

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

October 21, 2015

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, October 14, 2015 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2
Mark Dame, Area 8
Samuel Dyer, Chairperson, Area 3
Robert Hall, Area 10
Pete Keenan, Area 5
James Langley, Jr., Area 7
Colin Read, Area 4
Patty Waldron, Area 6

EXCUSED: John Gallagher, Area 9
Harry McManus, Area 1

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator
James Coffey, Esq., County Attorney
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer
Tabitha Trombley, Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

Chairperson Dyer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. Legislators Gallagher and McManus asked to be excused.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the September 23rd Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Keenan. (Carried 8-0-2).

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, presented the new exemptions from sales and use tax for electricity generated and sold through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Ms. Davis reported several years ago, Clinton County provided a sales tax exemption for solar equipment. The State is now offering an exemption on the sales tax for energy purchased under a PPA. Ms. Davis stated unfortunately, there is no way to tell what the impact will be on Clinton County's sales tax. If counties already have the exemption for the equipment, counties would have to either accept this new exemption or repeal the old Local Law. It was the consensus of the Legislature to allow the exemption to take effect and observe what impact, if any, results. Ms. Davis stated the Legislature can, on a quarterly basis, decide to eliminate the exemption on equipment if they desire.

There being no one else who wished to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer called for standing committee and liaison reports.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met earlier at 5:15 p.m. Legislator Read reported the Human Services First Floor Renovation Project is near completion. A grand opening will be scheduled in the near future.

Legislator Read reported the Buildings and Grounds Department will be embarking on a new project to renovate the newly-acquired 130 Arizona Avenue property. The County's new engineer, Architectural & Engineering Design Associates, P.C. (AEDA), has been extremely helpful, and the County is very happy with this architectural and engineering firm.

Resolutions #695 through #697 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron reported the Children and Family Services Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 1st was cancelled. Ms. Waldron and Mr. Zurlo met with John Redden, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, and toured the renovations to the first floor. Legislator Waldron noted the renovations have tremendously improved the space.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #698 through #700 which are included on the agenda.

County Operations Committee – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported the County Operations Committee met earlier at 6:00 p.m. John Zurlo, the County Clerk, addressed the Committee regarding a recent Letter to the Editor which was published in the Press Republican regarding an exchange at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mr. Zurlo informed the Committee of several steps that have been taken in the department to improve customer service.

Mr. Zurlo reported on a number of changes and regulations affecting Commercial Drivers. He also reported on the new Federal Legislation regarding the Real ID Act. Mr. Zurlo will be proactive in educating County residents on these changes.

Finance Committee – Legislator Dame

The Finance Committee met Wednesday, October 7th at 5:15 p.m.

The Committee reviewed two requests for Tobacco Settlement funding. The Plattsburgh Housing Authority/Ted K Center requested an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to assist with the purchase of a new, 15 passenger van. The second request was from the Clinton Community College Foundation who requested \$30,000 to assist with nursing licensure fees.

Resolutions #701 through #705 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Beach

The Health Committee met Thursday, October 1st.

Peter Trout, the Director of Mental Health and Community Services, discussed the accounts receivable report and clinic fee schedules.

Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, discussed the Director's report and answered questions regarding standard Health Department resolutions.

Resolutions #706 through #711 are included on the agenda as a result of a poll of the Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Keenan

The Human Services Committee met Wednesday, October 7th.

Wendie Bishop, the Nursing Home Administrator, discussed the mandated purchase of E- Prescription software which is required to be in compliance with the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services.

Steve Bowman, the Director of the Veterans' Service Agency, provided the Committee with updated statistics and an update on a potential Veterans' Cemetery.

Resolution #712 has been included on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th following the 5:15 p.m. Finance Committee meeting.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Langley

Legislator Langley reported the next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, October 28th at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Zurlo reported the pay application was processed and delivered to Murnane Building Contractors, Inc. Rodney Brown, the Deputy County Administrator, stated the application was changed by Murnane Building Contractors, Inc. and was found to be acceptable to the County and to the engineers. The check was cut and delivered to Murnane Building Contractors, Inc. on Friday, October 9th.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th was cancelled.

The Committee was polled on Resolutions #721 through #728.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th at 6:15 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Rodney Brown

Mr. Brown reported Clinton County Public Transit (CCPT) has been experiencing difficulty regarding the Rural Paratransit Program in that there has been an increase in demand for the service and a decrease in the number of buses to provide the service. Mr. Brown noted Clinton County is the last county in New York State that provides Rural Paratransit Bus Service.

Mr. Brown explained there is typically one bus that is used to provide Paratransit Service to individuals that are eligible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but we have often needed two buses in recent weeks.

Recently, there have been a couple of people located on opposite ends of the County who have been using the Paratransit Service for transportation to and from daily employment. Therefore, the County has had to deploy two buses to serve these individuals. As a result, the County has been left short on buses for its fixed routes on numerous occasions.

Mr. Brown reported this issue was brought before the Transportation Committee for discussion. As a result of two public meetings, it was decided to eliminate Rural Paratransit and substitute the service with a Dial-A-Ride Zone Service where the County will be divided into four geographic zones. Two zones each day are provided with service three days each week. The bus will only travel twice to each zone on any given day (one trip from Plattsburgh to pick up individuals and bring them into Plattsburgh, and one trip to bring the individuals back from Plattsburgh). The kidney dialysis patients who are serviced three times a week will still be able to use this service. This new Zone Service will begin in January, 2016, and this will provide sufficient time to notify the public of the changes. Mr. Brown noted the fares will be increased from \$3.50 to \$5 one way.

Legislator Beach noted the Dialysis Center has been wonderful in working with the County to ensure their patients are provided with transportation. He said although this may seem like a reduction in services, in some ways, it is actually an increase. In the past, passengers had to have a disability in order to qualify for this service. Now, anyone can utilize the Dial-A-Ride Service.

Liaison Reports

Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Read

Legislator Read reported he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Strategic Tourism Planning Committee as the meeting had been rescheduled. The Committee discussed the Upstate New York Revitalization Initiative that was recently submitted.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – James Coffey, Esq.

County Attorney James Coffey requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation

regarding Clinton County, Sheehan and Colonial Security.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo introduced Tabitha Trombley who was recently hired in the Legislative Office.

Mr. Zurlo reported he received an email from the New York State Division of Budget that Clinton County’s Efficiency Plan pertaining to the Tax Freeze has been approved by the State of New York.

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

Resolutions #695 through #702 were approved.

Resolution #703 titled, “Awarding Bid for Trash/Recyclables Removal from Various County-Owned Buildings – Purchasing” was moved by Legislator Read and seconded by Legislator Keenan.

Discussion:

Legislator Langley asked if only one bid was submitted. Mr. Zurlo replied yes. Legislator Langley noted this was an \$8,000 increase in cost from last year. Mr. Zurlo replied the additional cost is due to the addition of the 130 Arizona Avenue property, and there was an additional fee because several of the containers at the Highway Department were older and needed to be replaced. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolutions #704 through #712 were approved.

Resolution #713 titled, “Approving Creation of a Permanent, Full-Time Equipment and Building Mechanic Position (PCN TBD) – Solid Waste” was moved by Legislator Langley, seconded by Legislator Hall.

Discussion: Legislator Dame asked the reason this Resolution was not presented to the Personnel Committee. Mr. Zurlo replied he felt this request fell under the criteria that he and the Personnel Director could poll the Personnel Committee as this would not represent an additional increase to the County due to the fact that Casella would pay 100 percent of all of the costs associated with this new position. Legislator Dame agreed Casella does pay the costs associated with the position, but the costs are covered by tipping fees that all of the consumers in Clinton County pay for. Legislator Dame stated there may be a request for increase in tipping fees due to increased costs. Mr. Zurlo replied the tipping fees are governed by the contract the County has with Casella.

Legislator Dame asked if anyone knew what Casella has done in the past to repair heavy equipment. Mr. Zurlo asked Mr. Dame if he wished to table this resolution for further discussion.

The motion to table the Resolution was offered by Legislator Dame, seconded by Legislator Langley. Carried (8-0-2). The Resolution will be placed on the November 5th Personnel Committee meeting.

Resolutions #714 through #730 were approved.

Resolution #731 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Adjust Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Grant – Employment and Training" was moved by Legislator Dame, seconded by Legislator Waldron.

Discussion: Legislator Read motioned to amend the second paragraph to change "Workforce Investment Board" to "Workforce Development Board," seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolutions #732 through #745 were approved.

Chairperson Dyer asked if there was any other business to come before the Legislature.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Keenan to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (8-0-2).

There being no further business, Legislator Keenan motioned to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Respectfully submitted,



Melody Lemieux
Principal Stenographer

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