

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

March 13, 2020

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

EXCUSED: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator

ALSO PRESENT: Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq., County Attorney
Toni Moffat, Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown conducted roll call. County Administrator Michael Zurlo asked to be excused.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to accept the minutes of the February 26, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry, on behalf of the Legislature, proclaimed Saturday, April 25, 2020 as Clinton County Clean-Up Day. He stated with the culmination of the week's Earth Day events, it is a day the Clinton County Legislature encourages people to come together in their local communities to engage in activities to improve their local environments.

Legislator Timmons presented Jesse Cote with the 2019 Off Track Betting (OTB) \$500 scholarship. Mr. Cote is a 2019 graduate of Peru High School and has completed his first semester at Clinton Community College.

Legislator Waldron presented Hunter Church with a plaque congratulating him on capturing the Bronze Medal on the World Cup Bobsled Tour. Mr. Church thanked the Legislature for recognizing his accomplishment.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

There being no one who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Henry moved on to Committee Reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Monday, March 9th. James Cleveland, the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, discussed the 2020 Master Plan and Resolutions #169, #170 and Resolution #215 (under Waive Rule 13.2), all of which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. For the 2020 calendar year, the Committee is recommending completion of a project to replace the Government Center roof.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson Henry noted that Superintendent Cleveland provided Virex, which is a cleaning agent effective against COVID-19, to all Government offices for disinfecting work surfaces.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker stated the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session. Resolutions #171 through #173 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met Tuesday, March 10th. Dave Randall, the Information Technology Director, discussed Resolution #174. Mr. Brown discussed Resolutions #175 through #180 and the possible revision of the Tobacco Settlement Policy to further limit the number of opportunities agencies/organizations have to submit a request for funding. All resolutions have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14th at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met Wednesday, March 4th. Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, discussed 2020 Town/County Tax Installments, the Correction of Errors Report, 2020 In Rem Foreclosure, sales tax and Resolution #181 which has been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st at 6:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Waldron

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

Resolutions #182 through #185 have been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 4:30 p.m.

Human Services - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy stated the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, March 4th.

Darleen Collins, the Office for the Aging Director, discussed Resolutions #186 and #187. Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Director, presented Resolution #188. All Resolutions have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, discussed monthly statistics (February, 2020), legislative efforts, his meeting with State Legislators, his meeting with the New York State Division of Veterans Services and the VA Health Clinic in Plattsburgh.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee - Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met Monday, March 2nd and reviewed 18 personnel items. There are 14 Resolutions on the agenda that reflect the Committee's recommendations.

He noted important items included: the creation of a permanent, full-time Social Welfare Examiner position at the Department of Social Services, as the Federal Government has changed the

waiver requirements for Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD) which now require individuals to meet Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements prior to being eligible for benefits (the position is 100 percent funded through the Food Stamps and Medicaid Administration); the change in salary placement of a permanent, full-time Chief Assistant Public Defender from Grade 13, Step 6 to Grade 13, Step 8 (100 percent funded through the Indigent Legal Services Plan Enhancement Grant); the creation of a permanent, full-time Assistant Public Defender position (100 percent funded through Indigent Legal Services Plan Enhancement Grant) and the creation of a permanent, full-time Senior Typist position to train with the current incumbent for one month prior to retirement (no new full-time employee, it is an overlap).

The next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolution #203 has been placed on the agenda as a result of the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th at 4:00 p.m. Legislator Hall invited all Legislators to attend a special Airport meeting on Wednesday, April 8th at 4:00. Jack Penning, the County's Consultant for Air Service Development, will be in attendance to update the Committee on new flights.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine stated the Public Safety Committee met Monday, March 9th.

