

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

May 17, 2017

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, May 17, 2017 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Marston D. Lovell
Richard R. Dutremble
Michael J. Cote
Richard Clark

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

- 05-17-17** **ITEM**
- 1** **PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
None
- 2** **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2017 MEETING**
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0-1 abstained (Commissioner Lovell abstained as he was not present at the meeting).
- 3** **TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
a. Warrants dated 5-3-17 in the amount of: (\$482,845.11)
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
b. Warrants dated 5-10-17 in the amount of: (\$298,567.06)
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 4** **TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
a. Commissioner Cote to give update on MCCA meeting.

Commissioner Cote explained that there was a discussion about jail legislation that did not make it through and the position we find ourselves in now. The MCCA executive director's position has been narrowed down to four who will be interviewed in June or July. The 2018 convention will be at the Doubletree Hilton at the Maine Mall. The Convention Planning Committee is working on speakers and classes and training for this years' convention. He stated that he will e-mail and try to find out when online registration will be available for these .

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NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduce H.R. Director, Linda Corliss to request the following transfer/new hires:

H.R. Director, Linda Corliss requested the following:

Dennis Chagnon- new hire-civil deputy/part-time in the Sherrif's Office with an effective hire date of May 22, 2017. Linda explained that Mr. Chagnon is blue pin certified.

Commissioner Cote asked for clarification of the hire date. Linda- Corliss replied that he will begin training on May 22nd.

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the hiring of Dennis Chagnon as a part-time civil process deputy. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Kathy Farber- temporary, part-time civil deputy clerk in the Sheriff's Office with an effective hire date of May 18 , 2017.

H.R. Director, Linda Corliss, explained that currently a fully funded p/t civil clerk is now out on medical leave and that the Sheriff's Office is looking into hiring Kathy Farber as a temporary, part time employee . Kathy just retired from civil process and is already experienced with the work and is fully aware that the position is temporary. Linda explained that she has a waiver for posting agreements from the M.S.E.A. Kathy Farber's hours will not exceed 29 hours. A May 18,2017 hire date is being requested.

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the hiring of Kathy Farber as a temporary, part time civil deputy clerk. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Approval of Limington Contract Deputy

The County Manager explained that this is a May 1st to June 30th, 2018 contract. Commissioner Clark moved to approve the contract and authorize the County Manager's signing. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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OLD BUSINESS

None

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TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Budget Process Update- County Manager Greg Zinser reported that the budget process is going along fairly nicely with one half of the budget being approved on the first night. Last week the Sheriff's Office budget was reviewed and is almost completed. The review will continue at next week's meeting.

b. Discussion of jail funding in general- The County Manager explained that this year we cannot expect a supplemental bill as it was turned down. At this point it is too close to call how well the jail budget is doing. A \$100,000 swing can happen in

a course of a week. This point in time we are not projecting the need for supplemental funding. Some items of interest are that the Board has requested \$12.2 million in continued funding for the jail. This is not necessarily what has been requested in the past. MCCA and the Sheriff's Association are trying to get that up to \$16 million. There are CCA funding issues where the money is lumped together in terms of the jails' operation fund. Mr. Zinser added that he is not feeling really good about this funding being protected. He continued that he feels we really need to come to a resolution as a County and call the bluff on some of these bills. The Manager continued that he believes there is a real threat of the money going away in the future and added that he will be looking at what the effect of this will be. He added that there is a push to get rid of tax caps while this Board has been in support of keeping the caps. There is some support on the Criminal Justice Committee to lift the tax caps, but, not enough. We will need to run the tax impacts if we were expected to raise another \$1.7 million. The County Manager stated that the County needs to continue to discuss and lobby for the funding. However, based on some things he is hearing coming out of Committee, there is really not a desire to continue to fund us. Maybe this Board needs to throw out a wild card and maybe have the State take over the facility. Our options are getting limited. I know this has been a discussion up at MCCA. Commissioner Cote stated that the counties fund 80% of what it costs to run the jails and maybe we get 20% from the State so it isn't really a partnership. Most feel it's a county issue. There was a Bill to take over the jails by the State but it didn't go anywhere. We could end up in a position that we get nothing and we will have to figure out how to fund that. Commissioner Cote continued that there was lots of legislation put in and all of it was shot down. He added that it is important we start thinking about this and form some sort of consensus or Plan B if we do not get the funding we need. Commissioner Dutremble commented that he and Commissioner Chandler have been through this since day one and we were the only county that said this wouldn't work and it's not. He added that he agrees something needs to be done, but, the State may make us put \$10 million in our budget so we are stuck either way. Commissioner Clark stated that he doesn't see where we have all that much leverage. The only leverage that he can think of is to ask towns to urge their representatives and senators to consider costs to its taxpayers. The State will charge us to run the jail and we will be in worse shape than we are today, commented Commissioner Clark. The Towns need to understand they will feel the tax impact regardless of a State takeover or not. Commissioner Cote agreed and stated that people don't understand what we are up against or what is happening in County government. Commissioner Dutremble disagreed that we have any leverage and informed all about an instance when the State owed the county over a \$1million and the State told York County the money was gone and they would not pay us. Commissioner Dutremble stated that the State can do whatever they want. Commissioner Clark stated that he doesn't think inviting the State to take over the County jail is a good idea. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that he is not suggesting we do that, but, maybe we need to call their bluff. Commissioner Cote stated that he doesn't think they really want to take it over. We need legislators that are going to support us. He urged all to talk to your legislative people about this matter and suggested that maybe the Board should write a letter at some point to our legislators. Commissioner Dutremble suggested that another way to raise money for the jails that some States do is to have a tax on their bills for lodging. Commissioner Cote agreed that is a great idea and another is alcohol (tax) but that the State will never give it to the Counties.

c. Reminder of summer meeting schedule

Meeting dates: June 7th, July 5th and August 2nd The Commissioners agreed to change the meeting in July from the 5th to July 12th.

d. Public Hearing for LD 1264-resolve courthouse facilities in York County- The County Manager explained that he attended the Hearing and explained that most of those opposing the Bill did not realize that we are not fighting the location. He reminded the Committee that the Bill was being formed while the sites were still being purposed. He stated that he thought it went well and circulated his testimony to the Commissioners (attached to the minutes as record). The County Manager continued that it came up in the Hearing that the Site Selection Commission never looked at what the impacts would be to the County in regards to the D.A. and Sheriff's Offices. He continued that a couple of members honed in on that right away. Senator Woodsome is working on this not coming out as an ONP or divided Bill. We dispelled a lot of rumors, continued County Manager Zinser, including that we are already paying rent- when, in fact, our yearly rent in Biddeford is currently only \$8,000.00. We utilize other court space through negotiated agreements and we own the Superior courthouse. Most on the Site Selection Commission who are legislators spoke in opposition to the Bill. We were there to discuss compensation under section 2 of the Bill. The D.A. did a wonderful job testifying and she helped the Committee to understand the process. He continued by stating that he put the issue back into the laps of the legislature and told them they will have to deal with it in three to four years. There will not be a UCD as our employees will stay in Alfred. Mr. Zinser added that he did sense some concern on behalf of the Committee. The administrative division of the courts as well as the Sheriff did testify in opposition. We can ask him at another meeting if he wishes to share his thoughts on why. We did thank Representative Samson and Senator Woodsome for their support.

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

Susan Wiswell of Kittery spoke about the jail funding and stated that in the past when the State has taken it (jail) over it has been a mess as several of you have mentioned. Perhaps if we could somehow educate those who are running in 2018 for Governor or the legislature on what the County does and what the County needs, it would be helpful. Greg Zinser agreed but stated that it is a two part process: we can engage our delegation but the change in membership on the Criminal Justice Committee involves folks from a lot of other counties. We are constantly in this education phase for these committees and it slows the process down. Commissioner Cote commented that one gubernatorial Candidate did reach out to MCCA and wanted to know more about what counties do and we will accommodate this person and provide this education.

9 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. (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E).

None

ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.