

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

October 25, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, October 23, 2024 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

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

EXCUSED: David Bezio, Area 4
Joshua Kretser, Area 9

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

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

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call. Legislators Bezio and Kretser asked to be excused.

Legislator Timmons motioned to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (8-0-2).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Jennifer Jewett, of Champlain, New York expressed her excitement that the proposed Dog Tethering Law was before the Legislators for review. She indicated this law focuses on stopping the most extreme cases of neglect in the County. She reviewed the guidelines with the Legislature and requested the Legislators take the law seriously and vote on behalf of their constituents.

Debbie Hicks, of Champlain, New York stated that Legislator Castine has reported in the past that Mooers does not want the tether law. She inquired on why he is focusing on Mooers as he also represents Champlain and Rouses Point and only part of Mooers. She asked him to please acknowledge the majority who want the law instead of those who don't. She requested the Legislators to consider this law with an open heart.

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

Buildings and Grounds Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Bezio, Mr. Zurlo stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Tuesday, October 15th.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of the Buildings and Grounds Department, discussed the resolutions, “Authorizing Contract with Big Al’s Blacktop Sealing, LLC” and “Authorizing Contract with Architectural & Engineering Design Associates (AEDA), P.C.,” as well as, an American Rescue Plan Act Projects update and the Government Center Brick Project update.

Resolutions #865 and #866 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Peryea

Legislator Peryea stated the Children and Family Services has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th at 5:15 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Waldron

Legislator Waldron 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, November 13th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

Resolutions #867 and #868 have been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th at 5:15 p.m. As Budget Season is upon us, Legislator Timmons offered Tuesday, November 26th and Wednesday, November 27th for review of the Recommended budget at 4:00 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

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

Resolution #869 has been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Randall

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

Resolution #870 has been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th at 4:15 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Legislator Henry

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

Resolutions #871 through #894 have been placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation from the meeting of Monday, October 7th.

The next Personnel Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 4th at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Resolutions #895 through #898 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 25th 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.

Resolution #899 has been polled and placed on the agenda as a result of the Committee's recommendation.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 4th at 4:00 p.m.

Legislator Castine stated there is no reason for each town to have separate Dog Tethering Laws and there is a good template in front of the Legislature today. He reported if it (the resolution) fails, each town will have a template to draft their own law. He reported he will not dictate to any community how they should treat it.

Transportation Committee – County Administrator Michael Zurlo

On behalf of Legislator Kretser, Mr. Zurlo stated the Transportation Committee met on Tuesday, October 15th.

Karl Weiss, the Highway Superintendent, was present to discuss several resolutions including, "Concerning the Impacts of Efforts to Electrify Highway Department Vehicles by Adoption of the Advanced Clean Truck Rule" and "Authorizing the Purchase of Additional Solar-Powered Road Weather Information Systems."

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, was also present to discuss an update on the status of the SUNY Shuttle and the upcoming Bus Procurement.

Resolutions #900 through #905 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 18th at 5:15 p.m.

Legislator Castine appreciated the letter that the Transportation Committee sent out and was printed in the Press Republican.

LIAISON REPORTS

Community Service Board – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported Amanda Bulriss provided a description of services provided by the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill. Diana Wardell was also present to talk about immigrant Helping Hands outreach through Catholic Charities, an immigrant resource program. Amanda Leary provided a Conifer Park update. Jamie Martineau was re-appointed to the Board for another four years, as well as, Sue Arnold, who was also re-appointed. Laura Segall was approved to the Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. Subcommittee. Jen Trudeau provided an update on BHSN, Inc. Lastly, the opioid settlement funds were discussed at the meeting.

Cooperative Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 29th, which is the annual meeting.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislators Randall and Waldron

Legislator Randall reported the next Intercounty of the Adirondacks meeting is Thursday, October 24th and will be hosted by Essex County at Fort Ticonderoga.

Soil and Water District – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons reported the District created a third Conservation District Technician position (full-time) and is seeking to fill it to assist the District in planning, coordinating and the implementation of a variety of natural resources for conservation-related projects in Clinton County. He requested if anyone knows of an applicant and if so, to please ask them to apply, especially if they have a forestry background.

Legislator Timmons also reported with grant funding, the District has assisted 15 farms to plant over 18 acres of cover crops this fall for erosion control via a drone, which is more efficient.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an executive session to discuss the sale of real property and contractual negotiations

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported he continues to meet with Department Heads on 2025 budget submissions and is making progress. He stated he has had most of his meetings with Department Heads with a few larger ones left, the biggest change has been clarifying erroneous amounts or cutting items that do not merit the Legislature's consideration.

He noted that the first negotiation session with the CSEA was held on Tuesday, October 22nd. He noted it was cordial and all remain hopeful that a recommendation can be put forth to the Legislature in the near future.

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.

Resolution #865 titled, "Authorizing Contract with Big Al's Blacktop Sealing, LLC" was motioned by Legislator Randall and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo stated the County continues to get finite numbers on all of the previously approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects as there is a list of ARPA expenditures that can be acted on. The goal is to contractually expend all ARPA monies by December 31, 2024.

