

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 30, 2024

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held Wednesday, September 25, 2024 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: David Bezio, Area 4
Calvin Castine, Area 1
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 5:15 p.m.

Michael Zurlo, the County Administrator, conducted roll call.

Legislator Hughes motioned to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2024 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Henry invited Karen Massaro, the Dietetic Service Supervisor at the Clinton County Nursing Home, and Legislator Waldron to the podium to congratulate Ms. Massaro on her 40 years of service to Clinton County. Legislator Waldron spoke on Ms. Massaro's accomplishments at the Clinton County Nursing Home. Chairperson Henry, on behalf of the Legislature, thanked Ms. Massaro for her service. Ms. Massaro stated it has been an honor and privilege to work at the Clinton County Nursing Home.

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Elizabeth Cooper, of Lake Placid New York, provided an update on the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA). She reported she is the Executive Director of ANCA and for more than 70 years ANCA has been trying to grow and strengthen the economy of the North Country region in partnership with business owners, economic and community organizations and local leaders. She provided a brief overview of the workings and accomplishments of ANCA in Clinton County. Lastly, Ms. Cooper requested a \$5,000 budget allocation to continue their great work in Clinton County.

Jennifer Jewett, of Champlain, New York stated Tom Trombley, the Supervisor of the Town of Champlain, recently attended the September Public Safety Committee meeting and has been the only Town Supervisor to attend any Legislator meeting since the Proposed Dog Tethering Law started. She stated Mr. Trombley supports the Proposed Dog Tether Law and a countywide law. She inquired if it makes sense for each town to spend \$1,700-\$1,900 on legal fees when it can be passed on the County level. She reported the draft law is now on the County Attorney's desk awaiting feedback.

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 met on Monday, September 16th.

James Cleveland, the Superintendent of the Buildings and Grounds Department, was present to discuss the resolution, "Authorizing Contract with Bob's Instant Plumbing, Inc.", as well as, updates on the Department of Social Services Flood, the Government Center Brick Project and the American Rescue Plan Act Projects.

Resolution #783 has been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th 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.

Commissioner Christine Peters stated the Eligibility Verification Assistant (EVA) went live in pilot form this week with the rights and responsibility portion of EVA. The rights and responsibilities portion of EVA rights and responsibilities will be read by EVA to clients who are applying for benefits/recertifying their cases. This step is required for every interview and will save workers approximately 7 minutes on every interview - over the course of the day, this will regain about an hour to 70 minutes per worker in time to work on other required tasks. After a short pilot phase, the Department will be rolling this out for all workers in both Food Safety Management Act (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid and Home Energy Assistant Program) and Employment and Assistance.

EVA Companion - The desk reference is currently being piloted for resources and accuracy, continuing to upload source documents to make it easier for workers to get answers that they need.

The last piece of EVA is the EVA phone. The Department is still working on answers to common questions and will be piloting EVA on the phones probably in October. Currently, five commissioners, including herself, are in continued discussions with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to hopefully work into the next phase, which is interfacing with client specific material. A risk assessment will be done with OTDA over the next few months, a call is occurring on Monday, September 30th.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st 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.

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, provided a few updates:

- She stated subdivision work continues on the Clinton Business Innovation Gateway as the County works to close out the project and transfer it to the Town of Plattsburgh. Final work is just about complete - the ribbon cutting is on Thursday, October 10th - please RSVP. Conceptual designs for signage for CBIG is in the works; the Request for Proposals will be drafted and sent out in the near future and
- The Feasibility study for Clinton Community College has been executed and work has commenced.

The next Economic Development and County Operations Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

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

He reported the Occupancy Tax Sub-Committee has completed its work on the language for the new local law. The draft local law is on your desks this evening.

Resolution #803, which authorizes the Clerk to advertise for a public hearing on the local law is on tonight's agenda.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Legislator Hughes

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

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd 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.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st 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, October 7th at 5:00 p.m.

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Hall

Legislator Hall reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier.

Chris Kreig, the Airport Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Master Municipal Multi-Modal Capital Project Grant Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Indemnification Agreement with Beta Technologies, Inc.” He also discussed an airline update, a construction update and airline/airport marketing.

Resolutions #784 through #796 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd 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 next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the Transportation Committee met on Monday, September 16th.

Shannon Thayer, the Planning Director, discussed the resolution, "Authorizing Contract with Lomeli's Cleaning Services," as well as, TransitApp Royale and Transit Management Staff.

Karl Weiss, the Superintendent of the Highway Department, discussed resolutions, "Authorizing Contract with NCC Systems, Inc." and "Authorizing the Implementation and Funding in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal-Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-Aid Eligible Costs of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds Therefore."

Resolutions #797 through #799 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th at 5:15 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Hughes

Legislator Hughes reported the Committee met on Monday, September 16th and the majority of the discussion was in regards to the vacant Director of Environmental Health position and the vacant Board member seat.

Intercounty of the Adirondacks – Legislators Randall and Waldron

Legislator Randall reported the next Intercounty meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th in Essex County with details to follow.

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

Legislator Kretser reported the next Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8th at 1 p.m.

Soil and Water – Legislator Bezio and Timmons

Legislator Bezio reported from Pete Hagar, the District Manager, stating the district continues to work on roadside erosion issues with a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He noted the District is assisting with the permitting, funding and construction of the Logging Road Bridge in Black Brook. The District is also working with nine highway departments in the County to implement salt reduction measures by providing almost \$30,000 in salt reduction mini-grants. The District is funding and assisting eleven farms to plant almost 2,000 acres of cover crops to prevent erosion control and soil health. He noted many of the acres are being planted with agricultural aerial drones. Additionally, Legislator Bezio reported Mr. Hagar applied for two grants for the removal of ash trees and was awarded a total of \$460,947 in grant funds.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Ms. Kelleher requested an executive session for two different litigation matters.

County Administrator – Michael Zurlo

Mr. Zurlo reported budgets that have been returned to the Legislative Office are being audited. He has also met with Department Heads on those budgets that have been audited.

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.

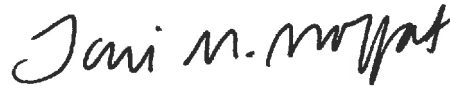
Resolutions #783 through #803 were approved.

Legislator Hughes motioned to enter into Executive Session at 5:52 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Hall motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:24 p.m., seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Toni M. Moffat
Executive Secretary to the County Administrator

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