of the North Country Chamber of Commerce provided a presentation on the North American Center for Excellence for Transportation Equipment, otherwise known as NAmTrans.

Justin Ihne, the Director of the Plattsburgh YMCA, submitted an out-of-cycle request for Tobacco Settlement Funds in the amount of \$5,000 to fund the first phase of a feasibility study. He noted they were requesting this funding out of the normal cycle due to the timing of the project and study. The study will determine the demand/supply for various activities that could be provided by the YMCA in Clinton County and evaluating existing possibilities for providing those activities which may include construction of a new building or repurposing of existing buildings. This request was approved, and a resolution will be presented at the December 23, 2019 Regular Session.

Renee McFarlin, the Director of Economic Development, provided the Committee with a report of recent activities.

Legislator Conroy suggested the former County Airport property be renamed "Advanced Manufacturing Park (AMP)."

Finance Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported a public hearing on the 2020 Tentative County Budget was held Wednesday, December 4th.

Resolution #975 on the agenda will adopt the budget, Resolution #976 will authorize 2020 funding with budget-approved contract agencies and #977 will establish Northern Insuring as the Broker of Record for 2020 Property and Casualty Insurance.

Resolution #993 will authorize the application of the Clinton County Land Bank.

Health Committee - Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Health Committee met Tuesday, December 3rd.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss Resolutions #994 through #997.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss Resolutions #998 through Resolution #1002. Mr. Kanoza also discussed the Director's Report for October, 2019; the Health Department Report for October, 2019; the MOU regarding Mutual Aid for Surge Capacity; and Public Health Preparedness and Action for Health.

Human Services Committee - Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #1003 through #1006.

Personnel Committee - Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Personnel Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 2nd was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #1007 through #1012 which are on the agenda.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #1013 which is on the agenda. The Committee also recommended Resolution #1036 under Waive Rule 13.2 be placed on the agenda.

The next meeting will be held Monday, December 23rd at 5:15 p.m.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 9th was cancelled.

Resolutions #1014 through #1017 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Transportation Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 9th was cancelled.

Resolutions #1018 through #1022 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Liaison Reports

Board of Health – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the December meeting has been cancelled.

Community Services Board – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Community Services Board did not meet. However, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County (SPARCC) Committee met. The main focus was on bail reform and how it will affect Mental Health and Addiction, as well as County jail operations.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks will be holding two meetings in January of 2020.

Soil and Water Conservation – Legislators Henry and Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next meeting will be held Thursday, December 19th.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq. and County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

There were no staff reports.

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

Resolutions #975 titled, “Adopting 2020 Clinton County Budget” was moved by Legislator Rosenquest and seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion: Legislator Dame thanked Mr. Zurlo and his staff for putting forth a solid budget which includes a miniscule property tax levy increase. He noted there are some challenges coming up in 2020.

Mr. Zurlo stated he appreciates legislator Dame's comments. Mr. Zurlo noted Lee Mitchell, the new Accountant, has done a tremendous job, and staff in the Treasurer's Office have been extremely helpful, as well as Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown and Personnel Director Kimberly Kinblom.

Legislator Conroy stated the County is constantly looking for ways to provide services in a more efficient way. He stated the County has been investing in quality of life and economic development. He sees this area growing.

Legislator McManus stated over his last twelve years serving on the County Legislature, the tax rate is now lower than when he was first elected. This is due to a number of factors. A lot of money has been invested in tourism and economic development which has affected sales tax in a very positive way. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #976 through #1012 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #1013 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with Adirondack Salt and Sand, LLC – Plattsburgh International Airport" was approved (9-0-0-1). Legislator Peryea abstained.

Resolutions #1014 through #1035 were approved.

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

Resolutions #1036 and #1037 were approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone had anything further for the Legislature.

Legislator Rosenquest thanked Mr. Zurlo and staff for presenting a solid budget. He noted he has asked to be excused from the December 23, 2019 Regular Session as he would be traveling for the holiday. He thanked Chairperson McManus for his guidance over the last several years. He stated Chairperson McManus has taught him several things: to build consensus, to remain open-minded and to stay level-headed. Legislator Rosenquest stated he appreciates the Chairperson's leadership and his personal and professional advice.

Legislator Hall stated he needed to address some of the comments that had been made earlier regarding Plattsburgh International Airport. Legislator Hall wanted to get on the record to clarify some of the comments of Mr. Barker. Legislator Hall stated the figures presented by Mr. Barker were not accurate. Sky West, which goes under the United banner, flies to Washington D.C. and has done tremendous in Clinton County, and they have done an excellent job. The County will be going out to bid for Essential Air Service, and he hopes they bid it again. There are some financial issues at the Airport, and every day, they are working to try and make more money for Plattsburgh International Airport. The County is doing the best they can, and they will continue to make Plattsburgh International Airport better.

Legislator Conroy stated he concurred with Legislator Hall's comments. He feels Plattsburgh International Airport has become an anchor in the County's growth.

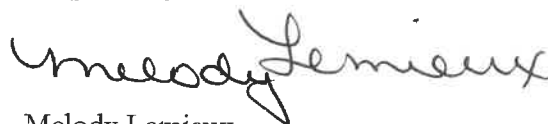
On behalf of Legislative Area Six, Legislator Waldron thanked Mr. Zurlo for the fine job he does for the County.

Mr. Zurlo stated we are surrounded by a great team of people and department heads who do an excellent job. He stated Clinton County has a very dedicated workforce.

