

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

**November 19, 2014**

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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, November 19, 2014 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

County Manager Gregory Zinser was 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)**

None

**2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

Commissioner Cabral motioned to accept the minutes of November 5, 2014 and Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cote informed the Board that he mentioned at the recent MCCA meeting Commissioner Sinden's request to hold their annual meeting during the annual convention. He was told that this is being looked at as part of the strategic planning process. Commissioner Cote stated that they also discussed items in a personnel manual being created. Commissioner Sinden questioned the need for a

personnel manual and asked how many people were employed there. Commissioner Cote responded that there were two employees. Commissioner Sinden again asked why this was needed for two employees and added that he wonders if they're trying to build another MMA. Commissioner Cote stated that it appears to him that the strategic plan could call for more employees. He further stated that not everyone had read the strategic plan yet so most of the items were put on hold for an indefinite period of time so everyone can review them. He added that a couple of items were voted on and removed and there is some confusion.

Commissioner Chair Chandler informed all present that the York County Cooperative Extension would be holding their annual meeting tonight and that she would be attending.

#### **4**

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

a. Update on York County Advocacy Group- The County Manager attended the meeting yesterday to discuss the continuation of this program. He added that it was a good discussion that centered primarily on how this would go forward if there was interest. He went on to state that the platform for the County moving forward in the next legislative session would be the continuation of jail funding, revenue sharing, and workforce development. Mr. Zinser reminded the Commissioners that at the last meeting there was a discussion on whether or not we were interested in continuing our membership. The County Manager recommends that the County continue with funding. He added that with the jail funding and revenue sharing issues, we will need any and all help. The cost is \$5,500.00 a year for a two year contract in which the County would cover one year and the towns will cover the other portion. Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the continuation of membership in the York County Advocacy Group. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. 2015 Health Insurance Renewal- The County Manager informed all that bid results were obtained from various companies and plans were made and announced to go ahead with Aetna as York County's health insurance carrier for 2015 as they had the lowest costs with the same benefits as our current carrier, Harvard Pilgrim. It was then brought to the Manager's attention that some current Union contracts prohibited moving to another company other than Harvard Pilgrim. After further review of the contracts, he discovered this to be true. County Manager Zinser then met with the Unions and informed them of the mistake and asked them if they desired to stay with Aetna, the low bid carrier or Harvard Pilgrim, even though their rates would be higher. They polled their memberships and informed us that they want to stick with Harvard Pilgrim so we executed the contract with Harvard Pilgrim. County Manager Zinser did respond back to the Union presidents and asked them if they could clarify their statement that they noticed significant discrepancies. It's been confirmed by our insurance representative as well as Aetna insurance agents that the only difference in the plans is acupuncture coverage which Aetna does not provide. This results in a 12.54% increase across the board. Commissioner Dutremble questioned what would happen if Harvard Pilgrim pulled out of the State of Maine? Greg Zinser responded that we could not fulfill that obligation. Commissioner Sinden asked again if the only difference in coverages between Aetna and Harvard Pilgrim is acupuncture. The County Manager stated that this is correct. Commissioner Sinden asked if it was made clear to everyone that

staying with Harvard Pilgrim is going to cost the County \$34, 000.00 and cost the employees almost \$12,000? The County Manager responded that yes, it was made clear and a letter will go to all employees tomorrow. Commissioner Sinden stated that this is just baffling and that “it’s beyond me”. County Manager Zinser said that he believes it is an issue of trust and that hopefully we can get over that in the next couple of years.

c. Courthouse planning committee- The County Manager informed all that this committee has been assembled by Chief Justice of Supreme Court. Yesterday’s meeting focused on population and arrest demographics. There was discussion on whether or not a new courthouse be constructed and be located in a different part of the County. The County Manager recommends the courthouse should remain in Alfred. The discussions focused on the criminal aspect. Some present recommended that the courthouse should be moved to a coastal area as they have more criminal cases. Other types of cases were not mentioned. He added that there is growing support for a single courthouse facility as having four separate courthouses is difficult to manage. This is true from the jail perspective, too, with transports of inmates to courts. Commissioner Sinden questioned if anyone broached the subject of how they are going to pay for this? The County Manager replied no, but, it would have to go through a bond process. He explained that this is a Judiciary matter so it would be become a State bond proposal supported by the State of Maine.

## 5

### **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Act on nomination of EMA Director (executive session –personnel issues pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A)- may be necessary).

The County Manager addressed the Board and stated that he is requesting confirmation of Arthur Cleaves as the County’s next EMA Director. He asked if the Commissioners wish to enter into executive session with Mr. Cleaves. The Commissioners responded that they did not.

County Manager Zinser announced the nomination of Arthur Cleaves as the next director of the York County EMA Director pending Commissioners’ approval. Mr. Zinser read Mr. Cleaves’ biography.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the nomination of Art Cleaves as the York County EMA Director. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Mr. Cleaves will begin his position as the York County EMA Director on January 5, 2015.

b. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (F) –discussion of confidential records- poverty abatement.

Commissioner Cote motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

The Commissioners’ decision is kept confidential but in the record of the parties applying for the abatement.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to come out of executive session.

Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**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).**

a. To conduct an executive session on personnel issues pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6)

Not conducted.

**9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.