

COUNTY OF CLINTON)
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STATE OF NEW YORK)

September 16, 2026

Stenographer's minutes of the Regular Session of the Clinton County Legislature held
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 in the Legislative Chambers, 137 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, New
York.

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

EXCUSED: Francis Peryea, Area 2

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. Legislator Peryea asked to be excused.

Legislator Randall motioned to accept the minutes of the August 12, 2026 Regular Session, seconded by Legislator Timmons. Carried (9-0-1).

Chairperson Henry asked if anyone wished to address the Legislature.

Julia Lovulla, the Regional Food Bank Representative, stated that she anticipates food-distribution numbers will continue to increase and emphasized the importance of collaborating closely with municipal and County partners to ensure that community needs are met. She reported that during the first nine months of the current year, the Regional Food Bank and its partners distributed 17,000 more pounds of fresh produce in Clinton County than in all of 2025. She explained that demand typically rises further during the holiday season and thanked the Legislature for recognizing Hunger Action Month and supporting residents experiencing food insecurity.

Members of the Legislature expressed appreciation for the Regional Food Bank's efforts and acknowledged the continued need for hunger-relief services. A formal Proclamation was then presented by Legislator Castine, recognizing September 2026 as Hunger Action Month in Clinton County. The Proclamation highlighted the Food Bank's extensive network of partner agencies, the estimated 10,710 County residents experiencing food insecurity—including approximately one in five children—and the County's commitment to working with hunger-relief organizations to expand access to nutritious food.

Legislators invited community partners to join the presentation and took a commemorative photo following the reading of the Proclamation. They thanked the Regional Food Bank and its partners for their ongoing work.

Jeff Luck stated that he was speaking as a Clinton County taxpayer, business owner and resident. He expressed strong dissatisfaction with how the County has handled ongoing issues within the Coroner's Office. Mr. Luck noted that Coroner Chad Deans had served since 2019 and worked to advance the office and improve services despite challenges. He explained that Mr. Deans ultimately stepped down in June due to the demands and strain of the position.

Mr. Luck stated that Legislators were aware of the concerns raised about staffing and workload within the Coroner's Office. Although some efforts were made, he asserted that no lasting solutions were implemented. He noted that an interim coroner from Essex County was appointed with the understanding that it would be a temporary, approximately 45-day arrangement, yet several months have passed without the establishment of a permanent solution.

Mr. Luck expressed concern that the interim coroner, a resident elected by Essex County, is now dividing responsibilities between two counties. He questioned whether this is fair to Essex County residents and whether Clinton County should continue relying on an official elected elsewhere rather than identifying a long-term, locally sustainable plan.

He further noted that two county employees have been appointed as deputy coroners, an additional position was created to manage death certificates and Mr. Deans was brought back informally to assist with workload. Mr. Luck stated, however, that Mr. Deans has since accepted a position in Jefferson County and plans to relocate. He asserted that this decision was not formally confirmed prior to

his reappointment and questioned the purpose and necessity of adding deputies and positions without a cohesive strategy.

Mr. Luck raised concerns about overlapping responsibilities, accountability and potential legal and financial implications associated with deputies simultaneously serving in full-time County roles. He requested clarification on authority, availability and coverage obligations. He emphasized that the public has not received clear answers on these matters.

Mr. Luck stated that the Coroner's Office should not be treated as a political opportunity and stressed the importance of providing qualified individuals and adequate resources to support families during difficult circumstances. He reported that delays of up to four hours in coroner response times have been relayed to him, which he described as unacceptable.

He urged the Legislature to adopt a transparent, sustainable and legally sound plan rather than continuing a series of temporary measures. Mr. Luck expressed strong frustration with the situation and encouraged Legislators to take responsibility for resolving the issue in a manner that better serves County residents and taxpayers.

Geoffrey Barker, a resident of Plattsburgh, New York, presented his concerns and recommendations regarding the future use of the former Bluff Point/Clinton Community College property. He expressed particular concern that the Clinton County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is initiating workforce-housing development on the site, which he believes would limit the long-term value and potential tax revenue of the property.

Mr. Barker emphasized the historic and architectural significance of the former Champlain Hotel located on the property, noting its visibility, durability and longstanding role as a regional landmark. He urged the Legislature to ensure that any redevelopment plan integrates the hotel structure as a centerpiece rather than allowing it to be overlooked or demolished. He proposed that the building could be converted into high-end condominiums with an assisted-living component, using its lakefront location, beach access, recreational opportunities, proximity to mountains and historic islands and nearby airport as key assets. He suggested that such development could attract buyers from a wide geographic range, including international residents, if marketed appropriately.

