

# COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

February 21, 2018

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 21, 2018 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler  
Richard R. Dutremble  
Michael J. Cote  
Richard Clark  
Cynthia Chadwick-Granger

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**

**02-21-18**

**WELCOME COMMISSIONER CYNTHIA CHADWICK-GRANGER** –County Manager Zinser swears in Commissioner Chadwick-Granger.

### **Brief Reception**

- 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2018 MEETING and the FEBRUARY 7, 2018 MEETING**  
Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a. Warrants dated 01-03-18 in the amount of: \$290,423.56  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - b. Warrants dated 01-11-18 in the amount of: \$695,433.14  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - c. Warrants dated 01-18-18 in the amount of: \$202,962.38  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- d. Warrants dated 01-24-18 in the amount of: \$527,936.70  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- e. Warrants dated 02-02-18 in the amount of: \$491,565.93  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- f. Warrants dated 02-08-18 in the amount of: \$355,450.55  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- g. Warrants dated 02-15-18 in the amount of: \$340,986.19  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

- a. Commissioner Cote to report on MCCA annual meeting-Commissioner Cote explained that new officers were elected to the Board for the MCCA and for the Risk Pool. He added that he felt the meeting last week with the legislators went well.  
Commissioner Dutremble announced that he is running for his Commission seat again.

**5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

- a. Attorney James Belleau or colleague from Trafton, Matzen, Belleau & Frenette, LLP to attend March 7<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' meeting to discuss opiate litigation-  
The County Manager explained that he had invited Attorney Belleau here to explain why the County might want to join in this lawsuit.
- b. Molly Louison from York County Child Advocacy Center to give update on center.  
CAC Director Louison approached the Board and distributed information on the program. She explained that they are part of the Sexual Assault Response Team of Southern Maine. Molly informed all that conversations began a couple of years ago with the County and that we have been part of the program from the beginning. The Commissioners thanked Molly for her important work!

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Initial Discussion of FY'19 budget. (thoughts and guidance)  
The County Manager explained various costs that are rising such as propane at the jail rising to \$1.10 per gallon and rising health insurance costs. He added the County's commitment to the Recovery Center and that he will soon have the contract on the agenda for their approval. County Manager Zinser asked for guidance on the budget preparation from the Commissioners.  
Commissioner Chadwick-Granger questioned the formatting of the budget. County Manager Zinser explained that he would supply her with a current to-date budget. But, that, yes, the budget will show what was budgeted for each department in the prior year, what was requested by the Department Leader and himself.  
Commissioner Clark question as to whether or not all department heads had their budget requests in. The County Manager explained they have been instructed to have their budgets to him by March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Clark requested that he would like to see the Department Head's original request and then also the County Manager's request. He added that his hope would be for the budget to come in under LD1.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that expenses went up last year but the bond payment decreased so, therefore, the budget can increase a bit.

Commissioner Clark asked if there were going to be any new County initiatives this year. The County Manager replied no, but that there would be new hire requests. For example, there will be a request for one new employee in the Deeds department due to the department being busier and he also reminded the Commissioners that about 6 years ago a position was eliminated per the department head as the department was not busy at the time. Now, the department head is stating the position is necessary as they are busy. He continued that EMA would potentially have a new hire request for a new position that could be classified as an initiative. Mr. Zinser stated that he is also exploring the possibility of consolidating a part time position into a full time but there would be no economic impact except for possibly health insurance.

Commissioner Cote replied that the County is committed to the Recovery Center and that it is necessary to fund the wage and benefit increase but that he is concerned that the County has grown over the past couple of years and he feels we need to try to "hold the line" so it doesn't get out of control. Last year was the first time in his five years as Commissioner that the budget increased. He commented that he is apprehensive at how fast York County Government is growing.

Commissioner Cote continued that he believes we have to take care of our current employees and concentrate on what we have made commitments to.

Commissioner Chadwick-Granger responded that she agreed with Commissioner Cote's comments. She continued that anytime you add a new position, you need to have value in that and she would want to see proof of why we need the position and how we are going to continue to fund it. She added that she does like the idea of the consolidation of the part time employees to one full time.

Commissioner Chair Chandler stated she wants to see the budget as low as it can be. Commissioner Dutremble informed all present that since the County was in poor financial shape in 2007 and a plan created to fix that, our new rating from Standard and Poor just came in at AA+. He thanked all employees and department heads for making this possible.

County Manager Zinser stated that he understands the Commissioners' directive to provide them with a budget as low as possible. He informed them that they will have a budget in advance of the first meeting in April and that the budget has to be approved by them and transferred to the Budget Committee by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Chadwick-Granger asked the County Manager to further explain the increase in propane costs. County Manager Zinser explained that we are paying 96 cents per gallon until July. We then will be paying the summer escalator as we will be out of contract until November. We have a large tank at the jail. The demand for propane has risen thus causing the increase to \$1.10 per gallon. Commissioner Chadwick-Granger asked if we are dealing with just one propane company. The County Manager replied, yes, because of the supply system at the jail. He added that we use 150,000 gallons per year so we purchase in advance to obtain savings. County Manager Zinser explained that five years ago we converted to a new system within the budget at the jail. Prior to this conversion, the jail was costing approximately \$400,000 per year as opposed to currently a cost of around \$170,000.00 yearly.

Commissioner Chadwick-Granger replied that everything is open to negotiations and she has a problem with that \$1.10 per gallon.

*"We are giving them a lot of money"*, she stated.

b. Discussion of Treasurer position-County Manager Zinser explained that the position is really not needed and asked the Commissioners what they desire to do. Commissioner Chair Chandler asked what the process would be to abolish the position.

County Manager Zinser explained either through a charter process or a Commissioners' vote to abolish the position. It would then have to be put on the ballot for York County residents to vote on. There is not enough time to get this item on the June primary ballot so therefore, it would have to be put on the November ballot.

Commissioner Clark commented that if it is largely a ceremonial position and the Finance Director has taken over the duties, he does not see the point of continuing to have this position (treasurer).

The County Manager explained if the voters approve doing away with the elected Treasurer, there would still need to be an appointed treasurer.

Commissioner Cote stated that other counties typically appoint the Manager as Treasurer. He added that he agrees with Commissioner Clark even though Commissioner Dutremble has a good point on the issue.

Commissioner Dutremble explained that while he agrees the position should be abolished, he is concerned that since there is a candidate running for the Treasurer position, voters may be confused by having the question to abolish the position on the ballot at the same time. He recommends waiting two years to bring forth the matter to voters.

Commissioner Cote agrees it's a valid point but agrees with Commissioner Clark that the sooner we abolish the position, we can save money.

Commissioner Clark asks that the County Manager come back with further information on the process to get the question on the November ballot. County Manager Zinser stated he will do his best to get this information for the Commissioners at their next meeting.

**7 OLD BUSINESS**  
None

**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).**  
None

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

Rachel Sherman asks if there will be a public hearing on the treasurer position. Commissioner Cote replied that it is up to the voters.

**10**

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.