

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 Patrick McGill who was appointed to fill the Legislative Area 8 seat on Friday, May 8, 2020.

Legislator Castine motioned to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2020 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (9-0-1).

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 moved on to Committee reports. He stated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Committee meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

Buildings and Grounds Committee - Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea reported the Buildings and Grounds staff is sanitizing the Government Center Complex, Emergency Services, the Department of Social Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services and the satellite at Clinton Community College.

Superintendent James Cleveland has been working with Ryan Davies and Amanda Finkel of the Environmental Health Department to plan the reopening of County departments and applying social distancing strategies to ensure the safe opening of County business.

The Buildings and Grounds staff has been installing plexi-glass separators at desks and counters where six foot distancing is not possible.

Children and Family Services Committee - Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Department of Social Services is serving approximately 50 clients a day through the lobby. Child Protective Services is investigating six-to-eight new child neglect/abuse reports per day, and they are still conducting home visits and providing services to our at-risk families. New York State authorized a third emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) benefit which the department is dealing with. The Department of Social Services furloughed 63 employees, but they are able to maintain services due to the significant amount of federal/state waivers that have been implemented due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Department of Social Services is fully operational and all benefits/services are being provided to residents of Clinton County.

The Children and Family Services Committee was polled on Resolutions #284 through #286.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee - Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported local assessors in the Real Property Office are currently holding informal telephone hearings with property owners to discuss their new assessments. They are doing their best to make sure every property owner gets a chance to talk to the local assessor.

The Economic Development and County Operations Committee was polled on Resolutions #287 through #291.

Finance Committee - Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported all Legislators received copies of sales tax information last week. These taxes were almost exclusively pre-COVID-19 and are not reflective of the current situation. May's sales tax figures will be provided in June, and this will be our first indication of things to come, but it won't be until we receive June's numbers in July before we have our first receivables that were generated mostly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. July's sales tax payment (which will be reported in August) will include some pre-COVID-19 receipts.

Health Committee - Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Health Committee was polled on Resolutions #292 through #296.

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, and his team continue to lead the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Legislator Waldron requested John Kanoza to provide a COVID-19 update on cases and testing. Mr. Kanoza provided a series of updates and statistics on the latest developments of the pandemic in Clinton County. Mr. Kanoza also stated that we are increasing our testing and hope to soon begin testing of first responders in addition to individuals experiencing symptoms.

Human Services Committee - Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the Office for the Aging staff are primarily assisting clients via telephone as they work with the population most vulnerable to COVID-19. On occasion, a client stops to pick up or drop off needed documents.

The Office for the Aging has been working with the Office of Emergency Services to distribute face masks and hand sanitizer to older adults.

The Human Services Committee was polled on Resolutions #297 through #299.

Personnel Committee – Chairperson Henry

Chairperson Henry reported the Personnel Committee was polled on Resolutions #300 through #306 which appear on the agenda.

The Department continues to evaluate the vacant position requests and how they directly relate to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the safety of the community.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee - Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported all three airlines are operating on reduced schedules: Allegiant – two to three flights per week, SkyWest – one flight per day, Spirit – three flights per week. Airlines continue to adjust schedules based on passenger bookings. Airport Staff have added plexiglas sneeze guards at the airline and car rental counters, have placed markings on the floor to assist with social distancing and have also blocked off seating in the terminal to also assist with social distancing.

The Airport Restaurant has reopened on a limited basis to support airline operations.

A pre-bid meeting was held for Runway Repaving Project on May 12th. The bid opening is on May 21st.

Oshkosh was the apparent low bidder for the Airport Fire Vehicle Replacement Project. The Airport Director is working with FAA to finalize the contract award.

The Airport may have a couple of new tenants in the near future.

Public Safety Committee - Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee was polled on Resolutions #307 through #313. Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, had provided all legislators with a digital copy of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan which will be approved via Resolution #308 on today's agenda.

Transportation Committee - Legislator McGill

Legislator McGill reported at this time, highway crews are working on sweeping and cleaning up from the winter season. In the next few weeks, they will transition to preparing roads for paving which entails: replacing culverts, cutting shoulders and milling existing asphalt. Roadside mowing will also begin.

Luck Brothers, Inc., the County's contractor for the replacement of Harney Bridge Road Bridge (Plattsburgh/Schuyler Falls) and Tappin Road (Mooers) Bridge and the removal of Kent Falls Road Bridge (Plattsburgh/Schuyler Falls), has started work on each site. Both the Tappin Road and Harney Bridge Road have been closed.

The Transportation Committee was polled on Resolutions #314 through #316.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry reported the next Board of Health meeting will be held Monday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported a Zoom meeting will be held next week.

Workforce Development Board – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported last week, the Workforce Investment Board experienced a two-day lapse in Federal funding. Funds have since been released.

Clinton County is looking at over a 20 percent unemployment rate in Clinton County.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher had no report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo provided updates to the Legislature on sales tax collections and expected State Aid reductions.

Mr. Zurlo requested an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss a matter of potential litigation.

Chairperson’s Report – Mark Henry

Chairperson Henry provided an update on the process of opening up from the strict lockdown imposed to control the COVID-19 Pandemic, including resources available to assist businesses for their preparations to open. Chairperson Henry indicated that Clinton County has now met all seven metrics required by New York State to open to Phase I which will occur on May 16th.

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

Resolution #282 titled, "Appointing Deputy County Administrator" was unanimously adopted. Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution was bittersweet. He is extremely pleased to have Kim Kinblom join his team, but on the other hand, the County is losing Rodney Brown, who will be retiring. This gentleman is an extremely dedicated employee who has given over thirty years of service to the County and will be tremendously missed.

Resolution #283 titled, "Appointing Deputy Clerk of the Board for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 was unanimously adopted.

Discussion: Kim Kinblom thanked the Legislature for the confidence expressed by the appointment and stated that she will work hard to assist the Legislature and the County to continue the excellent services they provide.

Resolutions #284 through #307 were approved.

Resolution #308 titled, "Adopting the Clinton County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan"

Discussion: Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, reported this Plan is required by New York State.

Resolutions #309 through #323 were approved.

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

Resolution #324 was approved.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:27 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Waldron motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:32 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Potiker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m., seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

:MAL