Mr. Barker stated that the IDA appears to be working primarily with local contractors and encouraged the Legislature to direct the Agency to conduct worldwide outreach to secure substantial private investment for a more ambitious, higher-value development concept. He recommended positioning the workforce-housing proposal at more suitable locations, such as areas closer to commercial and industrial centers or smaller towns needing tax-base support. He also suggested encouraging large employers, such as Schuler Systems, to develop their own workforce housing on existing land holdings.

Mr. Barker urged the Legislature to maintain oversight of the IDA and ensure that its planning aligns with the best interests of County residents. He concluded by submitting written materials to the County Administrator for inclusion in the record and thanked the Legislature for its time.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Legislator Deragon

Legislator Deragon 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, September 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Children and Family Services Committee – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine stated the Children and Family Services Committee met on Tuesday, September 1st.

Gretchen Crowningshield, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act/Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CARA/CAPTA) Grant Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing Contract with Behavioral Health Services North (BHSN), Inc.,” as well as, July statistics.

Resolutions #667 through #678 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Children and Family Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th at 4:45 p.m.

Economic Development and County Operations Committee – Legislator Kretser

Legislator Kretser stated the Economic Development and County Operations Committee met earlier that day.

David Souliere, the Republican Commissioner of the Board of Elections, discussed several resolutions including, “Authorizing 2026 Mail Ballot Grant Program Application and Acceptance” and “Authorizing 2026 Election Grant Program Application and Acceptance.”

Molly Ryan, the Economic Development Director, was in attendance to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Application,” as well as, “Authorizing the Purchasing Agent to Solicit Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Professional Engineering Services at the Bluff Point Campus.”

Brandi Lloyd, the County Clerk, discussed the resolution, “Adopting a Policy and Procedure for Review of Certain Real Property Filings.”

Ms. Peters discussed the resolution, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Decrease Appropriation and Corresponding Revenue for the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Trail Grant.”

Crystal Narducci presented to the Committee regarding Friends of the North Country and their role in the County.

Resolutions #679 through #688 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, October 14th at 4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Finance Committee met on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Randy Lozier, the County Treasurer, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish a Capital Project titled, “Master Municipal Multi-Modal

Capital Project,” as well as, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Increase Appropriations for Sewer Infrastructure Improvements to Benefit the Agriculture and Industrial Fair of Clinton County Co., Inc.”

The Committee also discussed the resolution, “Awarding Bids for Office, Printing and Janitorial Supplies.”

Ms. Peters discussed several resolutions, “Approving State Aid Application for the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce” and “Awarding Bid to Supply and Deliver Coarse Rock Salt and Treated Salt for the Snow and Ice Season 2026-2027,” as well as, discussions on the revised Clinton County Contract Procedure Manual, the Clinton County Auditing Manual, the Clinton County Contract Travel Policy, Bluff Point Campus and Golden Shovel.

Garry Douglas and Kristy Kennedy of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce provided a presentation on the 2027 Marketing Plan.

Ken Knelly, the President of Clinton Community College, presented the Proposed 2026-2027 Budget to the Committee.

Resolutions #689 through #697 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Finance Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th at 5:15 p.m.

Health Committee – Christine Peters, Esq., County Administrator

Legislator Peryea stated the Health Committee met on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Jeff Sisson, the Public Health Director, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing Contract with Dual Development, LLC” and “Authorizing Contract with Teletask, Inc.”

Resolutions #698 through #700 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Health Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 7th at 4:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee – Legislator Facticeau-Rabideau

Legislator Facticeau-Rabideau stated the Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for September 1st was cancelled.

The next Human Services Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th at 4:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee – Chairperson Henry

Legislator Henry stated the Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, September 8th.

The resolutions from the Committee meeting will be placed on the September 23rd Regular Session.

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

Plattsburgh International Airport Committee – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio stated the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee has not met since the last Regular Session.

The next Plattsburgh International Airport Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Public Safety Committee – Legislator Randall

Legislator Randall stated the Public Safety Committee met on September 8th.

Jaime Douthat, the Chief Assistant District Attorney, was present to discuss several resolutions including, “Authorizing the County Treasurer to Establish Appropriation from the District Attorney’s Federal Justice Seizure Reserve Account” and “Amending Resolution #645 dated August 12, 2026 titled, “Authorizing Office of Victim Services (OVS) Grant Acceptance.”

