

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

June 9, 2016

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, June 8, 2016 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

EXCUSED: Jonathan Beach, Area 2

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. Legislator Beach asked to be excused.

Legislator Keenan motioned to accept the minutes of the May 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. (Carried 9-0-1).

Chairperson McManus invited Madison Daquelente', a 2015 OTB Scholarship winner, and Legislator Sam Dyer to the podium. Madison is a 2015 graduate of Beekmantown High School and is currently attending Plattsburgh State University. Legislator Dyer presented Ms. Daquelenté with a \$500 scholarship and congratulated her on her achievements.

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 Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met earlier in the afternoon. Legislator Timmons reported Resolutions #367 and #368 are included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. The 130 Arizona Avenue Renovation Project is on schedule with a tentative move-in date of mid-July.

#### **Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Waldron**

The Children and Family Services Committee met Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Resolution #369 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

John Redden, the Commissioner of Social Services, reported on the Safe Harbour Grant. This Grant will aid in the development of community awareness and partnership with other agencies dealing with children who are at risk or who are being sexually exploited, as well as human trafficking.

Mr. Redden also reported on Heroin/Opioid Addiction. He advised the communication committee has met and are looking into establishing a web page, as well as a Facebook page, and will possibly be hiring an advertising agency to formulate a name and logo. This will aid in community awareness regarding the real problems created by Heroin/Opioid addictions within the community.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7th at 6:15 p.m.

## **County Operations Committee – Legislator Rowden**

Legislator Rowden reported the next County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

## **Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Economic Development Committee met Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Committee invited Leigh Mundy to speak on her experiences with the Strand Theatre and the role which arts and culture generally have on economic development. The Committee was impressed with the depth of knowledge she had on the subject and her insights on the topic.

The Committee also discussed the Upstate Airport Economic Development and Revitalization Grant. The first meeting of the Airport Grant Task Force Committee was held Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. This Committee was organized to respond to the initiative. C & S Engineers, Inc. will be assisting the Committee with the grant application, and the Committee is confident the County can develop a competitive proposal for funding. The next meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

Lastly, the Committee discussed the need of the Clinton County Industrial Development Agency to secure the services of an individual to handle their administrative responsibilities and what opportunities that might present to the County.

Resolutions #370 and #371 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. The next Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

Chairperson McManus stated the Committee is optimistic they will have a strong application.

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Governor's Office has announced a grant award of \$760,000 for the renovation of Nose Dock #3 which will result in additional jobs and revenue opportunities for Clinton County. Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator, reported Airport Manager Chris Kreig has been seeking funding to improve the door system at Nose Dock #3 (the Nose Dock which houses Pen Air).

## **Finance Committee – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee met earlier. Resolutions #372 through #375 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Health Committee – Legislator Beach**

Mr. Zurlo provided the Health Committee report on behalf of Legislator Beach who had asked to be excused.

The Health Committee met Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Peter Trout, the Director of Community Services, discussed the closeouts of the 2015 and 2016 Account Receivable Reports. Resolutions #376 through #378 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. Resolution #379 has been withdrawn.

Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, discussed the Director's Report for April, 2016, the Health Department Report for May 16, 2016 Board of Health meeting and the Clinton County Health Department Agency Newsletter. Resolutions #380 through #386 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### **Human Services Committee – Legislator Keenan**

The Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> was cancelled. The Committee was polled on Resolutions #387 through #390.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> following the Finance Committee Meeting.

#### **Personnel Committee – Legislator Dyer**

Legislator Dyer reported the Personnel Committee met Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. Fifteen resolutions have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation. Resolution #391, a backfill for a Deputy Sheriff, was approved by a vote of 3/2. Resolution #400 and #401 were withdrawn. Resolution #404, "Approving Increase of Hours for Permanent, Part-Time Custodial Workers" was changed from 32 to 30 hours.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Beach**

Mr. Zurlo reported on behalf of Legislator Beach. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m.

#### **Transportation Committee – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported Resolutions #407 and #408 have been placed on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Transportation Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

## **Liaison Reports**

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

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Chamber of Commerce met Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Clinton County has done a bit better in sales tax compared to other border counties due to Canadian travelers. Legislator Rosenquest will be meeting with the Essex and Franklin Counties Cuisine Trail Committees to discuss the coordination of the application process and submission to New York State.

### **Grievance Committee – Legislators Dyer, Hall, Dame**

Mr. Zurlo reported the Grievance Committee met Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. The Committee's decision was communicated to all parties.

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

Legislator Waldron reported the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks met in Herkimer County on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in Little Falls, New York. The Committee was provided with a tour of the Feldmeier Plant which builds custom stainless steel containers. The Committee received the 2016-2017 Budget Impact Report from the New York State Association of Counties.

### **Workforce Development Board – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest reported the Workforce Investment Board will meet Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in Plattsburgh, New York.

