

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

February 4, 2015

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 Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, February 4 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Marston D. Lovell
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.

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

Susan Wiswell asked what the impact would be on town property taxes if Governor Lepage's tax reform plan goes into effect regarding revenue sharing. Commissioner Chair Chandler and Commissioner Lovell informed her that she would need to ask at her town as County government does not receive revenue sharing.

2 HEAR M.S.E.A. GRIEVANCE (continuation from last meeting)

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to take the item off the table. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

County Manager Zinser explained that the hearing portion of the grievance is closed but that the Commissioners may ask any questions regarding the matter if they so choose.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned that it was clearly spelled out that there were two part-time positions without benefits and that therefore, the grievance be denied. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3 CONTINUATION OF REVIEW OF SHERIFF'S REQUEST FOR RECCOMENDATION FOR TERMINATION OF CORRECTIONS OFFICER (executive session required pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 6A)

The County Manager reported that the officer has resigned. Therefore, this item no longer requires discussion.

4 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2015

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of the January 21st meeting. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

5 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cote asked his fellow Commissioners what direction they'd like him to go with MCCA in regards to the "one County/one vote issue". Commissioner Sinden responded that historically at the MCCA meetings, there would be several people voting and that sometimes a county might have more than one vote. He was under the impression that the proposal was that there would be one vote per county cast by a Commissioner or a proxy for a total of 16 votes. Commissioner Sinden stated that he assumed that is what they were doing but apparently not. Commissioner Cote clarified that is the reason for his question as he wanted to be sure that was board's consensus. Commissioner Lovell added that he attended the last MCCA (annual) meeting with Commissioner Cote. He added that while he did not vote, he noticed that three Commissioners from Androscoggin County voted and all three of their votes seemed to count. He agreed that one county/one vote is fair. Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler stated that the problem came up when we allowed others to be members of MCCA. It should be County Commissioners only voting, Commissioner Chandler added. Commissioner Lovell added that he doesn't disagree with that and that he also noticed at the annual meeting, three people from Cumberland County voted.

Commissioner Dutremble reminded all that the budget process is in the near future. He stated that he wanted to notify everyone that District Three can have three representatives on the Budget Committee. Last year, they only had two members as last year not all people were told the caucuses were being held. Hopefully, the budget board will advertise well this year. Everyone should have the opportunity to attend if they want to, commented Commissioner Dutremble.

Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler asked who had watched the Governor's State of the State address and informed all that the Governor took a couple of shots at the Maine Municipal Association.

6 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

The County Manager asked Sheriff King to introduce York County's new major, Paul Mitchell, who began employment with York County on Monday, February 2nd.

a. Commissioners' objectives- FY'16 budget

County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners what directives they'd like followed as preparation of the FY'16 budget commences soon. He explained that he sees the FY'16 budget trending up and reminded them that the budget has been

flat funded for the past several years. County Manager Zinser commented that as the Commissioners have been informed previously, there are increases in dispatch and health insurance. He added that the Commissioners did have the foresight to start some reserve accounts a few years ago and some of those funds will be utilized to offset the increases. Right now, Mr. Zinser estimates a \$100,000 to a \$150,000 increase in next year's budget.

He asked for the Commissioners' objectives and overall guidance.

Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler responded that if the Governor takes away revenue sharing, the towns will state that they can't afford County taxes going up. There are things we have to do but directed the County Manager to keep any increases as minimal as possible. Commissioner Cote agreed that the FY' 16 budget needs to be kept as close to a level assessment as possible. Commissioner Sinden also agreed and certainly it should be kept under LD 1. He continued that we have to watch for are the unknown tax shifts, i.e. revenue sharing. Commissioner Sinden added that we also don't know what's going to happen to the jails and that is a huge tax shift that will probably happen but we don't know yet. We will have to prioritize and do the best we can in an unknown environment, stated Commissioner Sinden.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that he had spoke with the Finance Director for the City of Biddeford and was told by him that revenue sharing will be the same as last year and that revenue sharing will be adjusted the year after. Commissioner Dutremble asked can't the increase in assessment be offset that with revenue?

The County Manager responded that currently we are projecting level revenues. He added that the saving grace is the reserves the Commissioners have put aside. He continued that we always construct a budget cognizant of the towns' revenue sharing but reminded all that we still have to run a County. County Manager Zinser added that he does agree with Commissioner Sinden that jail funding is a big issue. We are going to have to work with the Sheriff and go thoroughly through the jail budget, stated the County Manager.

Commissioner Lovell also agreed that we don't know what's going to occur but that we should make an effort to stay below the LD1 guidelines.

Commissioner Sinden added that we need to be very cautious of balancing revenues, expenditures and reserves. That's what the rating industries look at. We've been very successful at increasing our rating four steps. This gives us borrowing power. We no longer have to borrow Tax anticipation notes. If our rating drops, our borrowing rates can go up tremendously.

The County Manager summed up the directives from the Commissioners to be to give them a budget that is as close to level as possible taking into effect LD1 and to be conservative with existing reserves.

7 **NEW BUSINESS**

None

8 **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Postponement of Doiron tax abatement hearing until February 18, 2015

Commissioner Lovell motioned that the Doiron Hearing remain on the table until February 18th. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. 5-0.

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

Rachel Sherman, citizen and resident of Springvale, addressed the Board to express her concerns with the Commissioners' vote on the grievance. It is her belief that Ms. Marshall is under one umbrella of employment. She added that, in her opinion, the vote of the Commissioners subverts federal law. There is evidence in writing that Ms. Marshall's hours were cut to subvert federal law with the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Sherman continued that it was also mentioned that there was no money in the budget to cover health insurance for these two positions. This concerned Ms. Sherman and she stated that if someone's spouse loses their job, the employee would then need to obtain County health insurance.

10 **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).**

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6)E (consultation with legal counsel) Commissioner Sinden seconded the vote. Vote 5-0.

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

Commissioner Lovell motioned to enter back into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405 (6)D. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

NO ACTION TAKEN

11

ADJOURN

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:40.

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