

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

December 13, 2018

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, December 12, 2018 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Simon Conroy, Area 4  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Mark Henry, Area 3  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
Harry McManus, Chairperson, Area 1  
Christopher Rosenquest, Area 9  
Rob Timmons, Area 7  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

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

Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, Deputy County Administrator Rodney Brown conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the November 28, 2018 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Rosenquest. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson McManus asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

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

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Buildings and Grounds – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

#### **Children and Family Services – Legislator Henry**

Legislator Henry stated the Children and Family Services Committee met Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Rich Holcomb, the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, discussed October, 2018 monthly statistics and reviewed Resolutions #986 through #991 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. Resolutions #992 and #993 were polled and have also been placed on the agenda.

#### **Economic Development and County Operations – Legislator Conroy**

Legislator Conroy stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Resolutions #994 and #995 were polled and have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

#### **Finance – Legislator Rosenquest**

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Finance Committee met Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. Greg Bell, the Deputy Treasurer, discussed sales tax, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter occupancy tax and 2018/2019 school tax installments. He also reviewed Resolutions #996 through #1000 which have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The Committee also discussed the 2019 recommended budget. The first resolution on the agenda is for the adoption of the 2019 Budget. Please note that at the time the Committee met to approve a tentative budget, the one piece of missing information that could impact the budget was the rates for the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP). Those rates are now known and came in \$369,000 lower than projected. The Budget Officer has recommended that \$200,000 of this “savings” be used to reduce the General Fund Balance contribution, \$100,000 be used to reduce the contribution from Airport Retained Earnings and the remaining \$69,000 be used to reduce the tax levy. This action would result in

a final tax levy of \$29,260,003 and a tax rate of \$5.95 per \$1,000 assessed value, which is a \$0.02 reduction from the current year. Documents have been placed on legislators' desks with this information.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Health – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron stated the Health Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Resolutions #1001 through #1007 were polled and have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

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

Legislator Keenan stated the Human Services Committee met Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency, discussed November, 2018 monthly statistics, Veterans Cemetery concerns and the legislative agenda of the American Legion that could impact County veterans' agencies.

### **Personnel – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame stated the Personnel Committee met Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and reviewed 12 resolutions which have been placed on the agenda. He noted two important items: the replacement of a permanent, part-time airport firefighter to a full-time airport firefighter was disapproved and only approved as a straight backfill and the backfill of a permanent, full-time chief assistant district attorney was disapproved at Grade 13, Step 11 and approved at Grade 13, Step 10. Resolutions #1025 through #1027 were polled and have also been placed on the agenda.

### **Plattsburgh International Airport – Legislator Hall**

Legislator Hall stated Resolution #1028 was polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

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

Legislator Beach stated the Public Safety Committee met Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Lieutenant Nicholas Leon reviewed Resolutions #1029 and #1030. Dave Marcoux, the Probation Director, reviewed Resolutions #1033 and #1034. Jami Rock, the Administrative Assistant at the Child Advocacy Center, reviewed Resolution #1035. All resolutions discussed have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. Resolutions #1049 and #1052 under Waive Rule 13.2 have also been placed on the agenda.

### **Transportation – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons stated the Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Resolutions #1036 through #1039 were polled and have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee. Resolution #1051 under Waive Rule 13.2 has also been placed on the agenda.

### **Liaison Reports**

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

Legislator Rosenquest stated the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee met Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted the Committee ends its year on a positive note and looks forward to 2019.

#### **Community Services Board – Legislator Conroy**

Legislator Conroy stated the Community Services Board did not meet but hosted a Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery of Clinton County (SPARCC) event at the Mental Health and Addiction Services Auditorium. It was a film on the local opioid crisis which shared the stories of those affected by this issue.

#### **Cooperative Extension - Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons stated the Committee did not have a regular meeting for December but will have a Finance meeting on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **InterCounty – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron stated the InterCounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks will not meet in December.

#### **Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislator Keenan**

Legislator Keenan stated the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board met Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and reported the Board has “written off” a few bad loans which has released money for new loans. The next LC/LG Regional Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Soil and Water - Legislators Henry and Timmons**

Legislator Timmons noted in addition to the handouts he provided to the Legislature on the Clinton County Roadside Erosion Prevention Program, he is pleased to announce the reappointment of Bruce Dimock to the Board. He noted Mr. Dimock has done a great job and Legislator Timmons looks forward to working with him in 2019. Legislator Timmons also noted the addition of a new technician to the Soil and Water Conservation District and stated she has been working with the forest farmers on the production of maple and birch syrup in the County.

### **Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

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

Resolutions #979 titled “Adopting 2019 Clinton County Budget – Legislature” was motioned by Legislator Rosenquest and seconded by Legislator Dame. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Dame acknowledged and extended his gratitude to the County employees for their hard work and effort involved in formulating the 2019 Budget. He also thanked the dedicated Managers for their assistance to Michael Zurlo, the Budget Officer, in making this budget palatable for the citizens of the County. Lastly, he extended his appreciation to Mr. Zurlo and Mr. Brown for their efforts involved in creating the 2019 budget, and he hopes the 2019 year will be even better than the budget predicts.

Chairperson McManus noted the tax rate is lower now than it was 10 years ago, and he believes the key factor is the management of the County and the departments by County Administrator Michael Zurlo. He congratulated Mr. Zurlo and the Departments Heads for their hard work, long hours and effort.

Resolutions #980 through #1000 were approved.

Resolution #1001 titled “Amending Resolution #875 dated November 14, 2018 titled, “Authorizing Contract with Insync Healthcare Solutions, LLC - Mental Health and Addiction Services” was motioned by Legislator Waldron and seconded by Legislator Conroy. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest inquired if other departments in the County are utilizing this same Electronic Medical Record (EMR) software service. Mr. Brown replied he believes Mental Health and Addiction Services is the only department currently using this EMR provider. Mr. Brown stated this resolution decreases the amount of the contract and he stated he will check on this issue within the departments.

Resolutions #1002 through #1048 were approved.

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

Resolutions #1049 and #1050 were approved.

Resolution #1051 titled, “Authorizing Memorandum of Agreement with Plattsburgh City School District (PCSD) – Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT)” was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Beach. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Rosenquest asked Mr. Brown about the normal rate for students to ride on CCPT bus routes. Mr. Brown replied the rate within the City is \$1 each way. Legislator Rosenquest stated the foot bridge is a direct route for students from the south-end of town to school, as well as a recreational route for the citizens of Plattsburgh to walk, run, bike and utilize the Saranac River Trail. Without the foot bridge, he noted there is a decrease in the quality of life for the students and citizens of Plattsburgh. He requests and would appreciate any support from fellow Legislators or City Legislators on getting the foot bridge repaired. Chairperson McManus stated if Mr. Rosenquest initiates a meeting with the school officials, he would be happy to attend.

Resolutions #1052 through #1054 were approved.

There being no further business, Legislator Rosenquest motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

*Toni M. Moffat*

Toni Moffat  
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator