

COUNTY OF CLINTON)  
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

June 26, 2014

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held  
Wednesday, June 25, 2014 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New York.

PRESENT: Jonathan Beach, Area 2  
Mark Dame, Area 8  
Samuel Dyer, Area 3, Chairperson  
John Gallagher, Area 9  
Robert Hall, Area 10  
Pete Keenan, Area 5  
James Langley, Jr., Area 7  
Harry McManus, Area 1  
Colin Read, Area 4  
Patty Waldron, Area 6

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Zurlo, County Administrator  
Rodney Brown, Deputy County Administrator  
James Coffey, County Attorney  
Melody Lemieux, Principal Stenographer

Chairperson Dyer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, County Administrator Michael Zurlo conducted roll call. All Legislators were present.

Legislator Keenan motioned to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2014 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Hall. (Carried 10-0-0).

Chairperson Dyer invited Legislator Waldron to the podium to present Thomas Houle with a plaque commending him on being named, "Hometown Hero."

Chairperson Dyer invited Legislator Dame to the podium to present Jeffrey Santor with a plaque commending him on being named, "Firefighter of the Year."

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Kimberly Davis, Clinton County Treasurer, provided an update on the *In Rem* Foreclosure process. Ms. Davis noted the redemption period has ended for property owners to pay 2012 taxes. In 2013, there were 79 properties when the Judge signed the order. Fifty-three of those properties ended up going to auction. This year, the County started with 84 properties, and 51 properties will go to auction. Ms. Davis thanked all Legislators for reaching out to constituents whose homes would have gone to foreclosure. The total delinquent taxes owed amounts to \$322,943.59. The auction will be held Wednesday, July 23, 2014.

Chairperson Dyer thanked Ms. Davis for keeping the Legislature well informed throughout this process.

Legislator Langley thanked Legislator Dame for his continued efforts to get the redemption period extended. He noted this was most admirable.

There being no one further to address the Legislature, Chairperson Dyer called for standing committee and liaison reports.

## **Committee Reports**

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

Legislator Read reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee has not met since the last legislative meeting. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. The Committee continues to make progress on prioritizing Master Plan Projects.

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

Legislator Waldron thanked Joe LoTempio of the Press Republican for the series of articles he has written regarding high drug abuse in Clinton County and the unfortunate number of children falling into Foster Care due to this problem. Legislator Waldron also thanked Commissioner John Redden of the Department of Social Services and the Caseworkers who are involved with the children.

Mr. Zurlo reported Mr. Redden will be addressing this issue at the next Children and Family Services Committee meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 p.m.

#### **County Operations Committee – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported the County Operations Committee will meet Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Legislator Read reported the Committee has been working with County Historian Anastasia Pratt on establishing sites for the various historic walking trails.

#### **Finance Committee – Legislator Dame**

Legislator Dame reported the Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. Clinton Community College will be presenting its 2014-2015 budget request.

#### **Health Committee – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Health Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> has been cancelled.

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

Legislator Langley reported the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee met earlier today. Resolutions #425 through #431 have been placed on the agenda. The Committee was provided with several updates. A resolution will also be acted upon under Waive Rule 13.2 to authorize the Purchasing Agent to solicit bids for a lease with an option to purchase an aircraft de-icing vehicle.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **Chamber of Commerce – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported work continues with the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce's Visitors' Center on tourism/economic development projects.

#### **Community Services Board – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Community Services Board met Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. A major focus of the meeting was the hiring of a new Director of Community Services. Discussion took place regarding the \$8 billion the Community Services Board is trying to get a portion of for the focus of combining primary care and mental health services in an effort to reduce the hospitalization and re-admission of patients. Legislator Beach stated Satellite Clinic services are in existence at his medical office, as well as at three or four other offices in the community providing mental health services. He further stated the flip side is to put primary care into such places as Behavioral Health Services North, Inc. Mental health is high priority for this funding.

#### **Cooperative Extension – Legislator McManus**

Legislator McManus reported he attended a meeting of the Cooperative Extension held on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Program highlights for May, 2014 were reviewed. He stated the Extension's

nutrition program (to include “Eat Smart New York!”) has refigured its formula based upon the number of people receiving benefits through the State’s Food Stamp Program. Clinton County will receive a \$70,000 cut to this Program. The Cooperative Extension will be looking at staff cuts and other ways to maintain part of this Program. Legislator McManus reported this will be an enormous impact on the people of Clinton County.

### **Board of Health – Legislator Beach**

Legislator Beach reported the Board of Health met Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Board is awaiting an accreditation update, as well as further information regarding the three areas with possible deficiencies. He indicated the most concerning to him is handicap accessibility due to the historic quality of some of the County office buildings. Jerie Reid, the Director of Public Health, is prepared with regard to two of the three deficiencies. Mr. Zurlo will work with regard to the security/handicapped access issue.

Legislator Beach reported the AIDS Council of Northeastern New York is looking for support from the Board of Health regarding a Syringe Exchange Program. He stated he emailed the Legislature regarding this issue, as well as his thoughts about it. He indicated he has received input from some of the Legislators and the Sheriff. Legislator Beach stated this will not involve direct County dollars but it will be funded by State dollars. He reported this Program would allow intravenous drug abusers to register and receive weekly supplies that they need to continue their drug habit in order to prevent the transmission of Hepatitis B and HIV infections. He stated he does have mixed feelings about this Program, especially with it being State funded. Legislator Beach indicated evidence is fairly supportive that the biggest advantage of this Program is to register the chronic IV drug abusers to keep tabs on them. He further stated evidence has indicated through this Program, increased or prolonged usage has not been found. Legislator Beach indicated having clean needles is an advantage, and it will protect law enforcement officials. Legislator Beach further stated this Program shows evidence of reducing cases of Hepatitis B and HIV infection by 50 percent. Legislator Beach stated he is awaiting answers to questions he posed to the AIDS Council prior to providing any Letter of Support from the Board of Health.

### **Intercounty – Legislator Langley**

Legislator Langley reported the next meeting of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks is scheduled for Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> in Hamilton County.

### **Soil and Water – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported a meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board was held Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairperson Dyer was also in attendance. The Board is looking to appoint an individual as liaison to the Clinton County Farm Bureau; one individual was nominated.

### **Workforce Investment Board – Legislator Read**

Legislator Read reported with regard to economic development liaison for the County, he worked with Town of Plattsburgh Supervisor Bernie Bassett and City of Plattsburgh Mayor James Calnon to hold a Waterfront Revitalization Workshop at the Town of Plattsburgh on Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Workshop was very interesting and well attended.

Legislator Read reported the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) met a week and a half ago. An executive session was held regarding a major personnel change to be made at the WIB.

Legislator Read reported the County is a major funding source of WIB agencies, and it is the recipient of Federal grant dollars which WIB shares with Franklin and Essex Counties. If the WIB does not have the services associated with the Federal flow-through, Clinton County must be protected. Mr. Zurlo stated this was discussed with the Treasurer's Office and where the funding is now handled. Mr. Zurlo stated Deputy County Treasurer Greg Bell indicated this issue is not of great concern as of yet, but he will keep the Legislature informed.

### Staff Reports

County Attorney James Coffey reported he would like to request an Executive Session to discuss five matters involving litigation: Filion; Paul and Rachel Risetto; Castine versus Zurlo and Clinton County; Level 3 Fiber Optic Cable Assessment; and a brief update on Dan's Hauling.

Legislator Read thanked Mr. Coffey for his very thorough outline of what is discussed in executive session at Regular Session, and noted the recent editorial in the Press Republican which recognized Mr. Coffey for the manner in which he conducts himself in this regard.

Mr. Zurlo reported he attended Emergency Management Certification and Training in Albany, New York on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eric Day, the Director of Emergency Services, previously completed this mandatory training for Clinton County.

The following Resolutions were approved unless otherwise noted.

Resolutions #424 through #426 were approved.

Resolution #427 titled, "Amending Plattsburgh International Airport Rates and Charges – Plattsburgh International Airport"

Legislator Langley motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Hall.

Discussion:

Legislator Langley stated this resolution deals with the timing brought on from conversations with McFarland Johnson, Inc. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #428 titled, "Authorizing Lease Agreement with ELRAC, LLC (Enterprise) - Plattsburgh International Airport"

Legislator Langley motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator McManus.

Discussion:

Mr. Zurlo asked if this will be the fourth rental car company on site at the Plattsburgh International Airport. Legislator Langley replied yes, and stated it is only a small space. He further stated this item will need to be addressed in more detail with McFarland-Johnson, Inc. with regard to the Terminal Building Expansion Project. The current space allows for only three rental car companies at the Airport. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #429 was approved.

Resolution #430 titled, “Authorizing Change Order #3 with Rifenburg Construction, Inc. – Plattsburgh International Airport”

Legislator Langley motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Hall.

Mr. Zurlo stated this resolution will shift the cost to the subcontractor and does not increase the contract cost. Mr. Brown noted the resolution decreases the contract amount with Rifenburg Construction, Inc. He stated the following resolution, Resolution #431, will allow Rifenburg Construction, Inc. the opportunity to relinquish their responsibility to pay the subcontractor (AFSCO Fence Supply Co., Inc.) and the County to enter into a contract directly with the subcontractor. This action will close out Phase I of the Project.

Resolutions #431 through #437 were approved.

Resolution #438 titled, “Rescinding Resolution #360 dated May 14, 2014 titled, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Adjust Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Grant – Employment and Training”

Legislator Dame motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Read.

Discussion:

Mr. Zurlo reported Resolution #360 dated May 14, 2014 is being rescinded as this action was not required. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolutions #439 through #445 were approved.

Legislator Hall motioned to Waive Rule 13.2, seconded by Legislator Gallagher. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #446 titled, “Approving Backfill of a Permanent, Full-Time Director of Community Services (PCN 2216) Position and Establishing Salary for Same – Legislature/Mental Health and Addiction Services”

Legislator Beach motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislators Langley and Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Resolution #447 titled, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Bids for a Lease with an Option to Purchase an Aircraft De-icing Vehicle – Plattsburgh International Airport”

Legislator Langley motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Read.

Discussion:

Legislator Read reported much research was done and discussion held in Committee as whether to lease or purchase a de-icing vehicle. The proposal is to purchase or to lease a modern de-icing vehicle. The current backup at the Airport is a 2008 leased de-icing vehicle. After a cost-benefit analysis, Legislator Read felt it was beneficial to purchase a de-icing vehicle.

Carried (10-0-0).

Chairperson Dyer asked if anyone had anything further to come before the Legislature this evening.

Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss items as previously outlined by the County Attorney, seconded by Legislator Hall. Carried (10-0-0).

There being no further business, Chairperson Dyer entertained a motion from Legislator Gallagher to exit Executive Session at 8:14 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dame. Carried (10-0-0).

Legislator Gallagher motioned to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Legislator Keenan. Carried (10-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Melody Lemieux in cursive script, with the initials 'kaB' written in the bottom right corner of the signature.

Melody Lemieux  
Principal Stenographer