

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

January 29, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh,
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
Senator Dan Stec

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor 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 Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. 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 thanked Senator Dan Stec for joining the Regular Session meeting and congratulated him on his Senate win. Senator Stec introduced himself and gave a brief background history. He commended his relationship with Assemblyman Billy Jones and looks forward to supporting the North Country.

Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee Reports.

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

Mr. Zurlo stated Jim Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, reported his team continues to disinfect common areas, office spaces and many other locations throughout the County Building and they continue to supply support to the Health Department whenever needed to help with COVID-19 related issues.

The Buildings and Grounds Department is helping out with maintenance at the Clinton County Nursing Home and they also installed electrical power for the new automatic door openers in the client entrance at the Department of Social Services.

On February 1, 2021 the new Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) mechanic will join the department.

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

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, reported the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Unit has provided fuel assistance to over 6,000 low-income individuals and families in Clinton County since November, 2020. A total of \$2,900,000 in fuel benefits have been issued. All other income maintenance programs (Food Stamps, Medicare Assistance and Public Assistance) have remained fairly flat throughout the pandemic.

The Office of Temporary Disability Assistance advised local Commissioners that the State would only be withholding 5 percent of their revenue versus 20 percent as previously done. To date, the State has withheld \$245,866 in revenue (20 percent). The difference should be released to Counties sometime in the fourth quarter of the current State Fiscal Year. The Department expects to receive approximately \$184,413.

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

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the Board of Elections Office reported some staff have been working remotely, due to COVID-19 issues, with the focus being placed on the annual report to the New York State Board of Elections, Department of Motor Vehicles changes of address, voter registration cards, notices to voters whose parties no longer qualify to be on ballots and updating voter registration information from the many affidavit ballots received during the November Election.

Martine Gonyo, the Real Property Director, reported assessors are currently working on preparing the Tentative Roll for May 1, 2021. This includes the verification of exemptions, revaluing of property as needed, data collection of new construction and then the valuation of such.

The newly-hired Town of Saranac Assessor, David Galarnau, has been in contact with the Real Property Office and everything seems to be going well. Tammy Lacey, the Real Property Systems Coordinator, went to his office and set up the new computer for him.

Dave Randall, the Director of Information Technology, reported they have been assisting other departments with implementing Telework, providing secure remote access and support to employees. The Department has upgraded the networking at the Highway Department and the Clinton County Public Transit Offices, and are preparing to conduct the 2021 internal risk assessment.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Board Director, stated the Planning Board meetings are continuing via ZOOM. The January meeting had nine projects for review, all were approved and some were sent comments. Of note, is a new Mountain Mart Convenience Store proposed in Ellenburg, east of the Northern Adirondack School building. It would be a much needed gas station for that area since several have closed.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee was polled on Resolution #44 on the agenda.

He noted there will be a discussion in regards to sales tax receipts, with more detail to be provided at the next meeting.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 5:15 p.m. As this is a Committee of the whole, it will be done using ZOOM.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, reported they are continuing to work on clinic integration and a workflow process. Innovatel's Psychiatrist has been up and running and seems to be working well. The office currently maintains a shortened schedule of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with several clinicians working one or two days remotely providing tele-counseling services.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, and Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services,

were present to provide a brief update.

Mr. Kanoza reported there were 18 new positive cases as of Tuesday, January 26th, bringing the total to 259 active cases. There have been 2,521 positive cases since the COVID-19 Pandemic started. There have been approximately 100,000 tests conducted in Clinton County. The next phase of vaccination will include grocery clerks and teachers. CVPH currently does not have any COVID-19 patients in the Intensive Care Unit. Mr. Kanoza reported the County should be receiving 200 vaccination doses for Phase 1b, which includes law enforcement and firefighters.

Mr. Day commended the staff assisting at the vaccination center and stated they are vaccinating 500 people per day.

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

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated Darleen Collins, the Director of Office for the Aging, reported they are fielding calls from senior citizens trying to get appointments for the COVID-19 vaccine. The online appointment system is not accessible for many of them and it is difficult to get through to the State hotline number. The Office is helping people to schedule appointments and access their registration tickets.

There has been advocacy happening at the State level between the New York State Office for the Aging, the Association on Aging in New York and the Governor's Office regarding direct service providers. The providers, which include the nutrition program staff and the home delivered meal drivers, as well as JCEO Senior Outreach staff, rural transportation program volunteer drivers and office staff provide direct face-to-face services to seniors.

Congregate meal sites, the Senior Center and exercise programs at the YMCA remain closed. Home delivered meals continue with an increased number of clients being served. In December 2020, there were 479 clients, which is 73 more than in December, 2019. This increase is primarily due to an increasing senior population and the COVID-19 Pandemic. The latest round of stimulus funding contains additional funding for Senior Nutrition Programs. It is anticipated approximately \$40,000 will be allocated to Clinton County.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, reported that as part of the Federal Vaccination Program, the Clinton County Nursing Home contracted with CVS Pharmacy to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Nursing Home is preparing for the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccination clinic is scheduled for February 1, 2021. The vaccine was made available to all staff and residents. Ninety percent of residents and 75 percent of staff were vaccinated at the first COVID vaccination clinic which was held on January 11, 2021. Any new staff and residents that did not receive their first dose of the vaccine on January 11, 2021 will be offered it on February 1, 2021. There will be a third COVID-19 vaccination clinic on February 22, 2021 to ensure that anyone receiving their first dose on February 1, 2021 will receive the second dose as required.