Russell Haag, the STOP-DWI Coordinator, discussed Resolutions #204 through #206. Kelly Donoghue, the Assistant Emergency Services Director, discussed Resolutions #207 and #208. All resolutions have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

Chad Deans, the Clinton County Coroner, provided an update on funeral home pick-up fees. Several Funeral Home Directors were present to discuss the issue, and request an increase in funding. The Committee has requested additional information from staff, and will continue to discuss the matter.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 6:15 p.m. but is subject to rescheduling.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Dame

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

Resolutions #209 through #211 have been polled and placed on the agenda upon the Committee's recommendation.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Board of Health – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry requested John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, provide the Legislature with a Board of Health update. Mr. Kanoza stated the last Board of Health meeting was held on Monday, February 10th and the main topic of discussion was the Coronavirus, and how the Department of Health is coordinating with local partners (the Plattsburgh City School District, the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (CVPH) and the State University of New York (SUNY)) on preventative care and maintenance, cleaning of the buildings, etc.

Additionally, he noted at the last Board of Health meeting, Mandy Snay, the Director of Health Planning and Promotion, was recognized for her efforts in completing the Community Health Assessment.

Chamber of Commerce - Christopher Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Strategic Tourism Planning meeting was held last week, and the next meeting will be held next month.

Community Services Board – Simon Conroy

Legislator Conroy stated the next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 24th at 4:30 p.m.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17th. Additionally, he reported he attended the Food for the Farm event.

Intercounty – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the Intercounty meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 27th in Hamilton County was cancelled due to the snow storm.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated she attended a Loan Committee meeting which was held on Tuesday, March 10th and the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7th.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19th.

Workforce Development Board – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest stated the next Workforce Development Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13th.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

County Attorney Jacqueline Kelleher stated she received notice that the New York State Opioid Litigation that was expected to start in Suffolk County in two weeks has been postponed to Friday, May 1st as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

Ms. Kelleher also reported she met with Chairperson Henry, Mr. Brown, Mr. Kanoza and Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, to discuss employment-related issues. If approved, Resolution #216 provides Public Health Nurses on-call pay (which is not presently in the contract). They also reviewed the Collective Bargaining Unit of the Civil Service Employee Association's (CSEA) General Unit, in regards to quarantine language. Resolution #217 on the agenda requests the Legislature to delegate its Legislative authority to the County Administrator, to approve requests for quarantine (dependent upon the Board of Health certifying the individual employee's quarantine) in order to obtain that contractual benefit.

Mr. Brown asked Mr. Kanoza and Airport Director Chris Kreig to respectively report on the COVID-19 virus and the incident that occurred at the Plattsburgh International Airport earlier that day.

Mr. Kanoza provided handouts to the Legislature on the preliminary Coronavirus chronology and preventative tips on keeping the workplace safe. He also reported on the Department of Public Health's collaborative efforts in working with community agencies during this COVID-19 virus issue.

Chairperson Henry stated the Clinton County Health Department is dedicated to and has been proactive in the preparation of the COVID-19 virus.

Mr. Kreig reported the Airport has been following the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) guidance and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recommendations in regards to the COVID-19 virus. The Airport has added a page on their website, provided additional hand sanitizer and messaging to remind the public to take the necessary precautions.

Mr. Kreig stated there was an incident earlier in morning involving a United Express flight at the Plattsburgh International Airport. He stated the airplane collided with a jet bridge. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is investigating the incident. There were minor injuries but none requiring medical attention. Mr. Kreig thanked the emergency service providers for their quick response efforts.

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

Resolutions #169 through #215 were approved.

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

Resolutions #216 and #217 were approved.

Legislator Hall stated he has received two constituent inquiries on the County's stance on the removal of the Imperial Mill Dam. He stated he believed the County was in agreement to remove the Imperial Dam and was told there was a resolution prepared but was removed at the request of Legislator

Rosenquest. Legislator Rosenquest stated in December, 2019 the Department of Environmental and Conservation and other New York State agencies devised a 30 percent engineering plan for the dam and stated there is no reason to remove the dam. Legislator Rosenquest stated he will provide all Legislators with the engineering plan for their review and has extended the invitation to the DEC and other relevant entities to present their positions at the next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting in April. Legislator Rosenquest also stated the resolution would be placed on the agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Rosenquest motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m., seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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