

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 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 the Commissioners' Community Room in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

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

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

None

2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF APRIL 2, 2014

Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the minutes of April 2, 2014. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Chair Sallie Chandler reported she had recently attended the Maine County Commissioners meeting.

HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

2015 Budget Presentations (continued from April 2nd meeting)

The County Manager stated that the biggest increases in the Sheriff Department's budget are overtime and vehicle liability (gas and oil). He added that the Sheriff's budget includes continued funding of a part time call taker position which will possibly also be used as courthouse security.

Sheriff Ouellette added that calls have increased. He further stated there will be increased costs associated with contract dispatch services as we move forward as Sanford Dispatch will be developing a new formula to allocate costs. The Sheriff informed the board that another increase in his budget includes charging a clerk's position fully in his budget that was previously funded 25% through the civil proces budget. Commissioner Dutremble questioned the FICA and medicare numbers. Finance Director, Vicki Ridlon, responded that the numbers are fairly accurate as they are supplied through the MUNIS payroll program. Sheriff Ouellette added that not all of his employees have the same benefits.

County Manager Zinser informed the board that the greatest increase in the District Attorney's budget for 2015 is witness fees and training and development. There is also a need for a part-time clerical position due to an increase in case loads. District Attorney Kathy Slattery added that there has been an increase in Superior Court cases with eighteen (18) trials last year. She also stated that postage costs have increased due to sending out more information in preparation for court cases. They are also often required to produce CD's and DVD's for defense attorneys.

Pam Tourangeau gave a brief presentation on her program, Juvenile Fire Prevention Program (information distributed and included as record of these minutes). She is requesting a slight increase in her budget for 2015. Commissioner Cote asked if referrals could come from many sources and if this program serves all twenty nine (29) of our cities and towns. County Manager Zinser responded that it does and that this program is a prime example of a County program that works. Ms. Tourangeau added that the State Fire Marshal calls her program the "Poster Child".

The County Manager reminded all that the EMA budgets were consolidated from three to one budget. He continued that the County is attempting to lessen its reliance on Federal grants in some instances, with CODE RED being an example. Therefore, there is a line item in the budget for this program and hopefully, in the next budget cycle, it will fully County funded. Mr. Zinser further stated that stipends and travel budgets for EMA have been increased in an effort to assist the HAZMAT team who are volunteers.

EMA Director, Leo Rogers, addressed the Board and added that EMA could not exist without volunteers and therefore, the slight increase in the stipends and travel line is important to recognize them. He added that the office supply line had increased as their supplies are pretty much depleted. Vehicle expenses are increased due to the aging vehicles and work needed on Command One, according to Director Rogers.

Commissioner Cote asked Director Rogers if information explaining CODE RED was being circulated to all towns and cities. Director Rogers responded that the subject is always discussed at their meetings. Mr. Rogers stated that an "all call" was done a few months ago with a 78% completion. He added that York County EMA uses the program for emergencies only while three York County towns utilize the CODE RED program for informational purposes. Commissioner Sinden asked if his understanding that the system can be directed to call individual towns was correct. Leo responded yes. Commissioner Sinden added the importance of this program and cited the example of the fire on the ship The Miami at the Naval Shipyard in Kittery.

County Manager Zinser informed the board that it had recently been discovered that there is an electrical issue at the courthouse which will most likely be very costly to replair.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned that the Commissioners revert back to last year's salary. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. (Commissioner Sinden opposed).

Discussion: Commissioner Sinden stated that this subject comes up every couple of years and voiced his oposition. He added that the Commissioners' raises amount to the same COLA raise that other County employees receive and that he believes the Commissioners are well deserving of the same. Commissioner Dutremble responded that prior to the policy being in effect, the Commissioners did not automatically receive a yearly raise. He added that he does not feel the Commissioners should be voting in their own raise every year. Commissioner Sinden asked should the policy be that the Commissioners salaries stay static forever?

Commissioner Dutremble withdrew his prior motion and then motioned to present and move to the Budget Committee, the 2015 budget with the subtraction of the Commissioners' raise in the amount of \$18,659,659.00. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote4-1 (Commissioner Sinden oposed).

County Manager Zinser read a letter from Senator Dawn Hill in regards to jail funding (attached to the minutes as record) which she sent to the Commissioners in

response to their letter in which they stated they favored returning the jails to full County control or if not, Option four, as presented.

LD 1824 (jail funding bill) has passed in both the House and Senate stated the County Manager. He added that the question remains as to whether or not the Governor will veto it. Sheriff Ouellette added that Senator Hill moved to take the bill to appropriations. Commissioner Sinden asked if the bill was directly connected to the supplemental budget of \$1.2 million. C.M. Zinser replied that he believed so. He informed the board that York County is in line to receive one-half of the fourth quarter payment next week and that the budget focus group may give us the other half after they ask questions of us.

Bill Burns addressed the Board and stated that he feels LD1824 will become law and asked if the passage will affect the budget in any way. County Manager Zinser replied that York County asked for more money in their jail budget but were flat funded. He stated that the incorrect tax cap was inserted for York County as the HVAC payment was deleted but in that budget line, the preventative maintenance agreements were also contained. The budget produced for York County jail by the Board of Corrections has a shortfall of \$300,000.00.

Commissioner Sinden stated the only case he can foresee is that the County would perhaps have to kick in more money if the Sate reneges in the fourth quarter payment. Reporting and other services required to be done by the County are included in our cap already.

Mr. Burns asked if the Board approves passage of this legislation. Commissioner Sinden responded that the Board already spoke on this and would've preferred return to County control but knew that wouldn't happen and therefore, support option four (LD 1824). He added that he doesn't feel the State understands all of the necessary legislation to complete a takeover by them.

There was a brief discussion of the meeting time temporarily being changed to 5:00 p.m. to see if attendance would increase. It was agreed that it had not and to change the meetings back to 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to move the meetings back to 4:30. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 (Commissioner Cote opposed).

County Manager Zinser distributed the County newsletter to the Commissioners and reminded them that the Safety/Wellness Fair would take place next Tuesday and encouraged them to attend if possible.

5 NEW BUSINESS

A poverty abatement denial hearing was scheduled for May 7th.

6 OLD BUSINESS

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

Bill Burns asked if there were any updates on the filming of the Commissioners' meetings. The County Manager stated that our IT Department has scheduled a meeting with Town Hall Streams. Mr. Burns asked when this might occur. County Manager Zinser replied he would check with the IT department to see where they were with this process.

- 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 Dutremble motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:30.