

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

July 6, 2016

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, July 6, 2016 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.

Call Meeting to Order

YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

07-06-16

ITEM

1

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

None

2

TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2016

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of June 1, 2016.
Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3

HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Commissioner Chandler to report on meeting with David Sorenson(Governor’s chief policy advisor) re :residential recovery and detox center in York County.

Commissioner Chandler informed all in attendance that she, Mr. Chandler and the County Manager recently met in Augusta with David Sorenson, Governor Lepage’s Chief Policy Advisor, regarding the formation of a residential recovery and detox center in York County.

County Manager Zinser referenced the memos he had previously e-mailed to the Commissioners regarding this matter. He added that there is another meeting scheduled with Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, Mary Mayhew, in August. The County Manager continued that we hope to provide a thirty six (36) bed recovery center in the building currently used by the State as a women's re-entry center. He stated that most parties who have reviewed the program, are in favor of it. Also, he added that we are working with the District Attorney's office to make this a diversionary program to work with people with substance abuse issue vs. incarceration. Lastly, Mr. Zinser relayed to all present that a further meeting is being planned with Mr. Sorenson and the Governor.

Rosemary Kulow, Executive Director of the Maine County Commissioners Association was in attendance and introduced.

Commissioner Sinden stated that he had attended a recent stakeholders meeting regarding the Sarah Mildred Long bridge and that construction is moving along . The old bridge is still open but will close in November of this year. The new bridge is slated to open in September of 2017 with total completion of the project currently scheduled for June of 2018.

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TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Introduce District Attorney Kathy Slattery, ADA Shira Burns, Amy Stanley and Caitlin Beling from SARSSM (Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine) to talk about the Child Advocacy Center.

The County Manager introduced all listed above and stated that he has been working with them regarding the possibility of York County housing the Child Advocacy Center in the lower level of the courthouse and that they are here to discuss specifics. (Handouts included as part of record)

York County ADA, Shira Burns addressed the Commissioners and explained that she deals with domestic violence and sexual abuse cases adding that is what the Child Advocacy Center will address. She added that studies have shown that this does help with prosecutions of these cases.

Amy Stanley and Caitlin Beling stated that Child Advocacy Centers have been around since 1985 nationally. The first center in Maine was opened ten years ago in Lewiston and another one in Waterville four years ago and it is now a mandate that every public health center have one. Amy explained that York County started with a community forum last year. They have an advisory board of 20 to 25 people including members of law enforcement and the district attorneys' office. The benefits of a Child Advocacy Center are that it aids in the prosecution and reduces trauma and stress of the children going through the process. They are interviewed by a trained forensic interviewer and it is a one time thing. There is also a family advocate there to help. CAC is completely free and everyone is treated equally. The interview is recorded and given to whoever needs (D.A., DHHS, etc.) it. CAC can coordinate whatever else is needed. These centers are a tremendous success nationally and in the State of Maine. Transportation is provided through York County Community Action to get families to CAC and home again. Currently, stated Amy, they are developing protocols and a MOA. The Board meets monthly. Caitlin added that they receive stable funding through the State and there are quality funding streams to keep the program going.

County Manager Greg Zinser stated that this can be a real partnership with them and a lot of other agencies adding that this is a great opportunity for the County. Commissioner Lovell asked if the County Manager envisioned housing of at risk children. He replied that is a separate program and we would not offer housing of children. The space is available in the courthouse at no cost except for small capital items to possibly include new carpeting.

Commissioner Dutremble moved to authorize the use of space available at courthouse for the Child Advocacy Center. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

5 OLD BUSINESS

a. Act on findings for poverty abatement file #06-01-16

Commissioner Lovell motioned to accept the Findings and authorized Sallie to be the sole signature. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

6 NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduce Sheriff King to recommend new hires (1 full time patrol deputy and 5 full time corrections officers)

Sheriff King requested that Eric Trainque be approved in a patrol deputy position with a start date of August 1, 2016.

Commissioner Cote asked if he's been to the academy. Sheriff King replied that he had and has also been employed as a York County Corrections Officer for a year.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the hiring as requested by Sheriff King. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Sheriff King requested that Richard Dubois, Brian Hartford, Brock Frederick, Travis Lemelin and Donovan Cram be hired in the order of seniority as listed as York County Correction Officer positions. Commissioner Cote asked the Sheriff if these hires were part of the ten "John Doe" spots requested previously. Sheriff King replied that they were.

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the new hires for corrections officer positions. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Introduce EMA Director Art Cleaves to recommend new hire (part-time co-director of Juvenile Fire Safety) –The County Manager informed all that this item will be moved to the August meeting.

c. Introduce H.R. Director Linda Corliss to recommend on behalf of the District Attorney one full-time Victim Witness Advocate and one part-time confidential assistant in the Commissioners' office.

H.R. Director, Linda Corliss, sought Commissioner approval to hire Eliza Kehew in the District Attorney's office in a victim witness advocate position. She explained that this is a new position funded by the 2017 budget. Ms. Corliss requested a July 20, 2016 hire date.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the hire. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

H.R. Director Corliss requested the approval of Gayle Munro in the position of a part-time confidential assistant in the Commissioners' office with a 7-18-16 date of hire.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the hiring. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Cote asked if staffing levels were where they need to be in D.A.'s office.