Tori Singh, the Chief Assistant Public Defender, was present to discuss the resolution, “Authorizing FY2025 State Homeland Security Program Grant Application and Acceptance.”

Resolutions #701 through #706 have been placed on the agenda upon the recommendation of the Committee.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee – Legislator Kerr

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

The next Transportation Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, September 14th at 4:00 p.m.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Health – Legislator Facteau-Rabideau

Legislator Facteau-Rabideau stated the Board of Health met on August 24, 2026. She reported that a presentation was provided regarding tobacco retail licensing. The presentation outlined how a local law establishing a county-issued permit could help reduce illegal sales and improper taxation of flavored nicotine products.

Ms. Facteau-Rabideau stated that the budget associated with this initiative has been approved by the Board and has been presented to the County Administrator. She announced that the next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Clinton Community College - Legislator Facticeau-Rabideau

Legislator Facticeau-Rabideau reported that the Clinton Community College Board met on August 25th and noted that she was unable to attend. She stated that the meeting minutes are available for any member who wishes to review them. Ms. Facticeau-Rabideau announced that the next Clinton Community College Board meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Community Services Board – Legislator Castine

Legislator Castine reported on behalf of the Community Services Board, stating that there was no formal report at this time

Property Extension – Legislator Timmons

Legislator Timmons stated the Board has not met since the previous meeting.

He stated that he had asked about the RSVP's for the Legislative AG tour scheduled for next Friday and mentioned that only two responses had been received. He confirmed that a reminder was recently sent and encouraged members to reply so an accurate attendance count can be prepared. Legislator Timmons added that scheduling challenges arose this year because the selected date conflicts with events that Legislators Henry and Bezio are attending.

Soil and Water Conservation – Legislator Bezio

Legislator Bezio reported the Soil and Water Conservation District budget has been reviewed and appeared sound, reflecting a modest increase of approximately 3.5 percent to 4 percent. He noted that this was a reasonable adjustment and not a significant change from previous years.

Mr. Bezio stated that he attended a district meeting the prior Thursday at the new Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension building in Westport, New York. He reported that representatives from three counties participated and discussed budgeting practices, program activities and shared operational approaches.

Legislator Bezio stated that the meeting was productive and that participants exchanged valuable ideas on what strategies were working well in their respective counties. He noted that there was interest in holding these multi-county meetings several times each year. He concluded his report by affirming that the cooperative work discussed at the meeting appeared worthwhile and beneficial.

STAFF REPORTS

County Attorney – Jacqueline Kelleher, Esq.

Attorney Jacqueline Kelleher provided an update on the Water District Project. She explained that significant progress has been made since efforts began last year, when staff were actively gathering resident signatures in the Sand Road neighborhood. She stated that the planned pump station location—Morrisonville Elementary School—covers approximately 80 percent of the required service area. As the water line must be placed at least ten feet away from an existing sewer line within the utility right-of-way, the installation would extend onto school property, requiring a permanent easement.

Ms. Kelleher reported that she, along with the county's engineer, John Frazer, Jr. and representatives from Barton & Loguidice, attended a recent Saranac Central School District Board of Education meeting to present project details. The Board requested additional information at a prior meeting and the engineering team subsequently prepared a clear summary explaining why the selected site is optimal, including technical considerations such as water pressure. She stated that the Board entered Executive Session to discuss the easement and that she expects to hear from their attorney soon. She noted that compensation will likely be requested but that she is optimistic a reasonable agreement can be reached.

County Administrator – Christine Peters, Esq.

Ms. Peters provided several scheduling reminders. She stated that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Conference will take place September 27th – 30th. She notified members that the ribbon cutting for Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) is scheduled for Thursday, October 1st at 9:00 a.m., with formal invitations forthcoming. Additionally, Ms. Peters shared a save-the-date for a Beta event on Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m. and encouraged legislators to attend if possible.

Chairperson's 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 #667 through #717 were approved.

Legislator Deragon motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter of the employment of a certain individual at 6:04 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

Legislator Kretser motioned to exit Executive Session at 6:47 p.m., seconded by Legislator Bezio. Carried (9-0-1).

There being no further business to come before the Legislature, Legislator Timmons motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m., seconded by Legislator Randall. Carried (9-0-1).

Respectfully submitted,



Shelly M. Peryea
Principal Clerk/Typist

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