

## COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 2, 2014

*YORK,ss*

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in the Commissioners' Community Room in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler  
Daniel C. Cabral  
Richard R. Dutremble  
Michael J. Cote  
Gary Sinden

County Manager Gregory Zinser and Finance Director Vicki Ridlon were present at the meeting.

*All present were invited to rise and salute the flag of the United States.*

### Call Meeting to Order

### YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

#### 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

Bill Burns asked if anyone attended the meeting on March 21st regarding LD 1824 and were there any conversations expressing York County's position to those who co-sponsored the bill, three who are from York County?

County Manager Zinser responded that he attended the meeting. He went on to state that the Commissioners and he would like to return to County control of the jails but if that's not an option, we would support Option 4. He added that final language is supposed to be issued today for LD 1824. MCCA and other associations issued a letter stating support of LD 1824 with attached

changes and additions. The County Manager believes they've been incorporated but added he has not yet seen the final language.

Bill Burns asked if the Commissioners have expressed any of these conditions to the legislators.

Commissioner Sinden- responded that yes, as a body, the Commissioners sent the delegation a letter.

The County Manager added that as soon as final wording of LD 1824 is received and reviewed, the Commissioners will decide if they want to have a special meeting and then send their comments to our legislative delegation.

Bill Burns asked if anything came out of the hearing on the 21st. County Manager Zinser responded no and that it was simply a public hearing to gather where they think they are with the current bill. He explained that the original LD1824 was just a place holder and that an amendment was issued late in the day prior to the meeting. He added that there have been a series of other hearings that have been cancelled, postponed, etc.

**2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2014**

Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the minutes of March 19, 2014. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. (Commissioner Chandler abstained as she was not present.)

**3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

None

**4 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

The County Manager presented Sheriff Ouellette who recommended hiring of two correctional officers adding that these are the last two candidates that remain qualified from the pool that we've been hiring from. The names of the applicants are: Levi Johnson for full time employment and Jonathan Boucher for part time, both with at start date of April 7, 2014.

Sheriff Ouellette added that for board's information, with hiring of one full time person tonight, the jail still has fifteen vacancies and five employees out on FMLA or worker's compensation leave so they are still twenty people down. The Sheriff informed the board that they now have another group of online applications and obtained more from the Nasson College work fair. He added that they will start to work on reviewing those applications and resumes.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the hiring of Levi Johnson and for full time employment commencing April 7th and Jonathan Boucher for part time employment commencing April 7th. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

BOC legislation was discussed during the public comment section. County Manager Zinser added that we are waiting for LD 1824 to arrive so we can discuss where we go. Commissioner Sinden asked if the question of the hiring authority remains with the County. County Manager Zinser replied that it was a convoluted mess but he does believe the language loosely states when you bargain, you need to stay within your cap. He doesn't recall seeing overt signals that they were going to be taking over the hiring process.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to enter into executive session per MRSA 405 6 (A) personnel. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the response letter prepared to MSEA. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

#### 2015 Budget Presentations

The County Manager pointed out a \$50,000 decrease in assessments to towns largely due to an increase in recording fees. Other than that, there are few budgetary changes.

Mr. Zinser stated that revenues are fairly stagnant. He added that there are some increases in expenditure budgets but some decreases as well. We have been fortunate to see our insurance rating to go down for the past two years in part due to our Wellness program.

The significant changes in the budget resulting in about \$190,000 due to some of the changes we wish to make.

H.R. Director's salary is 100% charged to the County budget. County Manager Zinser stated that it is our intention to take part of the H.R. salary out of the jail budget but could not due to the state of the jail finances.

We are proposing moving one grant position to general funds. One position has been eliminated in the registry of deeds department.

The County Manager introduced Deb Anderson, Register of Deeds.

A brief discussion ensued about workers compensation, short term disability and liability insurance. All questions were answered.

Probate Department Budget- The County Manager explained that the professional services line had increased as we have seen a huge uptick in Guardian ad litem needs. Also, there is the addition of a half time position.

Register of Probate, Carol Lovejoy addressed the board and stated that in 2009, we did lose a position and have never gotten that back and have stayed with five employees in Probate since then. Ms. Lovejoy added that her department has seen an increase in work and that she now has Court two days a week. Carol went on to say that she is seeing an increase in professional services and that is not something we can control. Judge does try to keep that cost down but that they have to give clients a court appointed attorney if they ask by law. Commissioner Dutremble questioned why advertising costs have risen. Carol explained that this is all tied in to the rise in court cases.

The County Manager asked the Commissioners when they wished to vote on the budgets. Commissioner Dutremble suggested holding off until the entire budget is done. The Commissioners agreed.

Commissioners budget- The County Manager explained that it included salaries and travel and yearly raises. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he doesn't think the Commissioners should vote on their own raises. Commissioner Cote agreed. Commissioner Sinden questioned if the Commissioners' raise reflected the 2.7% that everyone in County gets? County Manager Zinser replied that not everyone and that it depends on their bargaining agreements. Commissioner Dutremble suggested possibly revisiting this item.

