

## COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

December 3, 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 Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler  
Daniel C. Cabral  
Richard R. Dutremble  
Michael J. Cote  
Gary Sinden

County Manager Gregory Zinser, Human Resource Director Linda Corliss 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

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

**2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Sinden commented that he had read the minutes of the last MCCA meeting. He mentioned that MCCA had voted on whether or not to support various legislative items. He continued that MCCA had taken it upon themselves to decide this for the entire counties as the York County Commissioners had not seen the list. Commissioner Sinden continued that the same holds true for the strategic plan being created by MCCA. He feels the Commissioners should have access to the draft prior to a vote in order for them to relay their wishes to the York County

Commissioner who represents them on the MCCA board. He reminded all that MCCA is tasked with representing all County Commissioners-not their “own little group.”

Commissioner Sinden then remarked that he had read the newspaper article regarding insurance costs for York County employees. He referenced the section in which the Unions stated they found differences in coverages between Harvard Pilgrim and Aetna. Commissioner Sinden recommended that the Commissioners recommend the County Manager give these differences to our Broker to respond in detail as to whether or not the differences mentioned by the Unions are, in fact, valid. County Manager Zinser said he will do so.

Commissioner Cote responded to Commissioner Sinden’s remarks regarding MCCA. He clarified that he did not believe there was a vote on any legislation. He does recall there was a discussion on re-examining the statutes on the qualifications needed to run for Sheriff. Commissioner Cote further stated that he does have the draft Strategic Plan and will have Kathy copy for all Commissioners to review and comment on. Commissioner Sinden replied that all Commissioners should review and give Commissioner Cote what they wish to go forward with.

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

a. Introduce Ron Smith from RHR Smith & Co. to present FY 2014 audit- Ron Smith stated that York County is financially solid. He added that there were some problems with the jail in the past in how money was moved around and that better practices could still be implemented. Mr. Smith commented that in this County and also common in others, is having money set aside but no timeline is put on when it will be spent. Another issue, according to Ron Smith, is better practices exercised in how District Attorney Restitution money is spent. He informs all that changes are going to happen soon (mandates). He also sees changes coming soon in the administration of finances in Maine County jails.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that big strides have been made in York County finances since 2007. He added that we now have professional staff and feels we will get even better moving forward. Finance Director, Vicki Ridlon, added that FY’14 was our first full year with the fiscal year change and that she felt it went pretty smoothly particularly since the budget was prepared about three years ago. Commissioner Dutremble questioned if the jail bank statements were now being reconciled on a monthly basis. Finance Director Ridlon responded that this process was better but that there was one account that she did not have knowledge of who was handling.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the audit presented. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Policy change/clarification request from Human Resources Director-leave of absence vs. medical leave of absence- Human Resource Director, Linda Corliss, gave a brief overview of the change (attached to the minutes as record). She requested the change be effective as of January 1, 2015.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to insert the clarifying language to correct the Non-Union Policy Manual. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- c. A date of January 7, 2015 was set for the Commissioners to hear a poverty abatement denial appeal.
- d. The County Manager mentioned that a meeting had been set for December 15<sup>th</sup> with the towns of Acton, Parsonfield, Limerick, Shapleigh and Newfield to discuss whether or not they had any interest in moving forward with obtaining information on a County ambulance service.

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (F) –discussion of confidential records- poverty abatement.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to enter into executive session per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (F). Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Decision recorded in Plaintiff's file.

Jail Task Force- The County Manager explained that he will be at the meeting in Augusta on Friday. He continued if we give the jail back to the State, we may receive money or we may not. He stated that he did believe there has been a big change in the BOC over the past several months and that they are making good headway. He added that the Governor has not appointed more members to the Board, though. The County Manager reminded all that when the jail was under County control, it was bringing in \$1.25 million into the general fund. He added that he doubted we would get those funds back. Commissioner Cote asked why would we give the jail to the State if they are not willing to give us any money for it? Commissioner Sinden stated that, in his opinion, the State set up a structure that never worked. He added that the problem is that the courts have modified statute time after time. But, he continued, that the Commissioners do not have the authority to correct the administrative issues at the jail. The BOC does have some authority over administration and they are using it to a certain extent, and this is the only oversight, according to Commissioner Sinden. He went on to state that it is fiscally irresponsible to have half of the County budget overseen by one person. He believes that there has to be legislation to create a regional jail authority. Commissioner Sinden remarked that even if the State returned the jail to the County, the County Commissioners would have no authority to run the jail. Commissioner Chair Chandler agreed with Commissioner Sinden and stated that if we want a jail authority, we will have to go forth by ourselves. She asked if the State took over the jails, would they take over our employees as well including benefit packages, etc.? The County Manager agreed that is a concern as well as the issue of our debt service. The County Manager reminded all that the BOC has not authorized funding of capital improvements for the past five or six years. Even so, we have managed to

complete some capital projects, stated the County Manager. Commissioner Chair Chandler suggested that York County get a placeholder bill into our legislature for a single jail authority. Commissioner Sinden stated that we should not lose sight that we assess taxes to our towns and as Commissioners, we have an obligation to our property tax payers.

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

**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).**

**9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Cabral motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**S/YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant**

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

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

