

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

June 11, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 5:15 p.m. via teleconference, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3  
Simon Conroy, Area 4  
Calvin Castine, Area 1  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Patrick McGill, Area 8  
Francis Peryea, Area 2  
Richard Potiker, Area 5  
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9  
Rob Timmons, Area 7  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

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

The meeting was held remotely via teleconference in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 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.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call.

Chairperson Henry welcomed Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator, to her first official meeting.

Legislator Castine motioned to accept the minutes of the Wednesday, May 27, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

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

Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee reports. He stated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Committee meetings have been cancelled until further notice unless Chairpersons opt for an in-person meeting in compliance with mass gathering protocols.

#### **Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Peryea**

Legislator Peryea reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Committee was provided with updates on the Government Center parking lot and the Government Center Roof Engineering report. The Government Center air conditioning is now operational.

#### **Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Potiker**

Legislator Potiker reported the Department of Social Services continues to provide all critical services to residents of Clinton County serving approximately sixty-to-eighty individuals a day through their lobby.

The Office of Temporary Disability Assistance advised local districts that they are holding the May claim for February expenses. The total claim due was \$945,119. Of that, \$278,838 is state reimbursement, and \$666,281 is federal funds due to Clinton County. Claims are held up in Division of Budget with no anticipated release date.

The Children and Family Services Committee was polled on Resolutions #355 and #356.

#### **Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported Anastasia Pratt, the County Historian, has been answering queries, honing a list of sites for the virtual map and working on virtual presentations.

James Bosley, the Planning Technician, returned from furlough June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Planning Department staff has been in contact with CCPT First Transit Manager, to talk about what it will take to get CCPT back up and running considering to the number of safety protocols.

The Planning Board is still not meeting, though projects have come in. They hope to have a WebEx/Zoom meeting in July.

All County departments are preparing for staged reopening under Phase 3.

The Economic Development and County Operations Committee was polled on Resolution #357 and #377.

#### **Finance Committee - Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, reports the Treasurer's Office will no longer be processing school tax payments for the Plattsburgh City School District mainly due to several changes in staffing and unfamiliarity with Plattsburgh City School District software. Ms. Davis reached out to the three City Legislators before making this decision and received their support. The school district was notified of this decision.

#### **Health Committee - Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, reports in the month of June, clinicians are on site 50 percent of time. They continue to utilize tele counseling and bill out for their full 35 hours with the combination of being on-site and at home. Clinicians will be back on site for 100 percent of their time starting the first week in July. They are uncertain of the ending time for the state waivers for tele counseling. The Department remains open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. They will be unable to expand to full operating hours (pre-COVID-19) which includes offering evening and Saturday hours. They are accommodating needs for appointments in evening and Saturday via tele counseling as needed.

With the use of tele counseling, they have seen over a 17 percent drop in their no show rates and have some of the highest billable weeks to date.

The Health Committee was polled on Resolution #358.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, provided an update and statistics on the latest developments of the pandemic in Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza reported case numbers are holding steady. There are no new lab confirmed positive cases in at last nine days. Additionally, there are no lab confirmed positive cases at CVPH. There were 104 lab confirmed cases in Clinton County, and of the 104, 101 have recovered. There are 88 probable cases (85 have now recovered). The total number of people tested is 6,625 to date.

The Public Health Department continues assisting with safe practices for Stage 2 openings. The Department is conducting inspections at food establishments that have outdoor dining. The Environmental Health and Safety Division and Buildings and Grounds staff are completing County office inspections for general compliance with COVID-19 related safety requirements. The Department is also working with CVPH for mobile testing units. SUNY Plattsburgh has submitted its safety response plan and are looking at reopening in the fall. They are also continuing work with a number of schools regarding graduation celebrations. The Health Department has reviewed the draft Phase 3 reopening guidelines for food services, restaurants and personal services. There will be a 50 percent maximum capacity when these establishments reopen under Phase 3. Nursing Homes will begin testing employees once per week. There have been no positive cases to date at the Clinton County Nursing Home. Testing of Nursing Home residents is ongoing.

At a press conference earlier in the day, there was a question regarding the recent protests which were held in the City of Plattsburgh, and the potential for new COVID-19 cases occurring. The Health Department will continue surveying this with the hospital as it typically takes five-to-seven days to first start seeing cases. Mr. Kanoza and his staff have been working with the Farmers' Market for its safety plan for reopening.

## **Human Services Committee - Legislator Conroy**

Legislator Conroy reported Darlene Collins, the Director of the Office for the Aging, reports every year in July, their office, along with community partners, distribute Farmers' Market coupons to eligible individuals ages 60 and over. The intent of this program is to support local farmers and provide low-income older adults with access to local fresh produce.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, they will be modifying how they distribute coupons this year. Traditionally, they distribute coupons directly from the office, at congregate meals sites and through the Plattsburgh Housing Authority and JCEO staff. The Office for the Aging is typically crowded when coupons become available. This year, they will not be distributing coupons from the office and the meals sites are closed. They anticipate hosting drive thru pick up locations so coupons can be distributed with minimal contact. Once the client has possession of the coupons, they are able to use a proxy to spend them. They will also look to housing managers and JCEO to assist with distribution. Clinton County has received 800 booklets that each contains five \$4 coupons, making the value of each booklet \$20. Distribution is expected to begin on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Human Services Committee was polled on Resolution #359.

