

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

May 14, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Calvin Castine, Area 1  
David Bezio, Area 4  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Mark Henry, Chairperson, Area 3  
Wendell Hughes, Area 8  
Joshua Kretser, Area 9  
Francis Peryea, Area 2  
Kevin Randall, Area 5  
Rob Timmons, Area 7  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Kim Kinblom, Deputy County Administrator  
Jacqueline Kelleher, County Attorney

Chairperson Henry called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call.

Legislator Hall motioned to accept the minutes of the April 24, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Jennifer Jewett, of 11109 State Route 9, Champlain, New York expressed her dismay for the Legislative members for their lack of compassion to this matter.

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

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Bezio**

Legislator Bezio 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, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Peryea**

Legislator Peryea stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Christine Peters, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, was present to discuss monthly statistics, lobby hours, an Eligibility Verification Assistant (EVA) update, a homelessness update, the Foster Parent Dinner and the Governor's Budget.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron**

Legislator Waldron stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier.

Dave Randall, the Director of Information Technology, was present to discuss the resolution, "Authorizing FY2021 Cybersecurity Grant Program Application and Acceptance."

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was also present to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Payment of Membership Dues" and "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Increase Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the 2023-2024 Snowmobile Trail Grant."

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was also in attendance to provide updates on BETA Technologies, Inc., the Clinton Business Innovation Gateway (C-BIG), Clinton Community College and the County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA).

Resolutions #376 through #379 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons**

Legislator Timmons reported the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Sean Lukas, of Casella, was present for continued discussion on the Clinton County Convenience Station.

On behalf of Kimberly Davis, the County Treasurer, and Rebecca Murphy, the Deputy County Treasurer, Mr. Zurlo discussed 2024 Sales Tax, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 Occupancy Tax, In Rem Foreclosure, the Correction of Error Report and the resolutions, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 Funds to Various Accounts” and “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write-off Uncollectible Airport Invoices – Plattsburgh International Airport.”

Resolutions #380 through #387 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

### **Health Committee – Legislator Hughes**

Legislator Hughes reported the Health Committee met on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Richelle Gregory, the Director of Community Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with the United Way of the Adirondack Region, Inc.” and “Authorizing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Extension with the Veterans’ Service Agency.” Additionally, Legislator Hughes commended Ms. Gregory for being a recipient of the 2024 Women of Distinction Award from Assemblyman Billy Jones.

Jeffrey Sisson, the Public Health Director, was also present to discuss the resolution including, “Authorizing Tobacco Enforcement Program Grant Acceptance,” the Grant Quarterly Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024, the Director’s Report for March, 2024 and the Health Report for April, 2024.

Resolutions #388 through #392 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

### **Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall**

Legislator Randall reported the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> was cancelled.

Resolution #393 was polled and has been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m.

Additionally, Legislator Randall stated he and Legislators Hughes, Castine and Peryea attended the Senior Center Festival. He noted it was a very nice event and the Senior Center thanked the Legislature for

their help. Legislator Randall thanked the Senior Center Committee for hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> year of the event.

#### **Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry**

Chairperson Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Kim Kinblom, the Personnel Director, was present to discuss several resolutions. The resolutions will be placed on the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session agenda.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

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

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

Resolution #394 has been polled and placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Public Safety Committee – Legislator Castine**

Legislator Castine stated the Public Safety Committee met on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Captain Joel Desso of the Sheriff's Department was present to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Out-of-State Travel" and "Authorizing Contract Amendment with William J. Murray."

Jaime Douthat, the Chief Assistant District Attorney, was also present to discuss the resolutions, "Authorizing Payment of 2024 Membership Dues" and "Authorizing On-going Contract with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, Inc."

Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, was in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, "Authorizing FY2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program Extension" and "Authorizing Contract Buyout with Crown Castle (CCATT, LLC)."

Justin Meyer, the Administrator of Indigent Defense, was also in attendance to discuss Family Court Contracts and Appointment as Acting County Attorney for Limited Family Court Matters.

Legislator Castine stated a motion was made regarding the dog tethering law for the County. The Committee voted to not move forward on this matter but the Legislators in favor of the law were invited to present the resolution to the County Legislative body if they so desire.

Resolutions #395 through #403 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser**

Legislator Kretser stated the Transportation Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislator Randall**

Legislator Randall attended the meeting at the Warren County Municipal Center held on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Legislator Randall reported Legislator Waldron spoke with him regarding Clinton County's hosting of the Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at Miner's Institute in Chazy, New York. He noted all Legislators are invited to this event.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.**

Ms. Kelleher requested an Executive Session to provide advice of counsel.

### **County Administrator – Michael Zurlo**

Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature they all have received an invitation from the Town of Plattsburgh to attend the Housing Symposium on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Zurlo reviewed the June calendar with the Legislature and solidified the dates of the Finance Committee meeting (Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m.), the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting (Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.) and the Transportation Committee meeting (Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.).

### **Chairpersons Report**

Chairperson Henry did not have a report.

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

Resolutions #376 through #385 were approved.

Resolution #386 titled, "Authorizing the County Treasurer to Appropriate and Transfer Funding from the Tobacco Reserve Fund for 2024 Projects" was motioned by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Legislator Bezio stated he initially approved of the Chesterfield Fish & Game Club request but has since discovered the Club is located in Essex County which disqualifies them according to the Tobacco Settlement Funding policy. Legislature Bezio motioned to amend the resolution to remove the Chesterfield Fish & Game Club from the resolution, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (10-0-0).

On a motion by Legislator Timmons and seconded by Legislator Randall the resolution was approved. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #387 through #391 were approved.

Resolution #392 titled, "Amending Resolution #301 dated September 14, 2022 titled, "Authorizing Contracts with Selected Individuals for the Distribution of State Septic System Replacement Funds Grant" was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Castine. Carried (10-0-0).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reminded the Legislature that when the County originally received this Grant it was limited to the shores of Lake Champlain. The regulations have since changed to allow this funding to be used for many of the waterways, land adjacent to waterways and the entire County. As such, the County has received another allocation.

Resolutions #393 through #406 were approved.

Legislator Hall expressed he believes in a County dog tethering law. He is requesting that a law be drafted for the Legislature to review. He believes that if the right law is presented to the Legislature it will pass.

Legislator Hughes agreed with Legislator Hall's sentiments.

Legislator Castine requested to share the letters from the towns with Jennifer Jewett. Mr. Zurlo stated he will email those letters to her. Mr. Castine stated he is not opposed to the law but he is not in favor of dictating to the Towns what they should do.

Legislator Timmons stated the Town of Ausable has a hearing on their own law. He believes that is the right way to go, to have the towns put forth this law.

Legislator Randall reported two of the towns he represents requested to review a draft. He agrees with Legislator Hall but believes a committee should be established to draft the law. He also suggested that it be voted on in November.

Chairperson Henry stated there were different views on how the Legislature wants to proceed.

Legislator Peryea reported the towns he represents want to do their own law.

Legislator Castine stated if the Public Safety Committee brings a law to the Legislature, he is requesting that during the vote, Legislators voice their vote publicly. Legislator Hall agreed with Legislator Castine's request.

Legislator Hall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m., seconded by Legislator Waldron. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:35 p.m., seconded by Legislator Kretser. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Peryea motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Moffat  
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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