Resolutions #866 through #890 were approved.

Resolution #891 titled, "Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Licensed Practical Nurse Position (PCN 2996)" was motioned by Legislator Hall and seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Legislator Hughes inquired on the status on the Nursing Home. Mr. Zurlo reported the staffing is in fairly decent stead for most positions.

Resolutions #892 through #898 were approved.

Resolution #899 titled, "Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for a Mortuary Cooler" was motioned by Legislator Castine and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported the Public Safety Committee has not made a decision to move forward with this project, if this project is to move forward it will be funded with ARPA monies, therefore, the Committee needs to know the cost of the morgue cooler, as this resolution is just an information gathering tool. This resolution does not commit the County to the project.

Resolutions #900 through #904 were approved.

Resolution #905 titled, "Amending Resolution #853 dated October 9, 2024 titled, "Amending Resolution #702 dated August 14, 2024 titled, "Establishing Rates for Snow and Ice Removal Services on County Roads during the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Snow and Ice Seasons" was motioned by Legislator Randall and seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Mr. Zurlo reported much time and effort has been put into this resolution by Superintendent Karl Weiss. This resolution is different from the original as it contemplates a one-year agreement with the towns with the understanding that the towns would use this year to monitor their commodity usage and time usage which the County has been asking for and has yet to be provided. This resolution is a way to ensure the roads are plowed and allows the towns to collect the data so that the County has a better understanding of what these rates may turn into for the future.

Resolutions #906 through #912 were approved.

Resolution #913 titled, "Authorizing the Clerk of the Clinton County Legislature to Advertise for a Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2024 titled, "Regulating the Outdoor Restraint of Dogs for the County of Clinton" was motioned by Legislator Hughes and seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (8-0-2).

Discussion: Legislator Hughes stated a lot of work has gone into this law and as far as transparency; he would love to see the law go to a public hearing. He believe it deserves that action.

Chairperson Henry asked if there was any further discussion.

Legislator Hall stated he agrees with Legislator Hughes and he doesn't understand why anyone would be opposed to just at least hearing the public on a local law to find out how they feel. He said all has heard different numbers and believes there is no reason to not let this go to a public hearing.

Legislator Peryea stated he is on the Public Safety Committee and has been vocal on his opinion from the start of this discussion. He was asked by Chairperson Castine of the Public Safety Committee to ask each of his town supervisors/boards to find out what they wanted and provided three options to offer. Legislator Peryea reported his towns did not want the law.

Legislator Timmons stated he has one town that has already completed their own law. He believes if the towns all utilize the same law, they can certainly all have the same law. He does not believe there is any sense in going out to get a public hearing and getting the same vote that the Legislature will get tonight.

Legislator Hughes stated this is the first time there has been a physical law to bring back to the towns and he believes the Legislature owes it to its constituents, but that is up to this Board.

Legislator Waldron inquired if anyone was opposed to a public hearing. Chairperson Henry and Legislator Timmons replied yes.

Legislator Hughes stated he did not realize that two Board members were absent tonight.

Legislator Randall stated he read the law and he still has questions. He applauded all who have put effort into this. He questioned the examples of pregnant/nursing dogs and hunting dogs, as well as, taking state troopers away from other high priority events. He would like to have those answers before he votes on this public hearing. Legislator Hughes replied he wished Legislator Randall had provided these comments before now.

Legislator Waldron inquired if the resolution could be tabled for two weeks until the full Board is in attendance. Chairperson Henry replied he would be opposed to that, it has been a full year, the Board members are here, as is the law and it is time to vote. Legislator Waldron made a motion to postpone the resolution until there is a full board and so that Legislator Randall can get his questions answered seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2). Mr. Zurlo recommended a roll call vote to table this resolution until the next meeting. Legislator Castine voted yes, Legislator Peryea voted no, Legislator Henry voted no, Legislator Randall voted yes, Legislator Waldron voted yes, Legislator Timmons voted no, Legislator Hughes voted yes and Legislator Hall voted yes. Mr. Zurlo reported the postponement motion fails 5-3.

Legislator Peryea stated he has raised dogs all his life and they have stayed outdoors, some on a leash and some chained up and they were fine; it is all in how you take care of them.

Legislator Hughes stated he is embarrassed, for the first time ever, to be a part of this Board, that the Legislative Board can't put this off for two weeks.

There was a roll call vote to Authorize the Clerk of the Clinton County Legislature to Advertise for a Public Hearing on Local Law #4 of 2024 titled, "Regulating the Outdoor Restraint of Dogs for the

County of Clinton.” Legislator Castine voted yes, Legislator Peryea voted no, Legislator Henry voted no, Legislator Randall voted no, Legislator Waldron voted yes, Legislator Timmons voted no, Legislator Hughes voted yes and Legislator Hall voted yes. Mr. Zurlo reported the resolution fails 4-4.

Legislator Timmons motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolution #914 was approved.

Legislator Randall motioned to enter into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Legislator Peryea motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hughes. Carried (8-0-2).

Resolution #915 was approved.

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m., seconded by Legislator Peryea. Carried (8-0-2).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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