

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

February 26, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 via teleconference, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ABSENT: Simon Conroy, Area 4

VACANT: Area 9

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim M. Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney
John Kanoza, Director of Public Health
Eric Day, Director of Emergency Services

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 202.91 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the public has the opportunity to attend the meeting via an audio link.

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Conroy was absent.

Legislator Potiker motioned to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-1-1).

The meeting format did not include public comment. Members of the public were asked to express their concerns/comments by emailing: legislature@clintoncountygov.com.

Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Michael Zurlo on behalf of Legislator Conroy

Mr. Zurlo stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, reported the department continues to disinfect all facilities daily and deep-clean departments that have had employees that have tested positive or are under quarantine.

He stated staff worked with Pipeline Mechanical performing an emergency repair of a leaking boiler at the 130 Arizona Avenue Mental Health Facility on Saturday, February 20th and the repair was successful, restoring heat by early evening.

He noted with the recent snow storm, the department has been busy clearing snow and ice from the parking lots and sidewalks. Mr. Cleveland extended a special thanks to Karl Weiss and his staff for hauling away the snow banks and supporting the Building and Grounds Department during cleanup of the storm.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 8th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

John Redden, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, stated the Office of Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA) advised that they are providing an additional \$343,429 in Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID (ESG-CV) for Clinton County. Friends of the North Country will be the grant recipient and will work in partnership with Social Services. The purpose of the funds are for eviction prevention for individuals/families that were unable to pay their rent/mortgage due to loss wages as a result of COVID. OTDA has not provided any additional information on procedures to administer this program - an informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd.

Public Assistance, Food Stamps and Medicaid caseloads remain fairly flat.

Child Protective Services continues to see an increase in Educational Neglect reports from the schools as a result of “virtual” or “hybrid” schooling - kids are not signing into school when home.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolutions #102 through #107 have been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendations.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 3rd at 5:15 p.m. via ZOOM.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Health Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

John Kanoza, the Public Health Director, and Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, are present to provide an update.

Mr. Kanoza stated the rate of new COVID-19 cases is steadily declining, with 24 new cases being reported on Tuesday, February 23rd. There are currently 173 active cases in the County and CVPH has 22 positive cases in their facility. He noted there were four additional COVID-19-related deaths.

Mr. Kanoza stated 100 second dose vaccinations were administered on Friday, February 19th as well as 106 second doses at the Clinton County Sheriff’s Department. He stated 600 new doses were received with 500 first doses being administered at the SUNY Plattsburgh Fieldhouse. The remaining 100 doses will be used to treat Office with Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) patients on Friday, February 26th.

Mr. Kanoza extended his appreciation to Sheriff David Favro and Clinton Community College President Ray DiPasquale for their great efforts for helping in a time of need (with the start of Spring sports at SUNY Plattsburgh, the Clinton County Health Department will need to extricate themselves from the Fieldhouse.) As such, as of March 1st, the Clinton Community College’s gymnasium will be utilized as the primary POD site.

Mr. Kanoza stated that Buck Bobbins, the State Representative, stated Clinton County is at the top of the list as far as distribution of the vaccines (along with Hamilton County) in the North Country.

Mr. Kanoza reported that CVS and Walgreen pharmacies have completed vaccination of all nursing home residents in Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza noted the need for a plan to vaccinate new residents entering nursing homes. As such, New York State Representative Larry Schwartz communicated that the plan of New York State is to provide health departments across the state, with additional doses to vaccinate new residents to the nursing homes. As such, the Clinton County Health Department would serve as the repository for Clinton County.

Mr. Day stated the use of the Clinton Community College gymnasium will work well and extended his thanks to Sheriff Favro and President DiPasquale.

Mr. Day reported that on the Cooperators meeting held on Tuesday, February 23rd, the cluster within the CVPH's staff was discussed. The cluster has been contained and they have not been able to figure out the origin of the breakout; it is assumed to be an asymptomatic employee.

Mr. Kanoza reported the number of positive COVID-19 cases at the Clinton Correctional Facility is declining. The original statistics reported were 102 asymptomatic positive and 10 symptomatic positive inmates. Currently, the numbers are 27 asymptomatic positive and 4 symptomatic positive inmates. He stated the vaccination of inmates (65 and older in the Annex) started on Monday, February 22nd.

Mr. Zurlo reported that Mr. Day has been making progress with New York State on vaccination reimbursements and has been working with the Office of General Services (OGS) Procurement Officer to complete this task.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 2nd at 4:30 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

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

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 1st at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met on Wednesday, February 17th.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, provided updates on airlines, airport projects, COVID-19 funding, the vaccination site and tenants (in Executive Session).

Resolutions #108 through #112 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolutions #113 through #116 were polled and have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated the Transportation Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 8th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Cooperative Extension budget passed for 2021 with a slight shortage. He stated there is just enough funds in reserve for this year and if things remain constant, it will not be good for 2022.

Intercounty Board – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Board will meet on Thursday, February 25th with Saratoga County hosting the ZOOM meeting.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Soil and Water Board is looking to increase no-till seeding for cover crops in the County, as well as tire recycling in three locations. They are hoping to purchase a hydro-seeder via grant funds to help with road-side erosion in towns. Additionally, he noted towns are also encouraged to reach out to Pete Hagar, the District Manager, regarding available grant funds for large diameter culverts.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report for the general session but requested an Executive Session to discuss matters of collective bargaining agreements.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported the Legislature has previously spoke about the supplemental parking agreement and had outstanding questions for the City of Plattsburgh. Mr. Zurlo stated he communicated those discussions to the Mayor of Plattsburgh, Chris Rosenquest, and Mayor Rosenquest was amenable. As such, the agreement was executed (with all of the previous terms and conditions that both parties had previously agreed upon) and is in effect.

He stated the Legislature will be briefed on the status of Police Benevolent Association (PBA) negotiations in Executive Session and informed the Legislature that CSEA General Unit negotiations will occur on Wednesday, March 3rd. The negotiations have been delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Lastly, Mr. Zurlo congratulated Legislator Timmons on the opening of his convenience store in Black Brook, New York and jokingly thanked him for providing the County with additional sales tax.

Chairperson’s Report – Legislator Henry

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

Resolutions #102 through #121 were approved.

Legislator Hughes motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Resolution #122 was approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:55 p.m. to discuss a matter involving collective bargaining agreements, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:14 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-1-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Potiker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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