

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

January 18, 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, January 18, 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

01-18-17

ITEM

1

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)
None

2

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2017 MEETING
Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Clark added that under Item 15- “no executive session held” should be added.

3

TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
a. Commissioner Cote to report on MCCA Annual Meeting- Commissioner Cote reported that he attended the annual Maine County Commissioners’ meeting and that there were not a lot of controversial subjects. He added that the same officers were voted in and that in the risk pool, Commissioner Fournier is the President and Commissioner Fowler is the VP and that he (Commissioner Cote) is the Treasurer. Commissioner Lovell asked whether any other County Commissions were pursuing

any similar program as us (recovery center). Commissioner Cote replied that he has asked Rosie Kulow (from MCCA) but did not receive much for a response. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that various counties are looking into programs but nothing of the magnitude of York County's program.

b. Commissioner Dutremble to report on Jail Working Group Meeting- Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the Group talked about several bills being submitted regarding jail control. He added that Kate Dufour from Maine Municipal Association has agreed to meet with the Group next Friday (1-27) at 10:00 regarding jail issues-specifically our concerns. County Manager Zinser added that we hope to show her that we are all working together and hope to enlist MMA's support to maybe focus less on bills to turn the jails over to the State. Commissioner Cote mentioned that he and Chief Deputy Baran had attended another meeting of "Kids Free to Grow" that they are advisors on.

4

TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Discussion of policy modification to County's current H.R. policy as requested by the Commissioners- the County Manager referred to Item 7 in the County's H.R. policy (Elected Officials) where the change will be made pending Commissioner approval. He added that he has looked through the manual and doesn't find any conflicting language. Mr. Zinser added that this change has been cleared through our legal counsel. In regards to MEPERS, one can only back out if they are terminated. Therefore, we have to continue to contribute to MEPERS for those Commissioners who are currently members.

b. Discussion of Commissioners' objectives for 2018 County budget-The County Manager informed all that the County is right were it should be budget-wise while the jail is slightly over. The County Manager added that some bills have come in for the jail that will bump their budget usage up to 55% to 60%. He continued that in February he will request that the Finance Director do some projections on the jail budget. We have seen a decrease in population and overtime, stated Mr. Zinser. He cautioned that in May and June vacation time starts up again. The County Manager informed all that in the next budget year we have some expiring bond payments. His big questions to the Commissioners regarding the budget are: what are their feelings about additions of personnel, not adding personnel as well as any other objectives.

Commissioner Dutremble replied that he wants the department heads to put their budget through with what they are looking for. Then, the next step would be the County Manager reviews it and gives his recommendation and then on to the Commissioners allowing them to look at both budgets requested and see if we (Commissioners) think it's reasonable or not. Commissioner Dutremble ended by stating that he believes all department heads should be able to put what they want in their budget requests as he doesn't want them to say down the road they weren't allowed to put what they want. Commissioner Lovell responded that he would want all to keep within their current budgets and that LD1 is followed, also. Commissioner Clark commented that his concern is in starting the Recovery project that we first take a tight look at the rest of the budget. He added that he doesn't think we will find \$250,000.00 to fund that and that taking from reserves is non-sustainable so we need to look hard at the whole budget to keep it as reasonable as possible. Commissioner Lovell asked Commissioner Clark would he be okay with funding the rehab if we stay within LD 1. Commissioner Clark replied that he

doesn't think it turns on that and that he is not a big fan of LD1. He added that he believes that in fairness to taxpayers, we keep the budget as tight as we can. Commissioner Lovell replied that he agreed with Commissioner Clark's comment regarding drawing the funds to run the recovery center out of capital funds as it is a non-sustainable fund. County Manager Greg Zinser commented that he understands and agrees and that those funds were set aside so if something came along that would require a match, then we could utilize those funds. He stated that we would look at these funds as seed money and as the long term sustainability of the (recovery) program; we can do some budget projections. He reminded all that we also will have some expired bond payments. The County Manager added that he did understand that Commissioner Clark was stating don't be quick to go up to that level (LD1). Commissioner Clark replied that he meant that before the County embarks on a new and major cost center, we look at the rest of the budget to make sure we are not spending in all directions. Commissioner Dutremble asked if the bonds decrease by \$250,000 this year. The County Manager will get the Board an amortization schedule of the bonds. Commissioner Cote agreed with what Commissioner Clark stated and said that is 100% where he is going with the Recovery Center; adding that there are some issues we have to think about in the legislature as well as health insurance increases and items like running the jail that are statutory responsibilities. He continued that those things need to be looked at first. We need to make sure we are doing the things we are required to do by law, stated Commissioner Cote.

5 OLD BUSINESS

None

6 NEW BUSINESS

a. Act on H.R. Policy modification –Section 2 of H.R. Policy-Employment Categories-#7 Elected Officials- Commissioner Lovell motioned to accept the H.R. policy modification (attached as record of the minutes) with recognition of the grandfathering of any Commissioner within the MEPERS system. Vote 5-0.

b. Act on Acton/Shapleigh Deputy Contract- County Manager Greg Zinser explained that signed agreements from both Towns have been received. Their contract expired 12-31-16 and this is a three (3) year contract. Commissioner Lovell motioned to approve the contract. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Lovell voiced his concern that although this contract is for \$90,000.00 per year, other towns with contract deputies are paying in the \$100,000.00 range. He stated that his concern is with as many contract deputies as we have, why we don't pool the deputies and use them among all towns using the same rates for each town utilizing a Contract Deputy "pooling" approach. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that the towns don't want that, they want a particular deputy assigned to them. Commissioner Lovell replied that some cost conscious towns want less deputy costs. The County Manager replied that the problem is that deputy now wants health insurance so their cost will be going up. Commissioner Lovell responded that now they will want a cheaper deputy. To which the County Manager replied that he would have a problem with that. He added that he thinks with the increased communication with this town, they understand what has happened and they have time to plan for it. They shouldn't have the opportunity to shop. Commissioner Clark stated that we should express some appreciation to the

Sheriff for negotiating this and getting it done. He continued that it is clear there isn't a lot of appetite to increase the Sheriff's staff. Commissioner Lovell clarified that this was a negotiation effort between the County Manager and the Sheriff.
Vote 5-0.

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

Donna Ring inquired if the fy '16 audit had been completed yet. County Manager Zinser replied that it has been approved and that we are waiting for the final, bound copy.

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).

No executive session was held.

9 ADJOURN

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