

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

**April 19, 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, April 19, 2017 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

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**

**04-19-17**

**ITEM**

- 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**  
Susan Wiswell, who informed all that she is a nurse, commented on the recovery center discussed at the last meeting and stated that she believes it is a better idea to use the building for rehabilitation and let the hospitals handle the detox portion.
- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 5, 2017 MEETING**  
Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Clark had one correction and then seconded the minutes as amended. Vote 4-0.
- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a. Warrants dated 4-5-17 in the amount of: (\$327,945.88)  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
  - b. Warrants dated 4-12-17 in the amount of: (\$651,068.58)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

**4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

a. Commissioner Cote to give update on MCCA meeting-  
Commissioner Cote gave an update on County Bills in legislation stating that the one regarding sentencing is recommended “ought not to pass”. He also informed all that seventeen applicants were received for the MCCA Executive Director position. These will be reviewed by the executive board and interviews will then commence.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review of bids for two vehicles in Sheriff’s Office-  
County Manager Zinser explained that the Sheriff’s Office went out to bid for two (2) Ford Fusions (bid minutes attached). Mr. Zinser continued that although slightly higher, he is recommending Arundel Ford as they are a York County business. Commissioner Lovell motioned to approve the awarding of the (2) two Ford Fusions purchase to Arundel Ford with a cost of \$47,158.00 (total for 2 vehicles).

**NO SECOND ON THIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the awarding of the (2) Ford Fusions purchase to Yankee Ford, lowest bidder.

**NO SECOND ON THIS MOTION.**

Commissioner Cote motioned to second Commissioner Lovell’s (first) motion for the purposes of discussion.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Cote asked who these vehicles will be purchased for. Chief Deputy Baran replied that the two vehicles were for himself and the Major. Commissioner Cote commented that, in his opinion, buying new vehicles for command staff is not a good idea.

Commissioner Clark stated that he does not believe it is fair to other bidders unless a provision is included in the bid specifications that special preference will be given to York County businesses. He added that the bid should be awarded to the lowest bidder as doing anything else is not an effective use of taxpayer money.

Commissioner Lovell disagreed with Commissioner Clark and replied that York County businesses pay property taxes here and should be used. Also, employees that work at Arundel Ford are York County residents and pay taxes. He continued that the difference is only \$140.00 per vehicle and believes it is worthwhile to do business in York County.

Commissioner Dutremble added that Arundel Ford’s proximity saves time and money, also.

Commissioners vote on first motion to award the bid to Arundel Ford. Vote 2-2 (with Commissioners Lovell and Dutremble voting in favor of and Commissioners Clark and Cote opposed).

Commissioner Clark again motioned to award the bid (of 2 Ford Fusions) to Yankee Ford. **NO SECOND ON THIS MOTION. MOTION FAILS.**

Commissioner Lovell motioned to table this item until the next meeting when there is a full Board. **NO SECOND ON THIS MOTION. MOTION FAILS.**

b. Set date to hear property tax denial appeal for Larry and Michelle Godwin of Lebanon  
(recommended date of May 17<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting)

Commissioner Lovell motioned to approve the recommended Hearing date of May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

- c. Set date to hear property tax denial appeal for Merrill and Wendy Farrand of Limerick  
(recommended date of June 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting)  
Commissioner Lovell motioned to approve the recommended Hearing date of June 7, 2017. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

None

**7 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER**

- a. Continue budget review

**\*\*\*\*\*Heard out of order before NEW BUSINESS.** Review of Juvenile Fire Prevention Budget. EMA Director, Art Cleaves, introduced, Matthew Leach, who along with Molly Beyer, run the York County Juvenile Fire Prevention program. Mr. Leach gave a Powerpoint presentation describing the program. He stated that 90% of all children who enter the program have no further fire starting behavior.

**DEEDS BUDGET-** County Manager Zinser explained that this budget has a slight decrease of \$2,600.00 due in large part to Register Anderson's finding a new Records Management system that is less expensive. Register Deb Anderson approached the Board for questions on her budget. Commissioner Lovell thanked her for her years of work and increasing revenue. Commissioner Cote and Commissioner Dutremble seconded Commissioner Lovell's comment.

**FACILITIES BUDGET-** County Manager Zinser informed all that the Facilities Budget has a 12% increase amounting to \$58,000.00. He continued that part of this increase is due to an increase in costs that are beyond our control such as electricity. Another factor is the request for a part time maintenance technician in the amount of \$16,000.00. Facilities Director, Tim Amoroso, addressed the Board and stated that the facilities employees are performing many tasks-not all janitorial in nature, so sometimes the janitorial functions are not completed. This is why he is requesting a part time maintenance technician. Commissioner Lovell questioned why the cost in heating repairs is increasing? Facilities Director Amoroso replied that the general maintenance at the courthouse is the reason. He added that the State was maintaining the Pre-Release Center and that is now vacant so the County will be responsible for heating costs.

Commissioner Dutremble asked Tim Amoroso that if he were to acquire a part time maintenance technician would his overtime budget decrease? Mr. Amoroso replied that this money is for waxing floors- a function that cannot be done during normal, business hours.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned the \$5,000.00 increase in minor equipment. Tim Amoroso replied that his department did not have many tools so he had been purchasing them using his professional services budget as he did not have a budget for tools. He would like to continue to purchase necessary tools for his department.

