

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

July 30, 2017

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, July 26, 2017 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Jeanene Bell, Senior Stenographer

Health – Legislator Beach

Legislator Beach reported the next Health Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 1st at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services – Legislator Keenan

Legislator Keenan reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd has been cancelled. The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th.

Personnel – Legislator Dyer

Legislator Dyer reported the next Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 7th at 5:15 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier. Chris Kreig, the Airport Manager, updated the Committee on the status of Airline statistics from the beginning of the year to date, the Upstate Airport Initiative Grant Project, the status of various prospective tenants at the Airport and an update of the Federal Inspection Station (FIS) Project that has just begun. Jeffrey Luck from Luck Brothers, Inc. commented on the possibility of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). He expressed his opposition to the use of a PLA.

Legislator Hall reported Resolutions #585 through #590 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd at 5:15 p.m.

Public Safety – Legislator Conroy

Legislator Conroy reported the next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 14th at 5:15 p.m.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Rosenquest

Legislator Rosenquest reported the next Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th at which time the yearly marketing plan will be presented.

Legislator Dyer asked if there are alternates for the Planning Board. Mr. Brown replied no. Legislator Dyer reported he would like to know if his representative is not attending Planning Board meetings. He feels instead of decreasing the number of members on the Board that more members should be added to Board and be sure they are attending the meetings. Legislator Dyer reported he does not mind having two representatives from his area.

Legislator Beach asked the term for Planning Board members. Mr. Brown replied terms were commensurate with the terms of Legislators, and that was not working. It was decided that the terms of members be as long as they are willing to remain on the Board or be replaced by new County Legislators. Terms are indeterminate and can be replaced at any time by Legislators.

Legislator Beach reported he has a difficult time reducing the amount of representation because some areas are unable fill vacancies. He asked if it was a local or rural community issue.

Mr. Brown reported some Board members travel to Florida during the winter months. Legislator Dyer asked if an alternate would work. Mr. Brown replied he is concerned that an alternate may get discouraged if they attend a meeting and are unable to vote. Legislator Dyer reported the Soil and Water Committee contacts Board members before a committee meeting to be sure there will be a quorum. Chairperson McManus asked if Planning Board members frequently call in to report whether or not they will be attending a meeting, or just not show. Mr. Brown replied some members do call, some do not. Chairperson McManus asked if a written attendance report would be helpful for Legislators.

Legislator Dame reported he feels this is a local issue, and he is not sure if the County should be involved. He asked if this is a State-mandated law. Mr. Brown replied General Municipal Law includes a provision that allows County Planning Boards jurisdiction over certain projects before voted on prior to action by local Planning and Zoning Boards. He reported projects are defined as area variances, use variances and special permits located within 500 feet of a town border, county property, county or State highway or State park. Mr. Brown reported the Planning Board reviews these projects to determine if there would be a County-wide impact. If not, the decision is a local issue and is sent back to the local board of jurisdiction. Mr. Brown reported 90 percent of the referrals that come to the County Planning Board result in a finding of local issue. The remaining ten percent can result in a negative impact that could be approved with modifications or disapproval, and the referral would go back to the local board of jurisdiction. In the case of a disapproval or approval with modifications by the County Planning Board, the only way for a local board to pass the project would be a majority vote plus one vote. The project could be a positive County-wide impact which would be approved and go back to the local board of jurisdiction. Mr. Brown reported that would only need a simple majority vote for approval.

Legislator Dame reported the City, County and Town Planning Boards meet once per month. He reported many times issues are tabled or cancelled when there is not a quorum which stymies development. He feels an eleven-member Board is cumbersome and set up for failure. Mr. Brown agreed and reported a section of the State Law states the local municipality cannot act for at least 30 days if there is not a quorum, and therefore no action can be taken at the County Planning Board meeting.

Legislator Timmons asked if the areas of representation can remain as long as a member is interested in remaining on the Board. Mr. Brown replied there are nine current Planning Board members who will all remain on the Board. Each Legislator currently has the opportunity to select a member for the County Planning Board. The resolution authorizes a total of nine members.

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to enter Executive Session at 8:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Rosenquest motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:28 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business, Legislator Dyer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanene Bell".

Jeanene Bell
Senior Stenographer

requested in advance to allow you time for set up. Many of the people I am speaking about vote every election and vote by absentee ballot due to their level of physical difficulties.

Today, I am in terrible pain. I am unable to bear any further exacerbation to this pain that would be involved in coming to speak to you in person. I am dictating these comments using Dragon Dictate software that recognizes my speech and types what I say. I am LUCKY ENOUGH to own this software. Few people in my position have this opportunity and others may not have a computer or computer skills. It doesn't mean that their voices should not be heard, that they don't vote and that they don't matter.

For nearly two years, we could not speak to you in Full Session. That was a setback from which we cannot recover. Things supposedly improved when we got new buses and, in December, James Bosley announced that the county was expanding services in Transit. Just weeks later, the planning dept. began talking to NYSDOT about ending paratransit WHILE EXPANDING SERVICES for others. This too, is unspeakable in the way one group of people is targeted for elimination of a desperately needed service while others get expanded services.

We do believe that there are many things that many legislators do not fully understand about transit law, operations and federal grant contracts. As I can, I am slowly working to bring education and resources to you for review. NCCI remains fully opposed to the elimination of paratransit. It provides specialized services to a dense population area that deviation will be unable to do. It is not about inconvenience. That word belittles what the meaning of paratransit is and it belittles the Civil Rights history of people with disabilities crawling up the capitol steps in Washington to get equal rights. People with disabilities chained themselves together in front of buses and trains to get equal access to mass transit.

If the Office for the Aging can get grant money to subsidize Rural Paratransit and later, Rural Zone service, then someone should be able to find grant money for paratransit. Why, in the world, are the senior citizens, veterans and people with disabilities that live in the city so much less worthy of work and money?

That is the question.

Thank you all for your hard work on this issue!

Debra Buell