

## COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

March 19, 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, March 5, 2014 A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler (excused)  
Daniel C. Cabral  
Richard R. Dutremble  
Michael J. Cote  
Gary Sinden (excused at  
6:00 p.m.)

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)

Dean Lepage of Limerick, ME addressed the board. He stated that he was offended and troubled that, as a budget committee member, he had been censured by the York County Commissioners with the exception of Commissioner Cote. He requested an apology from the Commissioners.

#### 2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF March 5, 2014

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the minutes of March 5, 2014. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

#### 3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

None

4

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

a. FY '15 Budget Update- County Manager Zinser informed the board that the budget process will begin on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He added that the budget includes a 1.6% increase but a \$50,000 decrease in assessments to York County cities and towns. The proposed budget includes three new part time positions. The County Manager further stated that the increased deed revenue of \$200,000.00 was most helpful in allowing for the decrease in assessments.

The County Manager informed the board that while he prepared the Sheriff's budget, he has not had the opportunity to meet with him to discuss as the Sheriff has been out on medical leave. There might be changes to the Sheriff's department budget once they meet.

b. General discussion on potential BOC legislation- The County Manager referred to LD 1824 legislation that each of the Commissioners have copies of and stated there was a meeting on Friday at 1:00 in Augusta that he will attend to submit testimony on behalf of York County. He went on to say there are several troubling items in this "placeholder" bill that are completely opposite than what was discussed during the various meetings. The County Manager explained that the additional authority given the Board of Corrections in this draft legislation is effectively proposing a take over of the county jail system by the State.

Commissioner Sinden commented that he cannot believe what he is reading. He referred to the part where the State supersedes Union contracts. Commissioner Sinden stated that this is illegal and that under LD 1824 the State intends to take over personal authority of all County jails. He finished by saying the State will spend more in legal fees fighting for this legislation. Commissioner Cote stated that he totally agrees with Commissioner Sinden and that the York County Commissioners need to take a stand.

Commissioner Sinden asked if there has any update on whether or not the 2014 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment will be received. County Manager Zinser said there have been no updates and that if it is not received, some decisions will have to be made at the jail. This lack of funding is crippling the operations of the jail and a spending freeze continues to be in effect except for essential items. Commissioner Sinden asked how many prisoners do we have from other to counties. The County Manager answered that we do not have many and they are basically swaps. Also, we have shipped ten of our inmates to Cumberland County to reduce overtime costs. This step should save us \$50,000.00 between now and the end of the year.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned whether or not legislation could be introduced to compel the State to pay the jails the fourth quarter payment. County Manager Zinser responded that there isn't time for that but that the Governor did write a letter supporting the supplemental appropriations for the jail system.

c.\*\*\*(heard at the end of the meeting) Hiring of Victim Witness Advocate- County Manager explained process. He asked Commissioners to approve the hiring of Brooke Ahlquist. County Manager Zinser recognized that discussions have occurred to have more Commissioner involvement in the hiring process. Commissioner Cote commented that the option should be on the table whenever possible to have the Commissioners involved in the interview process. Since we make the decision, there should be some device available for the Commissioners to participate. The County Manager clarified that Commissioner Chandler has always been present at middle management and higher level interviews and that he agrees that any Commissioners who wish to do so, be present. He added that the Sheriff department process has typically not had management input. Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the hiring of Brooke Ahlquist. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

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

Rachel Sherman addressed the board stating that she was embarrassed by the Commissioners' actions in censuring the budget committee and thanked the budget committee for their hard work.

Bill Burns asked what would happen if York County chose not to become part of the large jail system.

The County Manager responded that there is no "opt out" clause but we could probably do so but would most likely not receive monies that the State currently controls. Therefore, could the York County jail operate on \$8.3 million? He feels that probably could not happen.

Commissioner Sinden added that the State is not actually taking over the County jails in this proposed legislation. It is effectively doing this without taking responsibility as the employees would remain County employees. He added that none of the items they're suggesting can be done in the real world and that is why he suggested going back to County controlled jails. The State would have to give us back all of the monies such as Court fines and fees for this to work and that is not likely in Commissioner Sinden's opinion.

Susan Wiswell asked if the EMA garage was included in the new budget. County Manager Zinser said that new information has been received and the building of a garage for EMA is not important at this time.

**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).**

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A). Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Cote motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D). Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E). Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

No actions taken

**9 ADJOURN**

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

**S/YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathryn A. Dumont**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sallie V. Chandler-Chair**