

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

May 27, 2021

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday,
May 26, 2021, Clinton County, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1
Simon Conroy, Area 4
Robert Hall, Area 10
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3
Wendell Hughes, Area 8
Joshua Kretser, Area 9
Francis Peryea, Area 2
Rob Timmons, Area 7
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael E. Zurlo, County Administrator
Kim M. Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
Gary Favro, Assistant County Attorney
John Kanoza, Director of Public Health
Eric Day, Director of Emergency Services

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2021 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry reported there is a public hearing regarding Local Law #1 of 2021 titled, "A Local Law Adopting a Pilot Youth Deer Hunting Program." He asked the Clerk of the Board to read the notice of public hearing.

Legislator Hughes motioned to open the public hearing at 5:17 p.m., seconded by Legislator Potiker. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone present wished to address the board regarding this matter.

There being no one who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry entertained a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Hall motioned to close the public hearing at 5:18 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Michael Carpenter, a resident of Plattsburgh, asked to speak regarding visitation at the Clinton County Nursing Home. Mr. Carpenter, along with several other family members of nursing home residents, were present to express their concerns. Mr. Carpenter began by stating the care his family member has received has been exemplary and has not had any issues regarding that. He went on to state he has found the administration to be unresponsive, with many unreturned phone calls and e-mails. Mr. Carpenter provided proposed visitation ideas, such as one hour visits, the ability to bring gifts, visiting in private settings and regular visitation hours. He also noted the decline in their loved ones health has been extremely noticeable over the past 14 months and provided before and after photos. Mr. Carpenter closed by urging the Legislature to look into these proposed changes and thanked the members for their time.

Amy Gehrig, the Ombudsman for Clinton, Essex and Franklin Counties, was also present to discuss visitation. Ms. Gehrig urged the Legislature to allow for visitation between the hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and reiterated Mr. Carpenter's comment about the staggering changes in the Nursing Home residents.

Dana LePage, a resident of Clinton County, also spoke before the Legislature urging for visitation changes. Ms. LePage stated her father had waited 382 days before he was able to see his wife again and explained how difficult it was that he was not able to even hold her hand.

Debra Rodriguez and Carrie Collins, residents of Clinton County, also spoke before the Legislature providing brief stories about their loved ones. Ms. Collins stated her mother is in the end stages of her life and noted the changes the family members are asking for are reasonable and practical. Ms. Collins wants to be able to support her mother during this difficult time.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 4:30 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Children and Family Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Finance Committee was polled on Resolution #362 under Waive Rule 13.2 on the agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Zurlo reported Three+one Data Logistics Experts will be presenting at the meeting on June 2nd.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

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

John Kanoza, the Director of Public Health, was present to discuss COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Mr. Kanoza reported the County is in better times now, with cases in the single digits for the last week. Mr. Kanoza stated vaccinations are starting to roll out in schools, with Chazy Central being the first, and Northern Adirondack and Saranac Central to follow. The schools will also allow for walk-ins.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #338 on the agenda.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 4:30 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Human Services Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Thursday, May 20th.

Resolution #339 has been placed on the agenda as the result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to discuss several resolutions and provide an update on the Runway Closure Project.

Resolutions #340 through #349 have been placed on the agenda, as well as, Resolutions #363 through #365 under Waive Rule 13.2.

Legislator Hall also stated how impressed he is with the Runway Closure Project and noted when he visited this past Monday that the first layer of paving had been completed. He is confident of the runway re-opening on Wednesday, June 23rd.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported the Public Safety Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #350 through #352 on the agenda.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

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

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #353 through #356 on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 14th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Potiker

Legislator Potiker reported the Chamber will be holding a press conference to promote the upcoming fishing tournaments on Lake Champlain this summer. Legislator Hall will be attending the conference.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the search has begun to find a replacement for Mary Breyette, the Executive Director, who is retiring in August. The invitation was given to present at the Clinton County Fair this year but Cooperative Extension declined.

Grievance Committee – Chairperson Henry

Chairperson Henry reported there will be a meeting on Tuesday, June 8th at 9:00 a.m. Messrs. Peryea and Potiker will also be in attendance.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron stated the May meeting was cancelled. Clinton County will be hosting the meeting on Thursday, June 24th.

Soil and Water – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported there will be a tire recycling even occurring where residents can bring up to ten tires. Plattsburgh will be hosting first and then Saranac. Legislator Timmons did not know the exact date. Legislator Timmons also stated they will be hiring two part-time interns and will be filling the open technician position.

Workforce Development Board – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser reported the Board has been working on grant extensions and new grants. Legislator Kretser also stated Sylvie Nelson, the Executive Director, would like to attend an upcoming Regular Session to provide an update to the Legislature.

STAFF REPORTS

Assistant County Attorney – Gary Favro, Esq.

Mr. Favro did not have a report.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo stated the County is still awaiting the first payment of the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Zurlo has been reviewing Treasury regulations as to how the money can be used.

Chairperson's Report – Legislator Henry

Chairperson Henry did not have a report.

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

Resolutions #337 and #338 were approved.

Resolution #339 titled, "Approving Appointment of Director of Real Property Tax Services" was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Henry. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: The Legislature congratulated Ms. Lacey on her appointment and Chairperson Henry stated it was a unanimous decision for her recommendation.

Resolutions #340 and #341 were approved.

Resolution #342 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with Adirondack Salt and Sand, LLC" was moved by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Potiker. Legislator Peryea recused himself. Carried (9-0-0-1).

Resolutions #343 through #346 were approved.

Resolution #347 was withdrawn.

Resolutions #348 through #350 were approved.

Resolution #351 titled, "Authorizing Contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, 2021-2022 Probation State Aid Block Grant Funding and Program Plan" was moved by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated that the County and State cost used to be even. The State contribution is much lower than in the past.

Resolutions #352 through #359 were approved.

Resolution #360 titled, "A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$500,000 Serial Bonds of the County of Clinton, New York, to pay the Cost of the Construction of Improvements to and Reconstruction of Various County-Owned Buildings and Facilities in and for said County" was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated this is the bond resolution for the 2021 Master Plan.

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

Resolution #361 titled, "Approving Appointment of Jodi L. Currier as Board of Elections Commissioner" was moved by Ms. Waldron, Messrs. Castine, Conroy, Hall and Timmons and seconded by Messrs. Hughes, Henry, Peryea, Potiker and Kretser. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Chairperson Henry congratulated Greg Campbell, the former Board of Elections Commissioner, on his recent retirement and thanked him for his support through the years. The Legislature congratulated Ms. Currier on her new position and wished her well.

Resolution #362 titled, "Authorizing Contract for Energy Engineering Services with Wendel Energy Services, LLC" was moved by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo explained this resolution is allowing Wendel Energy Services, LLC to perform the study, but the County is not committing to any projects at this time. Mr. Zurlo stated there is no risk in having the study done and will provide educational information for the County.

Resolutions #363 through #365 were approved.

Chairperson Henry thanked Legislator Hall for his leadership at the Airport and commented on what a great job the construction crew is doing on paving the runway.

Legislator Peryea invited all Legislators to attend the Human Services Committee meeting being held on Tuesday, June 1st at 4:15 p.m. to assist with the County Nursing Home visitation topic.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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