## **Staff Reports**

### **County Attorney – James Coffey, Esq.**

James Coffey, the County Attorney, requested an Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the County and the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) as well as the potential sale or transfer of land for the Turtle Island Trust Litigation.

### **Off Track Betting Scholarship - Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron reported the OTB Scholarship Committee met Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the names of 16 students who are being considered to receive \$500 scholarships. Two local students were selected to receive scholarships, one for enrollment at SUNY Plattsburgh and the other for enrollment at Clinton Community College. The names of the scholarship winners will be announced at graduation ceremonies.

### **Chairperson – Legislator Harry McManus**

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

Resolutions #367 through #370 were approved.

Resolution #371 titled, "Approving the Issuance of Certain Obligations by Clinton County Capital Resource Corporation to Finance a Certain Project for the University of Vermont Health Network Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center" was moved by Legislator Rosenquest and seconded by Legislator Dame.

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated as the County Legislature is the elected governing authority which appoints the membership of both the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and the Capital Resource Corporation (CRC), the Legislature has to approve the action taken by the CRC to authorize the issuance of bonds for the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center. This action will in no way place the County in a detrimental position and are not obligations of Clinton County. This is a ministerial act. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #372 through #378 were approved.

Resolution #379 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Janine Stomboly, NPP – Mental Health and Addiction Services" was withdrawn.

Resolutions #380 through #390 were approved.

Resolution #391 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Deputy Sheriff (PCN 2365) – Sheriff's Department" was moved by Legislator Dyer and seconded by Legislator Hall.

Discussion: Legislator Dame reported this item was discussed at the May 25<sup>th</sup> Regular Session and at the Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Legislator Dame stated if the County is faced with financial stress due to decreased sales tax or increased expenses, the most appropriate thing to do to reduce expenses would be not to fill a position when the position is vacant. Legislator Dame reported this position is not currently filled. The Sheriff's Department, in totality, is almost a \$14 million budget. The Deputy Unit's Budget is much smaller at \$3 million. The Sheriff's Department Deputy Unit has 22 positions whereas several years ago, the Department was staffed with 19 positions which is almost a 15 percent increase. By not filling this position, costs could decrease by 4.5 percent. Legislator Dame stated perhaps patrol zones could be reconfigured, patrols in less critical areas could be reduced and more concentrated patrols could be done in more critical areas. Better communication between the New York State Police, City Police and Border Patrol would also help to reduce redundancy. Legislator Dame stated there is a huge drug crisis in the community and more needs to be done for prevention and treatment for addicts. The County is facing more difficult financial times and the best way to address this is to be proactive. The Personnel budget line is the largest expense of the County, and he feels by reducing a department by 4 percent is not too much to ask.

Legislator Hall reported he also voted no on this issue at the Personnel Committee meeting. While he agrees with the many points Legislator Dame made, he feels the County should take the Deputy out of the Beekmantown and Saranac Schools and place them back on road patrol and have the two schools hire a retired police officer.

Legislator Waldron reported there were 19 positions prior to Plattsburgh International Airport being built. Crime has risen with the drug epidemic and she feels now is not the time to cut back on law enforcement. There are other departments the Legislature should scrutinize when backfilling positions.

Legislator Hall stated the Sheriff's Department is handling cases and calls that the New York State Police should be handling. Legislator Hall stated it is not uncommon to see an average of three or four New York State Troopers along Route 3 throughout the day. They should be taking the calls, not the Sheriff's Department.

Legislator Rowden asked if there are staffing requirements for Deputies. Mr. Zurlo replied the State does not mandate for Deputies, they do however mandate how many Correction Officers are required.

Legislator Dame stated if there were more collaboration and communication between law enforcement agencies, that would help remedy the situation.

Mr. Zurlo clarified there are 23 officers in the Department. The 19 positions which Legislator Dame referred to was prior to the construction of Plattsburgh International Airport. Once the Airport was constructed, it brought the number to 21. One position is fully funded through CV Tec and the other position is funded by the Beekmantown and Saranac School Districts for a total of 23.

Legislator Waldron stated she does not believe the Sheriff's Department is a place to cut personnel.

The resolution passed by a vote of 7-2-1 with Legislators Dame and Hall voting no.

Resolutions #392 through #399 were approved.

Resolution #400 titled, "Approving Recruitment Incentives for Additional Titles in the Health Department Pursuant to Article Twenty-Nine (29) of the Civil Services Employees' Association (CSEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement - Health Department" was withdrawn.

Resolution #401 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Senior Custodial Worker Position (PCN 3772) – Plattsburgh International Airport" was withdrawn.

Resolutions #402 through #418 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Dyer. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolution #419 was approved.

There being no further business, Legislator Timmons motioned to enter into Executive Session at 7:54 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Dame motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rowden. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dame. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melody Lemieux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer

:ML