

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
:SS
STATE OF NEW YORK)

January 12, 2026

Stenographer's minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Clinton County Legislature held Monday, January 5, 2026 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
 Calvin Castine, Area 1
 Ron Deragon, Area 8
 David Kerr, Area 10
 Mark Henry, Area 3
 Joshua Kretser, Area 9
 Francis Peryea, Area 2
 Kevin Randall, Area 5
 Rob Timmons, Area 7
 Jennifer Facteau-Rabideau, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Christine G. Peters, Esq., County Administrator
 Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator
 Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq., County Attorney

County Administrator Christine Peters, Esq. called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Deputy County Administrator Kim Kinblom conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Chairperson Henry called upon Brandi Lloyd, the County Clerk, to administer the oath of office to the five recently-elected Legislators.

Ms. Kinblom read the title of Resolution #1, "Appointing Chairperson of the County Legislature for 2026."

Legislator Timmons offered the name of Mark Henry to be appointed as Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2026. Legislator Bezio seconded the motion and stated Mr. Henry has done a great job for this Legislature and he would like that to continue. Carried (10-0-0). Legislator Timmons stated Mr. Henry has represented the Legislature for several years now and is doing a great job for us and he would like to continue to see him do that.

Chairperson Henry thanked his fellow legislators for appointing him the Chair of this Legislature. He stated it is a privilege to be doing this and is honored every time he represents this legislature in our County, and folks of this County.

Chairperson Henry asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to share their thoughts and concerns with the Legislature.

Jennifer Jewett, of Champlain, New York stated she was really hoping to say something prior to the Chairman vote, but unfortunately, that already occurred. She reported there are a lot of people in Clinton County that wanted to see a change in the Chairman this year, because of events that occurred last year. An entire County banned from speaking on the Dog Tethering law, an issue that is very important to people in Clinton County. She really hopes that that ban will actually be lifted for the next meeting next week because it is an important issue. To quote President Trump's Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, who in a statement just last week, was quoted as saying, "The badge of a really humane nation is the way it takes care of its animals." Donald Trump and his administration is taking animal cruelty head on.

He is currently creating an animal cruelty task force and recently withheld \$28 million in federal funding that was previously used for animal testing. He is just getting started. Donald Trump's taskforce is aimed at stopping organized animal cruelty, such as dog fighting, which, if you're not aware, is directly linked to organized crime and 24/7 chaining of dogs. The thing that bothered us last year was the fact that the Public Safety Committee was stacked three to one, which was stacking the deck. We want to see an equal Public Safety Committee with two Democrats and two Republicans so that we can have a fair decision made on what passes the Public Safety Committee. In March, an entire county was banned. We are taxpayers, I'm a retired military member and disabled veteran, and we should be able to speak here in this County legislature.

We hope that the new legislators that are here are going to make a difference. They are going to be innovative, they're going to have new ideas. They are going to step up and get up with the times. America is changing, animal cruelty laws are changing all over this country, and we are not exempt from that in Clinton County. I am really hoping to see change in 2026, and not a personal bias leading the County legislature.

Betty Lou Lajoy, of Plattsburgh stated she just wanted to congratulate all the new members and looks forward to continuing or making some changes in the next coming year. She thanked the Legislature.

Seeing there were no other speakers, Ms. Peters read the remaining resolution titles.

Resolution #2, "Appointing Deputy Chairperson of the Clinton County Legislature for 2026." Legislator Castine motioned to offer the name of Francis Peryea to serve as Deputy Chairperson for the year

2026. Legislator Randall seconded the motion. Carried (10-0-0). Legislator Peryea thanked the Legislature and stated he really enjoys his job, is looking forward to being the Deputy and is going to continue working as hard as he always has for the last six years.

Resolution #3, "Appointing Republican Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2026." Chairperson Henry motioned to offer the name of Rob Timmons as Republican Leader for the year 2026. Chairperson Peryea seconded the motion. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #4, "Appointing Democratic Leader of the Clinton County Legislature for 2026." Legislator Kretser motioned to offer the name of Dave Bezio as Democratic Leader for the year 2026. He stated he will do a great job for everyone on the Legislature and everyone in the County. The motion was seconded by Legislator Kerr. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #5, "Adopting Rules of Order for 2026." Legislator Bezio motioned to adopt the Rules of Order for 2026, seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #6, "Appointing County Attorney for 2026 and 2027." Chairperson Henry offered the name of Jacqueline M. Kelleher, Esq., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #7, "Appointing Assistant County Attorney for 2026." Legislator Castine offered the name of Gary L. Favro, Esq., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #8, "Appointing Administrator of Indigent Defendants for 2026." Legislator Timmons offered the name of Justin R. Meyer, Esq., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #9, "Appointing Off Track Betting (OTB) Director for 2026." Legislator Peryea offered the name of Victor McCasland, seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

The Legislature agreed that every two years, the position will switch parties and starting in 2027, it will be Democratic.

Staff Reports

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.,

Ms. Kelleher thanked the Legislature for appointing her to another term. She has enjoyed working with this team and is looking forward to working with the new legislators and making progress in the County.

County Administrator – Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters thanked all individuals for their understanding, support and expressions of sympathy after the recent passing of her father.

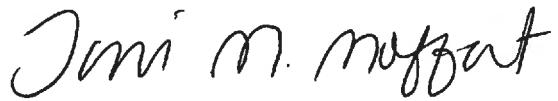
Chairperson's Report – Mark Henry

Chairperson Henry stated he will get the Committee assignments out as soon as he can. In the meantime, all Legislators will continue with the Committees they have been chairing.

Ms. Lloyd administered the oath of office to Ms. Kelleher and Mr. Meyer.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Bezio motioned to adjourn at 4:56 p.m., seconded by Legislator Deragon. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat

Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

:TM