Administration Budget- The County Manager stated the major increase is the HR position being charged 100% to the general fund. Commissioner Sinden asked should things change with the jail would we go back and try to cover at least 1/2 of her salary as much of the human resources work takes place at the jail and will result in savings. The County Manager agreed that we should.

County Manager Zinser pointed out to the Commissioners an increase of \$10,000 for employee recognition program and also a yearly picnic for employees.

The professional services line is reduced by \$17,000.

Commissioner Cabral questioned the increase in the telephone line. Finance Director Vicki Ridlon clarified that the distribution of phone charges results in an increase in some departments and a decrease in others and that overall,

the County's telephone bills have decreased over \$20,000.00 in the past five years through changing vendors.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned the increase in the technical line. Finance Director Ridlon responded the increase is partly due to licensing as well as upgraded Munis and Janteck time keeping software.

Courthouse and government building maintenance- County Manager Zinser explained that a new part time janitorial position has been added. He reminded the Commissioners that the 18 month budget was developed when we hadn't really occupied the building for an extended period of time. Since then, we've had an opportunity to revisit costs. He added that while there is an increase in heating repairs, we have an rfp for P&M agreements on all of the County's HVAC systems.

Treasurer's Budget- no comments

Communications- The County Manager reminded all that this line item is a contracted item. He added that he and Sheriff Ouellette have had discussions about a possible increase of as much as \$100,000.00 in the next budget.

Benefits- Deferred compensation and MPERS are increased due to overall wage line.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned if the formula was different now than it was before as it was underbudgeted?

Finance Director, Vicki Ridlon explained that it requires figuring out who would be using what type of retirement. MPERS is more expensive for County.

Health Insurance- County Manager Zinser explained that we have good ratings and therefore, the budget is going down. A lot of people are using the gym and we are working with employees on health assessments.

Commissioner Cote asked if affordable health care will have any effects on us.

The County Manager responded that we need to look at all employees. Our biggest exposure that we are concerned with is civil process. This is contingent on properly classifying them. It won't effect us greatly at this point in time.

Debt Service – County Manager explained that there is nine years left for the jail bonds. He added that the change to fiscal year change drastically

alters cash flow so we no longer borrow any funds to support the functions of the County. The State has determined that debt service of the jail is not a jail expense so we have to raise the monies every year.

Public Agencies- Soil and Water , YC Extension and Southern Maine Planning And Development Commssion (formerly Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission).

Commissioner Cote questioned that since Mr. Dutremble represents us on the SMRPC would he like to comment on our affiliation with them?

Commissioner Dutremble replied that it is a good group to have for the County and cities and towns and that they are always looking out for grants to communities.

The County Manager added that he has been talking to Paul Schumacher. He knows there has been some concerns about their involvement with budget committee. He added that he also feels they do a great job. They are implementing a new grant program. They are always looking out for grants for us and do have an interaction with our EMA and Sheriff Departments.

Commissioner Cote stated that their request of \$30,000 hasn't changed. He asked if Commissioner Dutremble feels the group is more beneficial for towns and cities than the county?

Commissioner Dutremble responded that the agency helps both.

Commissioner Sinden remarked that alot of SMPDC's activities especially in redeveloping areas helps developers far more than the towns and cities. Do they ever bill the developers for their time? Commissioner Dutremble replied that he doesn't know the whole fee structure but added that York County towns and cities collect taxes from the new buildings. Commissioner Cote asked then if the consensus is we should continue to fund them or do we want them to come in and talk more? Chair Chandler commented that she supports the organization and that they were very helpful to us.

County Manager Zinser offered to invite Paul Schumacher, Executive Director to our next meeting. Commissioner Sinden responded that he doesn't need to have him come in. He added that in his area the experience has been good and bad; with the good being that they are helpful promoting inter town cooperation with grants. The down side is a local issue not appropriate to raise here at this level. Commissioner Cote stated that he is fine with not having them come if everyone else is.

Miscellaneous reserves- The County Manager explained that the contingency amount of \$50,000 covers any unanticipated emergency expenses. Commissioner Cote asked if the County Manager was comfortable with that

amount. He responded that he was and that we used to request \$100,000 but didn't spend that. He informed all that we depreciate a million a year and take care of our facilities. For example, part of the money is being used to fix the concrete foundation at courthouse as well as the sidewalks and the entryways at courthouse. County Manager Zinser added that we are working on entry screening at the courthouse. We talked about adding bathrooms here at the government building as many entities use our meeting room. We've worked with some designers and architects and the cost of this project is approximately \$121,000.00. We've also talked about re-doing the entry way area with a cost of about \$60,000.

Capital Reserves- \$150,000.00

Payroll liabilities- Vicki reported that we now have about 90% of our liabilities funded.

Building repairs- County Manager Zinser stated that he thinks we have enough in reserves to work with the State on various projects. He added that the Superior Court room needs some work such as new jury chairs and a new jury box and painting of the interior of courtroom which costs about \$50,000.00 as the walls are plaster. The State has agreed to pay half.

Commissioner Dutremble asked for a specific list of projects. The County Manager will have this list at the next meeting.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

**7 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

**8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E).**

**9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

