

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 17, 2019

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, April 17, 2019, 2019 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Michael J. Cote
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Allen Sicard

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

04-17-19 **ITEM**

- 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
Rachel Sherman commented that since the Commissioners will possibly be voting on the budget , she would like clarification as to the proposed, new executive assistant position in that is the funding (in the proposed budget) for 6 or 12 months. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that it is an Office administration position and that The funding is for six months. Rachel asked what the job duties would be to which Mr. Zinser replied he would talk about at another time. Ms. Sherman stated that she wanted to make all aware of a 2002 MSEA arbitration decision as this position may have those duties in it.
- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2019 AND MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2019**
Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of April 3, 2019, with a minor change he could not currently find regarding training. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 11, 2019. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4 affirmative with Commissioner Sicard not voting as he was not present at the 4-11-19 meeting.
- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
 - a. Approve treasurer's warrant dated April 3, 2019 in the amount of \$415,666.13
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote

seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- b. Approve treasurer's warrant dated April 10, 2019 in the amount of \$582,930.22
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark reported that he attended the Coastal Counties Work Force Board meeting and he informed all present that they will be meeting with the Department of Labor in two weeks. He asked that anyone let him know if they have any issues with training.

5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

- a. County Manager to give update on LD 476 (workshop)

County Manager Greg Zinser informed all that he attended the workshop on this bill advanced through Senator Woodsome. He stated that it involved a request to have DHHS conduct a study to see if services could be better provided at county level. He continued that the bill was well received but voted ought not to pass. The legislators did request that a letter be sent to the Commissioner to meet with Cumberland and York Counties to discuss some potential collaboration. Mr. Zinser added this is a better outcome.

6 NEW BUSINESS

- a. County Manager to continue budget presentations:

Prior to the commencement of the continuation of budget presentations, Commissioner Dutremble stated that if any department heads don't agree with their budgets, now is the time to make their comments.

1. Register of Deeds, Nancy Hammond to present 2020 budget-

The County Manager explained that the deeds budget has a reduction due to long tenured staff retirements. (6% reduction over prior year) Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond addressed the board and commented that she is working towards credit card acceptance and utilizing the same company that the court system and Probate use currently. She explained that they wouldn't incur any costs. Nancy added that her department is working to digitalize their documents. She explained that she is working with a software vendor with documents all the way back to the 1700's. Register of Deeds, Nancy Hammond addressed staffing levels and stated that she is not looking to add anyone at this point as she is trying to gage the need. Commissioner Clark asked if she could provide an update on the activity in deeds. Nancy explained that she does provide reports to Greg on a monthly basis. Her prediction is even if home sales soften, her department will see an uptick in other types of documents. But, not necessarily revenue producing ones.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the deeds budget request for 2020 in the amount of \$666, 824.00. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

2. Present Layman Way Recovery Center budget (Bob Dawber and Diane Gerry in attendance for questions) Jen Ouellette, Bob Dawber and Steve Mazza from the York County Shelter Programs, who run the Layman Way Recovery Center were also in attendance. The County Manager explained that the \$750,000 requested is an increase of \$250,000 from last year's budget. He reminded all that this amount will lead to the goal of gradually bringing full funding of the Recovery Center into the County budget. Bob Dawber circulated an informational sheet (attached to minutes as record) that showed the recidivism rate is 4%. Jen Ouellette spoke of the many accomplishments of

those in treatment to include completion of their GED's and college enrollment. She continued that ten of the sixteen who graduated are in the after-care program with them. Commissioner Cote asked that if by increasing the budget, we will be able to do more? County Manager Zinser explained that the Recovery Center is an \$800,000 project. We have been blending that into the budget by using reserves along with new taxation money. This won't allow us to do anymore but will sustain the program, stated Mr. Zinser. Commissioner Dutremble added that next year it will be fully funded in the budget. Commissioner Cote asked D.A. Kathy Slattery if she was satisfied with program?

D.A. Kathy Slattery responded that she is very satisfied with the program and that it is a very cooperative effort. She added that there are no issues and they are all on the same page. Commissioner Cote remarked that all are doing a great job and that he is glad the County is involved. Commissioner Dutremble agreed. Commissioner Sicard asked Bob Dawber what the next steps are (after recovery) and how do you guys help or are those services lacking and do we need to beef those services up? Bob Dawber replied that they plug people into their system with aftercare. If they don't want to do it with us, we try to find other resources that will help them, stated Mr. Dawber. Commissioner Sicard stated that he is asking that all continue to keep looking for grant money. There could be some funds available and that any amount would be helpful. Bob Dawber agreed and added that if any of you come across any, please let us know.

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the Layman Way Recovery Center budget request of \$750,000. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3. EMA Director Art Cleaves to present 2020 budget- The County Manager reminded all that last year the Commissioners approved funding for a position for a 6-month period. He added that EMA has a lot of new initiatives coming down the pike. EMA Director, Art Cleaves addressed the Board and asked that Molly Cunningham and Matt Leach of the York County Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention program present their budget first.

Fire Coordinator Position- Chief Hooper and Director Art Cleaves spoke about developing Strike Teams. They explained that on a number of (fire/rescue) calls in York County, they didn't need extra equipment, but, more people. A strike team would be used to respond to a community equipped when needed and would be paid, equipped and used by the County. Commissioner Dutremble commented that his (Biddeford) Fire Chief is in support but going forth in the budget, asked if there will be a job description. The County Manager stated that EMA Director Art Cleaves and Chief Hooper are setting the stage for some of the things EMA is looking into. He continued that each Fire Department struggles to have the staffing available. York County could set up a team of highly qualified individuals. He added that we aren't ready to make a full presentation to the Board yet; but that he doesn't think we are talking a huge amount of money to get this program going. County Manager Zinser informed the Board that they are not looking at funding tonight but are looking for feedback from the Commissioners, though.

Commissioner Cote stated that this is just a concept and therefore, no (budget) numbers yet. Art Cleaves agreed but stated that there is a way to fund parts of this. Fire Coordinator Liaison position is doing lots of other things. Sanford Fire Chief, Steve Benotti stated that if we can regionalize needs, it will be very helpful. He added that it would be advantageous to run through one coordinated center like the County. Nate Schools, Buxton Fire Chief, stated that since 2012, EMA has moved into the Fire and EMS services. He praised EMA Director Cleaves obtaining funding back to the local municipalities after a disaster. Commissioner Sicard asked if this team would offer mutual aid and added that many of the towns and cities already have these. Therefore,

Commissioner Sicard is questioning if we need to get agreements- professional and legal? County Manager Zinser agreed and said that we always need to keep in mind. Art Cleaves informed all that we do have mutual aid agreements in effect under EMA. Commissioner Clark commented that while he supports the Fire Service Coordinator, the Strike Force Team is costly. He continued that this would need a lot more serious conversations. He added that having the team paid on a per diem basis is more attractive to him. Commissioner Cote stated that he believes this is a good idea to go forward and look at it but, that the big challenge is how do you make this all work out right so not only certain towns get the advantage of it.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the EMA budget in the amount of \$554,823. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by EMA Director Cleaves (presentation included as record of these minutes).

****HEARD OUT OF ORDER**** 4. Matt Leach and Molly Cunningham to present York County Juvenile Fire Prevention program – Matt Leach addressed the Board and stated that his background is in youth fire setting intervention and that he and Molly work with the family like a social services program. He continued that we see a lack of fire detectors in many homes where children are starting fires. Molly added that collaboration is a huge part of their program. Cumberland County is looking to model York County’s program. County Manager Zinser commented that he met with Cumberland County people a couple of weeks ago and that they spent a lot of time talking about this program.

Goodwin’s Mills Fire Chief Hooper stated that Matt and Molly put on a presentation at the Maine Fire Chief’s Conference and it became a “go to” program. He added that the State Fire Marshall has referred folks to this York County program.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the budget in the amount of \$31,998. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

5. District Attorney Kathryn Slattery to present 2020 budget- County Manager Zinser explained that there is an overall increase of \$32,000 in the D.A.’s budget but, that there are wage increases of \$75,000. He continued that the Commissioners may have noted that in past budget cycles, the interfund transfers out were higher. The County Manager further explained that he reduced that this year as the State has funded our Victim Witness Advocates in the past, but a lot of that funding has disappeared, so we started increasing that and therefore moving funds from one-line item to another recognizing that those grants are disappearing. Mr. Zinser continued and reminded the Commissioners that they approved the office administrator position last year for ½ year. We are now requesting that for 12 months.

District Attorney Kathy Slattery addressed the Board and stated that the VWA funds are dwindling and the grants are becoming difficult. The VWA program is extremely important to us, commented the D.A. Administrative challenges we face occur when new employees are hired, there is a steep learning and training curve. D.A. Slattery continued that she hopes the new admin. person can deal with training. She added that also, the digital age is complicated and that her department is trying to use the CLOUD rather than DVDs. Commissioner Clark questioned the district court witness fees line in the budget that has gone from \$3,000 to 0. D.A. Kathy Slattery replied that is a direct result of the Unified Court Docket as now, most of the court appearances are in Superior Court.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the District Attorney’s budget in the amount of \$1,406,698. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

i. Discussion of LD357 (courthouse bill)- The County Manager stated that they are getting the indications that there is not as much support (for the bill) as in the beginning.

He added that he and the District Attorney met with individuals from the Governor's office several weeks' ago and that they did not leave that meeting with a lot of "warm and fuzzies". Mr. Zinser added that there is probably a good chance it will get vetoed. He continued that there is no space in the new courthouse that is going to be built so he has reached out to the State Court Administrator that we need space. During our discussion, they stated possibly constructing a building to put the D.A. in there along with a lot of other State departments and this would not be secure. The County Manager stated that the core of the issue is the State made the decision. The Manager informed the Commissioners that he needs some direction from them on what we do now as he feels we are now back to square one. Commissioner Clark commented that a couple of years back the State built a courthouse in Augusta and that their D.A.'s offices are housed in that building. He continued that it's strange that what's good for that county isn't good for York. He added that he is not interested in doing much else right now. This is typical of what comes out of the legislature in this state, commented Commissioner Clark. Push the problem on to someone else. They created this problem and expect the citizens of York County to pay for it. Commissioner Cote stated that he agreed with Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Sicard asked what is the Governor's office saying? If it's approved, will the Governor veto? County Manager Zinser replied that he believes the State is concerned about the precedent but that he can't really speak about that at this time. Mr. Zinser continued that every other county has their new courthouse. The State did spend some renovation money on the Kennebec County courthouse. The D.A. is in the old courthouse. They have a very small office in the new courthouse. Other counties have renovated courthouses. Indications from him (person he and D.A. Slattery met with from the Governor's office) was that he was not in favor of our bill. He said he would still explore options. D.A. Kathy Slattery commented that he did express some willingness to explore other options. He did state that it is the 12 mile problem, but he can't solve it. Commissioner Sicard asked if any other courthouses were opened without space for D.A.s? Kathy Slattery stated it is the way it happened in York County with the site selection process. It should've been ironed out in the beginning. Commissioner Dutremble commented that major corporations correct the mistake. The State always said that Jail funding was the fault of the counties, but it was the State. The State made a mistake with the courthouse and they won't admit. He stated that he is not in favor of doing anything else. Commissioner Andrews replied we need to keep forging on and we need to keep trying to push that bill forward. County Manager Zinser suggested that the Board craft a letter and send it out to our delegation and authorize Commissioner Chair Dutremble to sign the letter. Commissioner Dutremble stated that the County should not relieve them from their responsibility. Commissioner Cote motioned to authorize a letter be crafted with the Commissioners' position and signed by Commissioner Dutremble to circulate to York County's legislators. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Kathy Slattery reminded all that her office is a county office. It won't be able to function because it will be 12 miles away from the courthouse. The courts will turn it on the D.A.'s office and the County. She stated therefore; she has to make a pitch to the Commissioners of how important it is to County government. The County Manager asked her what she sees as possible solutions? D.A. Slattery replied that space in Biddeford is the next best thing. She informed all that at a recent meeting with the Chief Justice it was stated that the new courthouse will be tightly packed to get the number of courtrooms and conference rooms. We (D.A.) will have to rent conference rooms. During our meeting, it was brought up that perhaps the State

could take on the County's bonding. Maybe the State could come in and help out the County. If that could be worked out some way, it would be great. Rental space in Biddeford would help, stated D.A. Slattery. There is no way we are getting into that courthouse, but we are very tied to the courthouse, continued the D.A. Commissioner Dutremble asked if they can make us bond? Kathy Slattery replied they're a different branch, so she did not think so. Commissioner Cote asked D.A. Slattery what if we entered into an agreement to lease the current Biddeford court and do renovations? Would that help? She replied that it would and would be better than Alfred.

Commissioner Clark commented that the legislative session is coming to an end. We should let that play out. Commissioner Cote stated that it isn't that he doesn't want to help but to go out to bond and ask the taxpayers to pay is something we shouldn't have to do. The bond would have to be approved by the voters. Also, stated Commissioner Cote, there would probably be another referendum because we are moving it out of the County seat. People will not go for this. We need to find other ways.

School Resource Officer-County Manager Greg Zinser stated the Board expressed some apprehension with SRO funding so he and the Sheriff and his staff sat down with the Superintendent and Business Manager. We discussed ways to blend our view with their view and came up with looking at it more as a services contract. Therefore, we would redevelop the person-based contract to a service-based contract. We could then accomplish our goal of fully funding the position and their accomplishment of getting what they need. Mr. Zinser proposed that the Board approve the funds and hold them in abeyance as they still need to talk about a contract but, he (manager) would have access to those funds in the event we cannot come to an agreement. He reminded the Commissioners that they are the Board that must approve the contract. County Manager Zinser stated that then we will come back to discuss this in the coming months. Major Mitchell addressed the Board and stated that the \$25,000 (new budget request) is the "safety net". He added that the Superintendent and Business Manager have a vision 1-3 years out before we can push this new thought about protecting the schools. County Manager Zinser stated that he thinks this time next year there will be a new, radical way that we will be doing this service. We know in their budget they can right now afford to pay this individual. If you approve the money, you will have to approve the contract, stated the County Manager. Commissioner Clark stated that the argument will be that it's in the budget, we will tax the municipalities for it. He continued that they have had this discussion over contract deputies and if they want the service, they need to pay for it. Commissioner Sicard questioned whether we want to get into this business? Is this workable that we could do this in all 29 cities and towns?, asked Commissioner Sicard. If not, do we want to go down that road at all? The County Manager replied that he understood what the Board is saying and can try and get another meeting scheduled quickly. County Manager Greg Zinser stated that if we secure some type of contract, we are securing funds for that deputy and that he thinks we have an opportunity to develop a new program. He stated that another alternative is to offer the school a deputy with a lower cost. Commissioner Cote asked if this would delay budget approval? The County Manager replied that he won't have an answer by next week and is asking the Board to approve it as the Board is the only ones that can approve the contract. Commissioner Cote asked that if this doesn't pan out and they aren't willing to put any money up, we stand a chance of losing a deputy; correct? County Manager Zinser agreed. Commissioner Cote responded that is his concern and that he would hate to see that happen.

Commissioner Cote motioned that the Board approve funding the extra \$28,300.00 to the S.O. budget . No second for the motion. Motion fails.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the Sheriff's Office budget in the amount of \$2,982,108. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Discussion and possible approval of budget and transmittal to Budget Committee
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the 2020 county budget of \$2,058,800.00
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to transmit the budget to the York County Budget Committee. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. Schedule tax abatement (recommend date of May 15th) -

Commissioner Clark motioned to schedule the tax abatement on May 15, 2019.

Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

7 OLD BUSINESS

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 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

None

10 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion.

Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