## **Personnel Committee - Legislator Henry**

Chairperson Henry reported the Department of Personnel has postponed the June 13<sup>th</sup> examinations in accordance with State Civil Service guidance. The Department is continuing to monitor the employees on furlough and working with the departments to ensure their operational needs are still being met. Kim Kinblom is working closely with members of the Health Department, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and the CSEA union to ensure that each department has adequate safe reopening plans in place.

The Personnel Committee was polled on Resolutions #360 through #364.

## **Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

All three airlines continue to operate on reduced schedules: Allegiant has four-to-five flights per week; SkyWest has one flight per day (they are expected to resume two flights per day beginning in July), and Spirit has three flights per week.

Airlines continue to adjust schedules based on passenger bookings. There has been a slight increase in passenger traffic.

The Airport Restaurant is open when there are flights.

The Airport Director is waiting to hear when the Airport's annual FAA certification inspection will be conducted.

A CARES Act Grant for \$2.02 million was received from the FAA. The County is waiting for further guidance from the FAA on submitting reimbursement requests.

The Plattsburgh International Airport Committee discussed Resolutions #365 through #367 and #374 at its meeting of June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Safety Committee - Legislator Castine**

Legislator Castine reported the Probation Department reports that with the start of Phase II, they are seeing more high and greatest risk probationers in the office. Probation Officers are still in the field daily. Upon request of the Health Department, Probation Director Dave Marcoux submitted a full re-opening plan to them for consideration, taking into account social distancing guidelines. All members of the public are being screened with questions before entering and are required to wear face masks. Workflow is starting to increase from the Courts as they are now slowly handling more cases. Plattsburgh City and Justice Courts will also be increasing cases next week, so the department should continue to see a steady increase in new reports/cases coming from the local Courts.

### **Transportation Committee - Legislator McGill**

Legislator McGill reported highway crews have completed spring cleanup work. Roadside mowing has started. Shoulder cutting and culvert replacement work has also begun. Paving work should begin mid-July. Customer requests for ditching, driveway culverts and other complaints are being addressed when crews are available.

Luck Brothers has completed the temporary water main on Goddeau Road and placed it into service. The existing water main on the Harney Bridge will be shut down and removed. All water main work is being coordinated with the Town of Plattsburgh. The asbestos paint abatement has been completed on the bridge railing. The bridge deck is now being saw cut and prepared for removal.

The existing Tappin Road Bridge superstructure (deck, beams, railings, etc.) has been removed. Cofferdams will be installed for the demolition of the existing abutments and installation of the new abutments.

Preparation work continues for the removal of the Kent Falls Bridge. Barges have been delivered to the site for use in the demolition.

CHIPS funding has been released.

The Transportation Committee was polled on Resolutions #368 through #370.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Chamber of Commerce met Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed the updated marketing plan which focuses on shopping local shops and businesses.

### **Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks met for the first time since January via a ZOOM meeting. William Farber, Chairman of Hamilton County, hosted the meeting. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik provided the federal update. Mark Beeham of Beeham Communications was also present and noted there will be more people applying for the second-time homebuyers program. The Committee also adopted a resolution regarding the height of cell towers in the Adirondacks.

**Workforce Development Board – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the quarterly meeting will be held Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Zurlo reported the most recent funding slowdown has been solved, and everything is in proper order at this point.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.**

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

**County Administrator – Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo stated he would like to request an Executive Session this evening to discuss the sale or lease of real property and a matter of potential litigation.

Mr. Zurlo reported he attended a New York State Association of Counties Board meeting via ZOOM earlier in the day. Counties have still not heard anything from the federal government regarding state or local assistance. The Executive Director of the National Association of Counties is optimistic there will be another stimulus bill by perhaps mid-July to August. This timeframe makes it difficult for local governments as we won't know how much federal aid (if any) we will receive as we begin the budget process for 2021.

Mr. Zurlo reported a couple of days ago, Governor Andrew Cuomo released an Executive Order that modified the 50 percent staffing for non-essential staffing for municipal governments. However, in an effort to save money the County will be bringing back staff on an as-needed basis.

The North Country's metrics are the best in the State of New York. Clinton County is ready to enter into Phase 3 once the Governor gives the go ahead.

Mr. Zurlo stated Resolution #376 on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2 will urge the State of New York to release federal monies that are due to Clinton County. The state is withholding not only state funds, but federal funds as well. It is critical that these funds be released.

**Chairperson's Report – Mark Henry**

Chairperson Henry reported the federal government has closed the border. They will be re-examining this matter on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Clinton County Path Forward meeting was recently held. The group discussed high school graduations. He has been receiving many inquiries regarding when gyms would reopen. Currently, the Governor has scheduled gyms for Phase 4.

There have been inquiries regarding when the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will be reopened. Local DMVs will open as part of a Phase 3. However, since local DMV offices were closed specifically by an Executive Order, they will have to be reopened by an Executive Order by Governor Cuomo. Mr. Zurlo reported he has spoken with the County Clerk who has informed him the reopening will be by appointment only. There is still quite a bit of backlog, and they felt the best way to avoid large gatherings in the office would be to have the office open by appointment only.

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

Resolutions #354, titled, "Resolution of the County Legislature of the County of Clinton Con Increasing Taxes on Sales and Uses of Tangible Personal Property and of Certain Services, and on Occupancy of Hotel Rooms and on Amusement Charges Pursuant to Article 29 of the Tax Law of the State of New York."

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution would authorize the County to extend its ability to charge its additional one percent sales tax. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #355 through #373 were approved.

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

Resolutions #374 through #378 were approved.

Legislator Castine motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss the sale or lease of real property and a matter of potential litigation, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Timmons motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer