

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

January 15, 2026

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, January 14, 2026 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

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

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

Christine Peters, Esq., the County Administrator, conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Kretser motioned to accept the minutes of the December 22, 2025 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Jennifer Jewett, of Champlain, New York stated this will be her last speech, that she has been coming for over two years, and she has often wondered what the Legislature would all do if they found out that she considers herself more of a Republican than a Democrat. She stated she is actually a Trump supporter, which may surprise the Legislature, and she is happy with the changes the President is making. Ms. Jewett stated she has lost a lot of "so called" friends, because she believes in what the President is actually doing for the country. But we all have the right to vote for whoever we want to, and she believes that it is not anybody's business who she actually voted for, which is why she has never shared this information until now. But she will not change her voter status from no party affiliation to Republican, because she cannot in any way relate to the Republicans in this room. She noted Legislator Facticeau-Rabideau is not included in that statement as she does not know her. Ms. Jewett stated everything she has been through in the past two years, all that has been done to sabotage her cause in any way possible is inexcusable. She has friends who are registered Republicans and they are disgusted by what they have seen here. One person cannot even walk into this room anymore because she is so turned off. Ms. Jewett noted the dog tether law is a nonpartisan issue, so who she voted for or who her supporters voted for, should not even matter and should be completely irrelevant. Ms. Jewett always welcomed support for this issue, regardless of people's political affiliation. Five out of ten people in this room as Republicans have clearly been told to vote down the dog tether law as it is a Republican vote. Ms. Jewett does not know where the Legislature gets the idea that animal cruelty laws are an issue Republicans do not support. But as she had mentioned last week, Donald Trump himself has created an animal cruelty strike force, stopped \$28 million in federal funding from going to animal testing and he has more efforts on the way. Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida, also a Republican, is helping animals in amazing ways with Troopers' law, Dexter's law and their recent animal abuse registry. Ms. Jewett noted animal cruelty laws are not a Republican versus Democrat issue. As she sees it, this is a decent people versus people who clearly do not care about the welfare of animals. She believes that this whole concept of we as Republicans do not support animal cruelty laws is unique to Clinton County, and frankly has been used to fulfill someone's agenda. This past summer, she asked to attend a local Republican Committee meeting and was told on several occasions that she was not allowed or even welcome. Ms. Jewett tried to create a dialogue and have a discussion, but the Republican side would not talk to her. Ms. Jewett feels the Legislature is never going to give the dog tether law a chance. She thought once the newly elected officials began, things might be a little bit different, but everything has been set up for failure. Ms. Jewett stated if living in a county where dogs are chained up 24/7 makes Clinton County a better place to live, then we really are very different people. She is not going to beg to speak on this issue that is clearly important to so many people in this county, while you ignore your constituents. She continued on to state that many of you haven't listened to one single thing in two years and some here have made it a part-time job making sure this does law not succeed at the town level. Ms. Jewett stated if or when some of you grow a heart, decide to actually listen, open up your mind a little bit or you wake up and realize that you have done something wrong, please let her know. She is working on other ways to get this law passed, even without the Legislature. Ms. Jewett has one final word on the subject, karma is real, if it has not come knocking on your door yet, it soon will.

There being no one else who wished to speak, Chairperson Henry moved onto the Committee Reports.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – County Administrator Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated 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, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – County Administrator Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters 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, February 11th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

The Committee was polled on Resolution #10 on the agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Bezio

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

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall

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

The next Human Services Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – County Administrator Christine Peters, Esq.

The Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The Committee was polled on Resolution #11 on the agenda.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine

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

The Committee was polled on Resolution #12 on the agenda.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 2nd at 4:00 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 Resolution #13 on the agenda.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 9th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Randall

Legislator Randall stated the next meeting will be on Thursday, January 22nd in Warren County.

Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board – Legislators Kretser and Randall

Legislator Kretser stated the annual meeting was on Tuesday, January 13th in Warren County. The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan and Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was appointed as the secretary of the Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Development Corporation Committee. Legislator Kretser noted the Board is doing more in Clinton County, specifically in Plattsburgh and other surrounding areas.

Soil and Water Conservation Board – Legislators Bezio and Timmons

Legislator Bezio reported the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th at 5:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher did not have a report.

County Administrator – Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters reminded the Legislature the State of the County, City and Town is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Butcherblock, please RSVP by Thursday, January 15th to Erin or Toni if you are able to attend.

Ms. Peters provided an update regarding the Sand Road Water Project that Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. is inspecting basements. Legislator Randall helped Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. enter a few homes and talk to residents, which was very helpful. Ms. Peters believes 23 out of 43 homes have signed up and they are doing another round at the end of the month. As of this meeting, there were only two people that said there were hard no's. Legislator Randall believes most of the properties that are left are vacant lots or rental properties. Ms. Peters believes the Project should be starting this spring.

On Monday, January 12th, Ms. Peters and Chairperson Henry toured the Courtroom Project, which is going smoothly. Chairperson Henry stated he appreciates the opportunity to represent the Legislature on that Project that was authorized by the Legislature last year.

Sean Lukas, the General Manager of Casella Waste Systems, introduced himself to the new legislators and invited the new legislators for a tour of the Landfill to see how it operates and how it serves the county. He introduced Michael Witzing, who is the Director of Environmental Permitting, located in Rutland, Vermont, and has been a big help on the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Pretreatment Project. Mr. Witzing stated he is here to talk about the Landfill Leachate Pretreatment System that Casella is proposing to build.

Mr. Witzing stated there are three actions he would like to discuss that Casella is looking to take action on, but before he gets into that, he will spend a few minutes to discuss the background of the project to apprise the new legislators. PFAS is what is referred to as an emerging contaminant, or "forever chemicals." It is chemical compounds that are very commonplace in the waste stream that appear in waterproofing products, as well as, firefighting foam products. Over the last 10 years or so, there has been emerging knowledge that these compounds can cause harm to human health, aquatic resources and the environment. There has been more attention on trying to eliminate these compounds from the environment but unfortunately, they are very difficult to remove. These chemicals are compounds of carbon and fluorine that have very strong bonds and it is very difficult for these compounds to break down naturally in the environment. Moreover, because PFAS appear in so many products that are disposed of in a landfill, and as rainwater falls in a landfill it then creates leachate from the landfill, which then winds up in the Plattsburgh water pollution control plants. These are not removed in typical water pollution control plants, so they are discharged in the environment. Mr. Witzing explained Casella became aware of a federal program that was available to provide up to 100 percent funding for the capital costs for projects that treat emerging contaminants. In the middle of last year, Mr. Witzing met with the Legislature and asked for a partnership where Casella worked jointly with the County on getting this project done. He explained the grant is only available to municipalities, not to a private company like Casella and so Casella entered into a Memorandum of Agreement where the County agreed to serve as the applicant for the grant and Casella would guarantee that any costs that are not covered by the grant would be paid for by Casella. In addition, Casella is prefunding an account with the County so the County is never having to front any costs. The County is taking money from this pre-funded account and paying ongoing costs until the grant is secured and then the grant will start to cover costs.

Mr. Witzing explained one of the first steps before being able to apply for this grant is to do something called listing the project with the funding agency. The funding agency in New York State is the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), and although this is a federal program, each state administers it themselves. The EFC is the entity in New York State that administers this grant. Listing the project means to go on the EFC's portal, identifying the name of the project, giving a bit of a description and then most importantly, preparing an engineering report. This is a report that describes what the nature of the problem

is. The PFAS being in the leachate, what the solution would be, give a cost estimate, and this would need to be submitted as part of this listing. Mr. Witzing explained that was successfully completed in May of last year, the agency then reviewed that, accepted that, and then the project appeared on what's called the annual list. The annual list is issued every October and lists all of the projects that have the ability to then apply for a grant. He noted if you're not on that annual list then you cannot apply for a grant. This Project made it to the annual list with a total cost of \$16.58 million, so that is the first step. Mr. Witzing explained to apply for the grant there are certain pieces of documentation that are required. The first piece of documentation is to have an engineering contract, which will go through a public solicitation process for evaluating qualifications of engineering firms and to then select someone. He explained this has been accomplished and Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. was hired in September of last year. The next thing is an environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process which involves the preparation of an environmental assessment form. Mr. Witzing stated there are three parts of that form, part one is completed, which allowed Casella to then issue part one to other involved agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). That started a 30-day review period for these agencies to give any comments on what they think might be important for this project. The review period ended on Wednesday, December 17th with no real significant comments received. Part two is filled out by the lead agency, which is Clinton County. Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. prepared that on Casella and the County's behalf. This was presented to the Legislature on December 21, 2025. One of the three actions that Casella is looking for the County to act on is to approve part 2 and part three of the environmental assessment form, and what that involves would be a determination of the level of significance of this project, and Casella is recommending that it be given a negative declaration. This designation means there is a determination that there is no significant adverse environmental impact. In support of that, Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. prepared a document called Part 3 supporting information. This gives a little more background on each of the questions that were answered on this form. Casella is looking for the Legislature to declare a negative declaration, which is the subject of the first resolution that Casella is looking for the Legislature to adopt. The second resolution is the actual approval to apply for the grant. The grant needs to have all those pieces of documentation in place, the environmental review is one, adopting a resolution to apply for the grant is meaningless unless we have the environmental review and the third resolution is to submit a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the treatment equipment itself that's going to be part of this plant. Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. is working on the preliminary design, but cannot move too far forward with that design until it is settled on what the actual type of equipment is going to be deployed. This involves two different processes, the first part being called foam fractionation, which is what Casella wants to do, but the second stage is still subject to some further evaluation. Each vendor has a different way of dealing with that back-end piece, which is referred to as residuals management. This decision will have an impact on the size of the building that is needed, the electrical distribution system, ancillary services, foundation designs, etc., so Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. cannot move too far forward until the design is nailed down. The third resolution is to approve the issuance by the purchasing agent to release that RFP. Mr. Witzing explained even though the Project is on the annual list, it does not guarantee approval, or that the money will be available. There is always the possibility the federal government retracts its allocation of funds, or the money becomes unavailable for some other reason. The third resolution is on a different time frame. Casella wants to issue the RFP because it is needed to keep working and maintaining the schedule of the project. The longer the delay on issuing the RFP means the longer the delay from Barton and Loguidice, D.P.C. to do the engineering, which then delays when construction can be bid, which delays the start of construction.

Chairperson Henry stated if there are no other questions, he would like to remind the Legislature that this is a preliminary discussion. Ms. Peters stated at the next Regular Session meeting of Wednesday, January 28th these resolutions will be passed. Mr. Lukas reiterated if anybody wants to come see where Casella is talking about inputting this, what the potential impact would be (which are very minimal) but worth talking about, Casella is happy to host anyone.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Henry requested an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

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

Resolutions #10 through #16 were approved.

Legislator Kerr motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation at 5:59 p.m., seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Deragon motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Randall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Erin M. Light
Senior Typist

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