

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

May 12, 2022

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, May 11, 2022 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
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Richard Potiker, Area 5
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: David Bezio, Area 4

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislator Bezio asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2022 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Sam Dyer, a resident of the Duquette Road in West Chazy, asked to address the Legislature regarding the recent property tax assessments that took place in the Town of Beekmantown. Mr. Dyer noted he is looking for support from the Legislature due to the increase in assessment amounts. He asked the Legislature to review the meaning between an appraisal and an assessment. Mr. Dyer feels people are being taxed out of their homes and feels these large increases for assessments are unfair. Mr. Dyer noted in the last three years, his assessment has gone up \$500,000. Chairperson Henry inquired if the Town of Beekmantown has passed a Resolution regarding this yet. Mr. Dyer responded no.

Mr. Zurlo explained an increase in assessed value on your property is not a tax bill. The property tax bill is based on the assessed value times your tax rate. If assessments go up County-wide, the tax rate should go down and on a higher assessed value, you would be paying on a lower tax rate. Mr. Zurlo clarified this does not indicate paying lower taxes. Mr. Zurlo also offered advice to advocate to the local municipalities to keep tax levies as close to the previous year as possible. Mr. Dyer noted Beekmantown School and the Beekmantown Fire Department have not lowered their tax levy. Dennis Relation, a Councilmember from the Town of Beekmantown, was also present to discuss the same topic. Mr. Relation noted there are two buyers consuming the farm land in the County and there are only two farms in the Town of Beekmantown. Mr. Relation noted the need for family farms and the difficulty for these farms to maintain with the increase in taxes.

Mr. Zurlo explained the tax rate is a product of the tax levy divided by the taxable assessed value in the municipality. The solution is the tax levy staying stable. Mr. Dyer doesn't feel he should be taxed off his farm. Mr. Zurlo stated if assessments never went up and tax levies go up, the tax rate will increase. There could be a much higher tax rate on a lower assessed value and the owner will probably pay the same amount of property tax. Legislator Timmons mentioned to go to the Beekmantown school board's meeting to discuss this as well. Chairperson Henry noted the Towns have a lot to say about this topic and is looking to see what the Town of Beekmantown and Town of Chazy for example, can come up with for a Resolution. Mr. Dyer thanked the Legislature for their time and noted again he is looking for support on this topic.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, May 9th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #315 on the agenda.

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

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #316 through #318 on the agenda.

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

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

Glen Cutter, the Planning Director, was present to discuss a letter sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the Floodplain Mapping concerns. Mr. Cutter also presented two resolutions including, “Authorizing Application for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding through the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services” and “Authorizing Contract Extension with the Housing Assistance Program of Essex County, Inc.”

Resolutions #319 through #321 have been placed on the agenda upon the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 4th.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds to Various Accounts.” Ms. Davis also reported on the 2022 Sales Tax Chart, occupancy tax, In Rem Foreclosure and the Correction of Errors Report.

The Legislature also reviewed the 2022 Tobacco Settlement funding requests and the corresponding resolution is on the agenda.

Resolutions #322 through #324 have been placed on the agenda upon the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, May 4th.

Jeffrey Sisson, the newly-hired Public Health Director, and Debra Tackett, the Director of Health Care Services, were present to discuss three resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract Amendment with SymQuest Group, Inc.,” “Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues” and “Authorizing Contract with Wells Fargo Financial Leasing.”

Mr. Sisson and Ms. Tackett also reviewed the Health Department Report for April, 2022, the Grant Quarterly Report for the 1st Quarter of 2022, the Public Health Connection Newsletter for April, 2022, the Food Action Plan and the Spring Safety Guide for 2022.

Resolutions #325 through #327 have been placed on the agenda upon the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th at 4:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 3rd was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #328 and #329 on the agenda.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 7th at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the Personnel Committee met on Monday, May 2nd.

Resolutions #330 through #350 have been placed on the agenda upon the Committee’s recommendation.

The Committee was also polled on Resolution #351.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 6th at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

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

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has approved applications to continue Essential Air Service at Plattsburgh International Airport through the Alternate Essential Air Service Program, securing nonstop, roundtrip flights to Philadelphia International Airport via Contour Airlines. The goal of Plattsburgh International’s application was always to ensure uninterrupted services and a smooth transition from SkyWest to Contour Airlines. Legislator Hall also noted this changeover is set to begin on July 1st and the flights to Washington D.C. scheduled for June are still taking place. Passengers will be notified if this changes.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 2nd.