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

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, reported all furloughed employees

have returned effective December 28, 2020. The Personnel Office has been working with departments to reduce the amount of employees in the office at one time by increasing the amount of telework agreements to ensure operations continue if quarantine orders are issued. Ms. Kinblom is working with Mr. Kanoza, Major Nick Leon of the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, and Mr. Day, to complete the mandatory Clinton County Pandemic Preparedness Plan required by New York State Law.

The Personnel Office would like to remind everyone to complete their annual Harassment training online.

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

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, reported Airport staff continue to support the State vaccination site established at the Airport and are providing plowing, maintenance and other support to ensure uninterrupted operations.

Plans for the upcoming Runway Repaving Project and associated runway closure scheduled for this spring are being finalized with the Federal Aviation Administration, C & S Engineers, Inc. and local stakeholders.

Passenger traffic continues to be down approximately 80 percent compared to pre-COVID-19 levels and is expected to remain so until the border restrictions are lifted and the number of COVID-19 cases decrease.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #45 on the agenda.

Resolution #46 has been withdrawn.

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

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine stated Dave Favro, the Clinton County Sheriff, reported their office has been very busy with COVID-19 related matters. Sheriff Favro stated he is very proud of the work the members have done in keeping the community and jail safe while staying COVID-free. On January 20th and 21st, the Sheriff's Department conducted a vaccination POD at the jail, getting all patrol and jail staff vaccinated if desired. In addition, they organized the same for 210 area law enforcement personnel.

The Sheriff's Department staffing has remained stable; however, they are experiencing difficulty in hiring law enforcement and medical staff. The jail facility itself has been requiring a significant amount of maintenance, with the original facility being 33 years old and the expansion being 16 years old. As adjustments are made to the new normal and the changes in societal behaviors, Sheriff Favro is confident they will have a successful 2021.

Jamie Martineau, the Public Defender, reported the office is operating at full staff. Court is still operating virtually and that is going well. In person meetings are still limited and all trials are currently on hold until further notice.

Dave Marcoux, the Director of Probation, reported the Probation Department continues normal operations with the office open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All staff are working in the office with some probation officers working in the field on a daily basis. They continue to screen all probationers and other outside persons coming into the department with the basic COVID-19 screening questions. They are maintaining social-distancing and masking guidelines. The supervision caseload size continues to be approximately 750 probationers.

The Public Safety Committee was polled on Resolutions #47 through #53, as well as, Waive Rule 13.2 Resolution #57.

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

Transportation Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes stated Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, reported Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) continues to run on limited services since August 3rd, with the North End, South End and West End bus routes being run approximately seven hours a day (six routes each) instead of the normal 13 routes per day each. Rural routes are running as normal, and the Rural Zone Service bus is running. This service is often used for medical appointments including dialysis treatments. All buses are equipped with lexan shielding between passengers and driver, masks are required, as well as, social-distancing on the buses. State funding is continuing to flow and the County received more than expected in State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) payments because payments are based on 2019 data. A CARES Act request was submitted as well for lost fare box revenue. CCPT Staff, including office personnel, are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and scheduling has begun.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, reported County Highway crews are continuing to perform snow and ice work as necessary. The lack of snow events so far has been positive, however, crews continue to deal with wind driven snow in Ellenburg and Altona at the typical locations when there is no active snow event. When not performing snow and ice work, crews are performing equipment maintenance, tree/brush removal and inspecting roads in preparation for the paving season. The Office staff continues to take calls from the public, process contracts, review permit applications, respond to complaints and plan for the 2021 construction season.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported they met last week and are operating with a full Board again. Exercise classes are being conducted online via ZOOM and are being utilized quite often. The next Cooperative Extension meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th.

Intercounty Board – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the next meeting is on Thursday, January 28th with Broome County hosting the ZOOM.

Soil and Water – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Soil and Water Board met last Thursday, January 21st and was pleased that Legislator Peryea and Legislator Timmons were reappointed.

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 pending litigation and contracts.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported he had a recent meeting on the proposed State Budget and has distributed a County Impact Report to the Legislators from the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). Impact on Counties is dependent on the amount of Federal aid that is received by New York State. Mr. Zurlo also stated the County received \$314,000 in revenue from the 2018 Shared Services Program. This amount is 80 percent of what was anticipated. The 2019 Shared Services Program has also been submitted and there was not a plan for 2020.

Chairperson’s Report – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry discussed his recent visit to the State Vaccination site on Connecticut Avenue. This was his third visit to the site. He complimented how well the site is running and the great job the staff is doing. Legislator Henry has also heard praise from several community members as well. February 8th will be the first day for 1,000 vaccinations to be given, with 500 being allocated for first and second vaccination doses.

Legislator Henry also reported that he was invited to attend the North Country Chamber of Commerce State of the County, Town and City meeting being held on Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

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

Resolutions #44 and #45 were approved.

Resolution #46 titled, “Authorizing the Clinton County Purchasing Agent to Solicit Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Fixed Base Operator (FBO) Services – Plattsburgh International Airport” was withdrawn.

Resolutions #47 through #56 were approved.

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

Legislator Hughes motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss a matter of pending litigation, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:57 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-1-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Peryea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin M. Light". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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