Chairperson McManus also commented on the figures which were presented by Mr. Barker earlier in the evening. Plattsburgh International Airport has been a tremendous success for Clinton County. He stated a lot of the credit goes to Legislator Hall who is the Chairperson of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee. He hopes at some point, the media has an opportunity to talk with Legislator Hall and Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown to discuss some of the inaccurate figures which were presented earlier in the evening.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

:ML

LEGAL NOTICE

Public Hearing Notice

Clinton County will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at a meeting of the Clinton County Legislature in the Legislative Chambers located at Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street, second floor, in Plattsburgh, New York for the purpose of hearing public comments on Clinton County's community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2019 program year.

The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$10 million for the 2019 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. The hearing will provide further information about the CDBG program and will allow for citizen participation in the development of any proposed grant applications and/or to provide technical assistance to develop alternate proposals.

Comments on the CDBG program or proposed project(s) will be received at this time. The hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 570.486, Subpart I of the CFR and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, those with hearing impairments, or those in need of translation from English, those individuals should contact Rodney Brown, Clinton County Deputy Administrator at 518-565-4600 or Clinton County Government Center, 137 Margaret Street – Suite 208, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 at least one week in advance of the hearing date to allow for necessary arrangements. Written comments may also be submitted to Rodney Brown until December 13, 2019.

I am here to address and have you consider several county matters with an interest in improvement, accountability, and transparency with respect to county expenditures.

Recent articles have identified this area as “depressed” allowing for a large infusion of tax money projects. I understand this includes \$42 million in NY funds to build an International Cargo Facility. To me this is not wise use of our money since the current domestic cargo facility with the high costs of air freight is underutilized and unproven except for a small air freight feeder for FedEx. And as you are aware air freight is very expensive. For example ground shipment of recent car goods from Georgia costs me \$169 whereas air freight would cost \$1746 Very few businesses can afford these extremely high costs. And to label us as a “suburb of Montreal” is very risky and farfetched considering the pitfalls such as distance, laws, and the MCA that can make this plan a liability for us tax payers.

Perhaps we are indeed a suburb of Burlington which would explain the low load performance of subsidized SkyWest Airlines, our only essential hub feeder compared to the many flight options at Burlington. For example, for the first 8 months of this year, the official load factor for SkyWest here is a poor 55 percent with a target of about 82 percent considered healthy.

My research indicates that the 2019 annual county operating budget for the airport is a revised \$8.2 million and for 2020 a tentative \$8.8 million with a total county budget of \$174.7 million. The residents are entitled to know what the revenue generated to offset this is, such as passenger ticket fees, parking, and lease fees, etc. For example is Canadian money taken on par, and what is the percentage earned by Republic Parking We are entitled to know how the airport business model is performing for the taxpayer such as net gain or loss since it is considered a “business”.

Likewise, it will be a hard sell to attract an international passenger carrier to this uncontrolled limited feed airport. Also, twelve thousand annual enplanements may be hard to fulfill, thus increasing the operating costs to the taxpayers. To read that this county has set aside “reserve funds” to cover these costs is disturbing. Certainly many of our area residents can use such monies outside of this gamble on airport operations as identified herein. Further Spirit Airlines offers us a large international hub at the Fort Lauderdale Airport for those wishing to so utilize.

Clinton Community College could use the support of this Legislature to encourage more fully-matriculated students. Perhaps an agreement with many of the local industries to permit flexible part time work will ensure this avenue of fully qualified employees.

Lastly, with the influx of many truck operations on our roadways perhaps the county can encourage certain route systems to mitigate traffic, noise, and roadway wear. Call it Standard Truck Application Route System, similar to how airlines arrive at noise sensitive airports.

I would like to give my support to Legislator Mark Dame for Chairman and I submit this writing so the secretary can accurately recall the points set forth herein.

Thank you.

Geoffrey B. Barker,
Plattsburgh, NY

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS57 *Discount Exempt <small>Not eligible for free shipping Ships directly from the manufacturer</small> F-R Fuel Return	\$75.11	\$75.11	1	\$75.11	\$0.00
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS49 *Discount Exempt <small>Item ships free to the 48 contiguous states Arriving Soon</small> 2 lower rear axle	\$34.11	\$34.11	1	\$34.11	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RS5 *Discount Exempt <small>Not eligible for free shipping Ships directly from the manufacturer</small> F Brakelane set	\$75.11	\$75.11	1	\$75.11	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 182N <small>Item ships free to the 48 contiguous states In Stock - Item usually ships within 24 to 48 hours</small> upper central arm bumper	\$7.99	\$7.99	2	\$15.98	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 183N <small>Item ships free to the 48 contiguous states In Stock - Item usually ships within 24 to 48 hours</small> lower central arm bumper	\$8.93	\$8.93	2	\$17.86	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K2003 <small>Not eligible for free shipping In Stock - Item usually ships within 24 to 48 hours</small> Front valveance (caps oversize)	\$109.11	\$109.11	1	\$109.11	\$0.00

Summary	(8 items)
Retail	\$472.32
Savings	(\$0.00)
Sub Total	\$472.32
Tax	▲
Shipping & Handling	▲
Your Total	\$472.32
Zip Code:	12901
Estimate Shipping	
Shipping Estimates Are:	
Ground:	\$169.55
2nd Day Air:	\$868.16
Next Day Air:	\$1,764.49

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PACT #5