

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 16, 2016

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New
York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Area 3
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
Harry McManus, Chairperson, Area 1
Colin Read, Area 4
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, 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 Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the January 27th Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Dyer. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Sylvie Nelson, Executive Director of the North Country Workforce Development Board, provided a brief presentation regarding the recent changes in the policy implemented by the Workforce Investment Board. Ms. Nelson stated the North Country Workforce Development Board represents Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Hamilton Counties. The North Country Workforce Development Board will be focusing on working with Clinton Community College, North Country Community College, SUNY Plattsburgh, Clarkson University, school districts, BOCES and CV-TEC. They will also be reaching out to non-traditional partners such as the Housing Authority, the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity (JCEO), the United Way, the Salvation Army, law enforcement agencies, court systems, veterans and disabled agencies, etc.

Legislator Read thanked Ms. Nelson for all of her efforts.

Mr. Zurlo noted all Legislators will be provided with a copy of the Strategic Plan.

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

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met earlier at 5:15 p.m.

The Committee discussed the ongoing project at 130 Arizona Avenue and the next cycle in the Master Plan.

Legislator Read invited all Legislators to attend the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 13th meeting which will be held at 130 Arizona Avenue. It is anticipated the renovations will be half way complete at that point.

Mr. Zurlo reported a construction meeting for the 130 Arizona Avenue Renovation Project was held earlier this morning. The completion date is already one month ahead of where we had originally anticipated.

The next meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at 5:15 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Children and Family Services Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 4th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #51 through #53 which are included on the agenda.

County Operations Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the County Operations Committee met earlier at 6:00 p.m.

Resolutions #54 through #58 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. The Committee was apprised of the ongoing method for assessing properties in various municipalities.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Economic Development Committee will meet next Tuesday, February 16th at 6:30 p.m. Paul Grasso, President and CEO of The Development Corporation and Garry Douglas, President and CEO of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce will be in attendance. Legislator Rosenquest encouraged all Legislators to attend.

Finance Committee – Legislator Dame

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee met Wednesday, February 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, provided an update on sales tax.

Representatives from the Saranac Elementary School provided a presentation for an out-of-cycle Tobacco Settlement funding request for a Back Pack Program. This Program will provide nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods to students who are in poverty and often have little to eat over the weekends.

Resolutions #59 through #61 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee met Thursday, February 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Peter Trout, the Director of Community Services, reviewed the January, 2016 Accounts Receivable Report. Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, reviewed the Quarterly Grant Report, the Health Department Report and the Director's Report.

Resolutions #62 through #72 are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, February 3rd.

Wendie Bishop, the Administrator of the Clinton County Nursing Home, discussed the New York State Department of Health Survey.

Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, reviewed December and January monthly statistics, the VA Disability Claims System and future events.

Resolutions #73 through #79 are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 2nd following the Finance Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the Personnel Committee met on Monday, February 8th at 5:15 and thoroughly reviewed twenty items. All reclassifications represent a zero County cost and should result in savings.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported he has been assured the first escalator will be delivered October 3rd and the second will be delivered by October 17th. Both escalators will be installed by completion of the Airport Terminal Building Expansion Project. There will be no delay due to escalators.

Legislator Hall reported bids for Essential Air Service were opened Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Penn Air was the sole bidder. The County is being told the reason other airlines did not submit a bid was due to the weak Canadian dollar and if this were to improve, they would be interested in flying out of Plattsburgh.

The next meeting of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee will be held Wednesday, February 24th at 5:15 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the Public Safety Committee will meet Monday, February 22nd at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Transportation Committee will meet Monday, February 22nd at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the January meeting was cancelled. The Chamber of Commerce's annual legislative breakfast will be held Friday, February 26th.

Clinton Community College – Legislators Dame and Rosenquest

Legislator Dame reported the Board of Trustees will be meeting next Tuesday, February 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson McManus reported he, Legislators Dame and Rosenquest will be meeting Wednesday, February 17th at 12:45 to discuss potential candidates for the Board of Trustees. He stated if Legislators had potential candidates, to please let them know.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons met with Mary Breyette, Executive Director of Cooperative Extension, to discuss recent activities. Ms. Breyette will be checking into potential additional funding for the Back Pack Program which was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting.

Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported there have been two meetings of the Intercounty Legislative Committee since the last meeting. Mike Talbolt of Lewis County has been named the new Chairperson of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks.

The first meeting was held in Lowville, New York. Fernando Vaquero of Kraft Heinz was the guest speaker. Kraft Heinz will be expanding its business, making cream cheese and string cheese utilizing local dairy farms. The expansion will cost \$135 million and will hire an additional 443 employees at an hourly rate ranging from \$15 to \$25 per hour. They are experiencing difficulty finding skilled workforce and are trying to resolve that issue.

The second meeting was a Joint Intercounty meeting was held during the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference. Kevin King, the Director of Agriculture, Development and Markets was the guest speaker. Mr. King is promoting the Taste of New York Initiative which looks for places in New York counties to house and sell New York food products.

Soil and Water – Legislators Dyer and Timmons

Legislator Dyer noted Resolution #50 will reappoint Lance Rovers to the Soil and Water Conservation Board. Peter Hagar, District Manager, is working on several grants.

Legislator Timmons reported he has been elected Treasurer, and he has met with Mr. Hagar to go over financial reports.

Staff Reports

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 #50 through #59 were approved.

Resolution #60 titled, “Approving Strategic Planning Commission’s Recommendation to Expend Occupancy Tax Revenue – Legislature”

Discussion: Legislator Read stated the County Legislature pays \$440,000 by contract to the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce for marketing, and this amount is paid over and above that contract. Legislator Read asked what additional things the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce will be doing for this extra funding, and does the Chamber understand that next year, Occupancy Taxes may not be quite as strong. He asked if anyone knew how they would adjust their marketing plan.

Mr. Zurlo replied Kristy Kennedy, the Vice President of Marketing at the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, distributed a report earlier today regarding Occupancy Tax. Ms. Kennedy noted the Chamber realizes this amount is less than what they received last year and acknowledged this trend may continue due to the weak Canadian currency.

Resolution #61 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate and Transfer Funding from the Tobacco Reserve Fund” was moved by Legislators Keenan and Waldron, seconded by Legislator Hall.

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest noted Tobacco funds are typically matched by the requesting organization and noted there were no matching funds from Saranac Elementary for this specific program.

Legislator Dyer noted local produce is used for this program.

Carried (9-0-0-1). Legislator Dame abstained.

Resolutions #62 through #68 were approved.

Resolution #69 titled, “Authorizing Out-of-State Travel – Health Department” was moved by Legislator Beach, seconded by Legislator Rosenquest.

Discussion: Legislator Hall questioned this Resolution, and the subsequent, (Resolution #70) which authorizes out-of-state travel for the Health Department. He questioned why two employees were traveling to Dallas, Texas. Mr. Zurlo replied the national conference was being held in Dallas, Texas. Legislator Hall stated he sees that the travel is paid for by grant funding, but questioned if it was a necessity to send two people to the same conference. Legislator Hall stated he knows this budget is going to get tight in light of sales tax revenues, and he thinks the County needs to start watching such things now. Mr. Zurlo stated he cannot say it is a necessity, the Health Department makes a determination and approves what they think will benefit the department. It's not as simple if you don't spending grant funding, you can offset your budget with the funding. There are certain items in the grant that they are allowed to spend money on, you can't assume that money will be free to do other things that will offset levy dollars.

Legislator Dame stated he agreed with Legislator Hall that it's a foregone conclusion that the County budget will tighten up, and he agrees some of these travel arrangements that are made throughout the year probably are not necessary and are not 100 percent beneficial. He felt grant funding, many times, could be used to benefit the target population of the grant rather than supporting travel and seminars. He agrees the Legislature should be more cautious regarding travel.

Legislator Beach noted the second travel resolution is for emergency preparedness training focusing on Ebola and infectious diseases which we have already had cases in New York City. Legislator Beach stated it is necessary for two people to attend because the conference features dozens of breakout sessions and two participants could cover more material. Legislator Beach stated he'd rather have people attend and have the County be prepared.

Legislators Dyer and Waldron agreed stating the Health Department does a good job and serve as role models for other communities.

Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #70 through #100 were approved.

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

Resolution #101 was approved.

There being no further business, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Lemieux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "L".

Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer