

## COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

March 25, 2020

*YORK,ss*

At a special 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, March 25 , 2020 A. D. at 3:00 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble (via conf. call)  
Michael J. Cote  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews  
Allen Sicard

County Manager Gregory Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting. Member of the public, Susan Wiswell and Reporter, Tammy Wells identified themselves on the call-in line.

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

**03-25-20      ITEM**

- 1      TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
(executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A., § 402, (3) (Q)  
Security plans, staffing plans, security procedures, architectural drawings or risk assessments prepared for emergency events that are prepared for or by or kept in the custody of the Department of Corrections or a county jail if there is a reasonable possibility that public release or inspection of the records would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual or disclose security plans and procedures not generally known by the general public. Information contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to state and county officials if necessary, to carry out the duties of the officials or the Department of Corrections under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure; [2015, c. 335, §1 (AMD).] personnel issues pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), may be necessary.

Commissioner Cote explained that they will vote by roll call at this meeting as Commissioner Dutremble is participating via the phone conference line.

County Manager Greg Zinser informed all that on Monday the County took further steps and reduced staff to 50%. Team A is now working and Team B is off and will report to work on Monday and Team A will stay home for the week. If anyone tests positive for COVID-19, we can shut down for two days and clean and re-open. Most departments

are all set to work remotely, if need be. In the case of the District Attorney's office, if the State ramps down their operations even more, we will probably follow suit with our D.A.'s offices. We will take that one day at a time.

The County Manager remarked that the Governor's address yesterday announced additional restrictions that we had already done. He added that the Commissioners will continue to receive the same information that is being sent to the department heads and employees. County Manager Zinser stated that he wanted to continue to thank all of the department heads. He stressed that he wants to be sure we are recognizing the great job they are doing.

Commissioner Clark asked the County Manager to talk a little about materials the County has ordered.

The County Manager informed all that 400 or 500 gowns were delivered and will be distributed to personnel on an as-needed basis. He stressed that we are not the primary suppliers. We have helped 13 towns to include the Sheriff's Office with fit testing. Mr. Zinser continued that we expect to receive 10,000 N-95's either today or tomorrow. The virus fogging machines should be here within two to three weeks. We sent another crew today to Londonderry, NH to get some personal protection equipment from a vendor. Mr. Zinser stated that we have a lot of volunteers and dedicated staff in EMA. He stated that another group went to Auburn the other day to obtain some PPEs.

Commissioner Clark asked if all area fire departments are aware that if they are short of supplies, they can contact us.

Greg Zinser replied, yes that EMA is in touch with them as well as police departments. We do remind them that we are not their primary supplier but that we can help you get through.

Commissioner Andrews asked about Layman Way. The County Manager answered that they are on lock down. There are no new screenings at this time. Screenings are suspended for two weeks at this time. We have been keeping them supplied as well as we can. Rick is doing a great job keeping everything going. Nasson Health helped us out with alcohol prep pads and we then helped them with fit testing.

Sheriff King addressed the Board and informed them that they did get their supply of N-99 and N-95's (masks). Chief Rod Hooper sent two gentlemen over and fit tested almost all of our deputies and a lot of the corrections officers. We did receive a supply from the State.

Sheriff King advised the Board about another issue regarding Governor Mill's order for non-essential businesses to shut down. His department was requested by the Attorney General's office to look into two complaints made that restaurants were still opened but deputies were sent to investigate and dispelled those complaints. The Sheriff continued that calls have diminished with his department having only seven arrests in the last eight days. Sheriff King gave a shout out to area police departments.

Commissioner Sicard commented that he read today that tests for Cumberland County corrections officers proved negative and asked the Sheriff and Lt. Col. if they are in contact with them about York County prisoners they are holding? Sheriff King replied, no, but that they certainly can be. Commissioner Sicard asked but we are in the loop if something does happen to our inmates; correct? He added that other counties have been releasing non-violent prisoners that have less than a year left on their sentence and asked if the Sheriff had considered this.

Sheriff King replied that he and Lt. Col. Vitiello looked at it and the way we read the statute it is for inmates with medical issues. If we get a court order to release someone we sure will do so. We are working with the D.A. also, replied Sheriff King.

Lt. Col./Jail Administrator, Michael Vitiello added that he read the statute regarding furloughs. It states that they can do so (furlough) for three days or more for specific elements such as an inmate is actively engaged in medical treatments. He stated that he does not interpret avoiding an illness as a qualifying event.

Commissioner Sicard asked is there nothing in there about a Governor declaring a State of Emergency?

Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello responded that when you put somebody out of the facility, you are essentially commuting the sentence. That authority is for the Governor.

He informed all that the day room and all other community spaces are being cleaned at least 4 to 5 times a day. Inmates being released are not necessarily safer, commented Lt. Col. Vitiello.

Commissioner Sicard asked if the facility is still in lockdown.

Lt. Col. Vitiello replied, yes, and reminded all as he told them at the last meeting, through the inmate telephone vendor, inmates are getting two, 30-minute phone calls a week for free. Attorneys can come in but it is non-contact through video. We are also wiping that equipment down several times a day. We are doing video arraignments up to 5 days a week. He continued that we are arraigning out of county inmates. After this is over, commented Lt. Col. Vitiello, there will be lots of legitimate questions we can ask about efficiency in operations.

Commissioner Andrews asked how is the morale of inmates and corrections officers?

Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello replied that morale is okay and that the inmates have been cooperative. They see that this is real by talking to their family members. There has been a reduction in overtime because of some adjustments we have made. Ultimately, traditional cabin fever is just around the corner for all of us.

County Manager Zinser commented that Sheriff King's and Lt. Col. Vitiello's responses in general have been great. He stated that he would like to thank the Sheriff and Lt. Col. as he believes they played a role in the State vacating some bail provisions.

The County Manager added that administration is also keeping copious notes as every situation presents opportunities. We may learn new ways of doing things and possibly ways to operate a little better.

## **2 TO CONDUCT ANY OTHER NECESSARY BUSINESS BY THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cote introduced H.R. Director Linda Corliss- She stated that last week she presented to the Commissioners a request to change individuals who work in EMA from receiving a stipend to reserve employee status. H.R. Director Corliss continued that EMA has four persons who have already been working in these positions and receiving stipends. She simply is requesting a change in their status to reserve employees.

Referring to a memo circulated to the Commissioners, Ms. Corliss commented that she is requesting an amendment to have the effective date be March 30th instead of April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Marc Brunelle (who is currently in the position as a volunteer receiving a stipend) to the position of EMA Reserve Drone/UAV Chief with an effective date of March 30, 2020. Commissioner Andrews second the motion. Vote-5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Christopher Allen (who is currently in the position as a volunteer receiving a stipend) to the position of EMA Admin Reserve with an effective date of March 30, 2020. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Richard Gaudreau (who is currently in the position as a volunteer receiving a stipend) to the position of EMA Admin Reserve with an effective date of March 30, 2020. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of Steven Jacobsen (who is currently in the position as a volunteer receiving a stipend) to the position of EMA Admin Reserve with an effective date of March 30, 2020. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**3 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), REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**

None

**4 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark requested that we post our next meeting for 4:30 .  
County Manager Greg Zinser replied that is our standard and we will make sure people know that, as well as that they can call in and that there is a 10 people in room limit.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.