Linda Corliss replied that one of the VWA references was not back in time but that she does anticipate an August hire. She added that they are also down one legal secretary and that there will be a trial manager position to fill.

Commissioner Cote stated that he had been hearing through the grapevine that some think they are shorthanded. Linda Corliss replied that the goal is to be fully up to staff in September.

d. Discussion of formation of jail working group

The County Manager referred to the memo received from Budget Committee Chair, John Sylvester, in which he asks on behalf of the Budget Committee, the formation of a jail working group. The County Manager reminded the Commissioners that they tasked him with working on the deficit problem. (The County Manager read John Sylvester's memo-included as record of minutes). Mr. Zinser referenced another memo proposing members for this committee (include as record). He continued that the memo recommends that two Commissioners be on the committee as determined by the Board. Chair Sallie Chandler stated that she would like Commissioner Dutremble and Commissioner Cote. Commissioner Lovell stated that he would like to be on the committee. Commissioner Chair Chandler stated that she felt Commissioner Cote should be on the Board because he is on MCCA and is familiar with the jail funding and Commissioner Dutremble as he is familiar with York County financial history. Commissioner Sinden agreed and reminded all that going back to a successful time in 2007 when Commissioner Dutremble was on the ADHOC committee that dealt with the county deficit and that he is a representative of a major YC city and an accountant. Commissioner Sinden further stated that he echoed Commissioner Chandler's highlighting the importance of Commissioner Cote's representation on the MCCA Board and his past law enforcement officer experience. He added that they would be best suited for this committee.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Lovell opposed.

e. Act on FY '17 tax commitment-

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that the Budget Committee did remove benefits from the Commissioners and that a motion to approve budget in amount of \$19,567,432.00 and to commit taxes in the amount of \$16,333,591.00. Commissioner Sinden motioned the above. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he was voting yes with one reservation. Vote 5-0.

f. Sheriff's office vehicle acquisition-Quirk Ford State bid holder-

The County Manager explained that he had been working with the Sheriff's Office and that Quirk Ford is the State bid holder as it pertains to the Ford SUV police interceptor vehicles. He recommends purchasing three vehicles at a cost roughly of \$33,000.00 per vehicle. He reminded all that vehicles purchased last year through Arundel Ford took a long time. Our policy allows us to "piggyback" on to a State contract. Commissioner Cote asked if maintenance was going okay with these types of vehicles. Sheriff King responded that he thought there had been one issue-a recall with the SUVs purchased last year but that it was fixed speedily. Commissioner Lovell stated he'd like to know the difference in buying local and buying through the State contract. The County Manager stated that he can get that information for Commissioner Lovell. Sheriff King replied that he did not remember the vehicle cost from last year and that Quirk had these vehicles in stock. Commissioner Lovell asked if we should receive a discount if they are 2016. County Manager asked the Board what they like to do? Commissioner Chair Chandler instructed that they get the difference in prices. Commissioner Dutremble asked Sheriff King how long he can hold this price. Sheriff King replied that the Major did a good job in obtaining the costs on these vehicles.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to go ahead with Quirk and purchase the three vehicles. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Lovell commented that he still would like to see the numbers.

g. Policy modification-employment of relatives-

County Manager Zinser explained that the County's current policy discourages employment of relatives but this policy being presented prohibits it. He continued that this would be on a prospective basis and that any situation that falls in this category is grandfathered. Commissioner Dutremble questioned if this proposed policy would have to go through a Union process. Mr. Zinser replied that the precedent would be that the Union contract prevails. Commissioner Lovell asked the Sheriff if this policy would be okay with him. Sheriff King replied as long as this is moving forward we will be cognizant.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the amended policy as presented. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 (Commissioner Cote opposed).

h. Discussion and possible action on jail boarding rate/agreement-

The County Manager referred to the latest version of Inmate Housing MOU (included as record) that sets a boarding rate of \$108.00 per day. He continued that the agreement has been reached and it's now up to the individual counties if they want to go along with it.

Commissioner Sinden commented that he had attended several meetings regarding the boarding rate and if we are going to board counties that chose not to build their own jail, we should at least cover the costs so our taxpayers are not subsidizing other counties. He added that we are still paying on our bonds. Commissioner Sinden continued that \$108 is the average or median figure and that he realizes we are probably not going to get boarders as we are not geographically positioned. He also stated that he feels it is important that counties stick together for once and agree to do something that is in the best interests of the Counties.

Commissioner Cote agreed with \$108 for the same reasons and added that we also need to revisit it in a year to see if that's worked out and whether costs have changed.

Commissioner Sinden clarified that the gentleman who crunched the numbers was doing this with the State BOC so that the legislature would have something to work with. In that respect, all counties were included in coming up with that number. Commissioner Lovell asked if the boarding rate was based on the State figures on cell occupancy on each of the jails. He continued that he was referring to York County Jail with an occupancy of 298 and yet the State budget for York County was based on one entire pod closed. Therefore, the total occupancy is an artificial one that subtracts the population from one pod from the 298, stated Commissioner Lovell. Commissioner Sinden replied that the per pod cost has nothing to do with gross occupancy of any jail. He further explained that they took CRAS reporting from all of the jails which included the hard costs (food,etc.) and came to a figure that reflects as close to possible what it costs to house an inmate. Commissioner Dutremble added that at the end of 2007 we were getting \$85.00 so \$108.00 seems reasonable.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve the MOU. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

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 ADJOURN

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.