**Commissioners and Administration Budgets-** County Manager Zinser explained that the Commissioners' budget is self-explanatory and went on to discuss the administration budget that shows a 4.58% increase (\$44,000.00). The request for a part time H.R. Generalist is part of the reason. There is \$3,000.00 increase in the miscellaneous electronic equipment due to various needs of IT to upgrade.

Commissioner Lovell asked if the H.R. Generalist position would be an additional employee in the department. County Manager Zinser replied that it would be. This

position would aid in such items as database (MUNIS H.R. module) management, more initial training of employees, expanding hours of the H.R. substation at the jail, implementation of safety/wellness programs, management of benefits that has become more cumbersome due to many factors including ACA requirements, two different health insurance carriers, recruitment and retention of employees, employee investigations and maintenance of employee records.

**Communications Budget-** The County Manager explained that the dispatching services are contracted through Sanford Regional Dispatch.

**Retirement-** County Manager Zinser explained that the retirement benefit is tied directly to wages. Commissioner Clark questioned why there was no increase since there is in wages. Finance Director Ridlon explained enough monies were budgeted last year.

**Medical/Dental-** The County Manager reported there is a \$364,000.00 reduction due to moving to new health insurance carriers. The HRA \$320,000.00 liability is moved to the insurance liability line. There is a \$433,000.00 decrease over the prior year.

**Debt-** There is a decrease of \$226,250.00 as some of our payments are expiring.

**Public Agencies-** County Manager Zinser explained that the County contributes to Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, York County Soil and Water, and York County Extension. There are no increases in these contributions from last year.

**Contingency-** We continue to raise \$50,000.00 each budget.

**Payroll Reserves-** The line is funded at \$180,000.00.

Commissioner Clark questioned why there was nothing in the budget for 2017 for this line. County Manager Zinser explained there was a reserve last year.

Commissioner Dutremble informed the other Commissioners that the budget has to be given to the Budget Committee by May 1<sup>st</sup> by law. At the last meeting, some Commissioners expressed some concerns with the budget presented. Therefore, he presented some cuts to the County Manager of approximately \$112,000.00. County Manager Zinser circulated the cuts to the budget suggested by Commissioner Dutremble to the other Commissioners. He explained they included the reduction in funding of what is equal to two Corrections Officers resulting in a savings of \$70,000.00 as well as the delay in hiring of the full time executive administrative assistant in the Sheriff's office until January of 2018. Collectively, explained the County Manager, these cuts result in a decrease in the FY'2018 budget of \$110,000.00. This action would reduce municipal assessments to 2% and expenditures to ½ of 1%.

Commissioner Dutremble explained again that the process has to move along. If others have areas they wish to cut, they need to do so soon. He added that the cuts he is suggesting do not "hurt anyone."

Commissioner Lovell asked the Chief Deputy and Lt. Col. would this suggested cut have an impact on their operations? Lt. Col. Vitiello commented that overtime could potentially increase and that the line was already reduced. He continued that he would prefer to make three or four positions nine months so there is flexibility in the event they can be filled. This would make the proposed reduction neutral. County Manager Zinser agreed with the Lt. Col. Commissioner Dutremble added that, yes, the intention was to reduce the dollar amount of that budget line.

Commissioner Clark asked what the highest number of Corrections Officers have been employed in the last year and what happens to the money budgeted when the jail is not fully staffed. Lt. Col. Vitiello explained that the money goes into overtime wages. Commissioner Clark responded that there should be a surplus in the salary line. Commissioner Dutremble explained that the Commissioners can adjust lines

and that the money is put into the overtime line. County Manager Zinser added that overtime was underfunded in the past and typically there is a surplus in the wage line and an overage in the overtime line as the jail is chronically understaffed.

Commissioner Clark replied that every time we save somewhere, we spend somewhere else. He added that he'd like to see savings somewhere else and is less than enthusiastic about this budget and the technique used.

Commissioner Dutremble responded that it is not a technique but budgeting where you look to reduce costs without affecting anyone. Commissioner Clark replied that while he respects that, the gross figure (of the budget) directly impacts York County taxpayers and he would like to see that figure lower. He continued that the budget contains a significant program with significant costs and wonders what next years' budget will be with half the cost put in this years' budget and next years' will have the impact of a full years' cost (referring to delayed hiring).

Commissioner Lovell stated that one needs to look at providing services on a dollar for dollar basis. We have active departments with financial pressures on them due to limited funds. He added that the fact that we cannot fully staff the jail bothers him. Commissioner Lovell continued that it is difficult to make meaningful cuts. He added that some question whether or not we need the Recovery Center and stated that it seems to him like there is a public health issue.

Commissioner Dutremble asked again if anyone else had areas they'd like to cut and if they were ready to vote on the budget or come back next week?

Commissioner Lovell replied that he feels both the County Manager and the Sheriff need an executive assistant. He believes if the Sheriff is able to hire before January 1, 2018, a slight variance in his budget should be allowed so that he can do so.

Commissioner Lovell motioned to accept the "Dutremble modifications" to the County budget with the recognition that jail correction officer positions remain at 76 although it is unlikely that we will reach that number. Also, that the Sheriff will not be impeded from hiring his executive assistant.

Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the budget in the amount of \$19,683,490.00 and send it forward to the Budget Committee. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

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

None

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

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D), labor negotiations. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Lovell motioned to come out of executive session.  
Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

**10**

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.