Dave Marcoux, the Probation Director, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing Contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 2022-2023 Probation State Aid Block Grant Funding and Program Plan.”

Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Adirondack Foundation Grant Acceptance,” “Authorizing Sunrise Rotary Club of Plattsburgh NY, Inc. Grant Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Autism Alliance of Northeastern NY, Inc. Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Resolutions #352 through #359 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Transportation Committee met on Monday, May 9th.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Awarding Bid for Cold Milling of Pavement on Various Roads,” “Awarding Bid for Herbicide Application for Vegetation Control,” “Awarding Bid for One, New Self-Drive Work Platform” and “Awarding Bid for Full-Depth Reclamation of Pavement on Various Roads.”

Resolutions #360 through #364 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee’s recommendation.

Resolution #372 has also been placed on the agenda under Waive Rule 13.2.

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

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported Franklin County hosted the Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting on Thursday, April 28th. Donna Kissane, the Franklin County Manager, gave a presentation on the First Amendment and the First Amendment Audit recently conducted at their County Building.

Shaun Gilliland, the Essex County Supervisor, and Carly Summers, of Cornell Cooperative Extension, also gave a presentation on the Adirondack Harvest Program.

The next Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 26th has been cancelled due to the Memorial Day Holiday weekend.

Soil and Water – Legislators Peryea and Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th. Legislator Timmons also provided a handout on the 2022 update (a copy has been attached hereto and made part of the minutes).

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo requested an Executive Session to discuss the sale and lease of real property and the personnel history of a particular employee/employees.

Chairpersons Report

Chairperson Henry stated the handout was distributed for the name and logo of the former Clinton County Airport and he will be asking for a final decision from the Legislature at the Wednesday, May 25th Regular Session.

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

Resolutions #315 through #323 were approved.

Resolution #324 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate and Transfer Funding from the Tobacco Reserve Fund for 2022 Projects” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #325 through #366 were approved.

Resolution #367 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Grant” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-1-1).

Legislator Kretser abstained.

Resolutions #368 through #370 were approved.

Resolution #371 titled, "Commemorating the 102nd Anniversary of the Rouses Point American Legion Post No. 912" was motioned by Messrs. Castine, Henry, Hughes, Kretser and seconded by Ms. Waldron, Messrs. Hall, Peryea, Potiker, Timmons. (Carried 9-0-1).

Legislator Castine noted the Rouses Point American Legion has been waiting two years to celebrate their 100th Anniversary but it was delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

Resolution #372 was approved.

Legislator Timmons motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss the sale and lease of real property and the personnel history of a particular employee/employees at 6:12 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Waldron motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:19 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (9-0-1).

Resolutions #373 and #374 were approved.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Kretser motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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**Clinton County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

6064 Route 22, Suite 1
Plattsburgh, NY 12901-6264
(518) 561-4616 Ext. 3



2022 Update

Grants:

- The District earned a performance measure award of \$122,005.26 in 2022 to be used for locally directed environmental conservation and other projects that protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Clinton County.
 - 2 scrap tire recycling “Tire Round Ups” have been scheduled for this summer
 - The District will have an intern doing a countywide inventory and assessment of impaired culverts and assisting with rural roadside erosion prevention.
 - \$10,000 budgeted to assist local farms design and install conservation practices that will prevent farmstead runoff and erosion.
 - The District will continue to partner with USDA/APHIS to set up and monitor traps for Emerald Ash Borer. The presence of Emerald Ash Borer beetles in Clinton County was first detected in 2020 by our efforts.
 - On farm implementation projects that protect water quality, improve soil health and benefit the public.
- An additional \$6,000 of State funds was awarded to the District for hydroseeding and other roadside erosion prevention measures on public property in 2022.
- The District applied for and was awarded \$403,030 from the Round 27 of the NYS Ag Non-Point Source grant program for conservation practices for one dairy farm in Clinton County.
- The District applied for and was awarded \$211,280 from the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management program for two years of technical assistance and implementation of conservation practices on 4 Clinton County farms
- The District applied for and was awarded a \$50,000 from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for implementation of Enhanced Best Management Practices on one local farm.

Local Operations:

- Technicians continue to assist landowners with Ag Assessment paperwork, soil maps, soil testing, on-farm environmental assessments, and project planning.
- District annual tree sale program delivered 58 bundles of trees to 23 residents
- District continues to provide conservation equipment rental to local farms and landowners- 2 no-till planters, 1 post pounder, 1 field aerator, ag plastic baler

Staffing