

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Courthouse first floor courtroom in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Daniel C. Cabral (excused)
Richard R. Dutremble
David Bowles
Gary Sinden

County Manager Richard Brown was also present.

All present were invited to rise and salute the flag of the United States.

Item 1 OLD BUSINESS

Representatives from six Social Service Agencies (Southern Maine Agency on Aging, Home Health Visiting Nurses, York County Community Action, Caring Unlimited, York County Shelter and Community Dental) currently funded by York County Government, addressed the Board of Commissioners. Informational packets were also distributed to the Commissioners (attached as record of this meeting.)

Following the presentations, Commissioner Sinden made the following comments. The County is not a taxing agency. There is no mandate in the statute that requires Counties to provide for outside agencies. He believes it is the cities' and towns' responsibility and right to make funding decisions.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that perhaps the agencies could consolidate to make them more efficient. He further suggested that their funding could be processed solely through the County budget rather than at both the city/town and County levels.

Commissioner Bowles addressed all and stated that the County Commissioners are required by law to provide services to the residents of York County. He referenced the necessity of the recent layoff adding it is the responsibility of the Commissioners to fully staff departments of County

government. Commissioner Bowles continued that he is uncomfortable with making decisions on which agencies get funded and which do not.

Commissioner Bowles motioned to rescind the previous motion made by the Commissioners at their October 20, 2010 meeting in which they approved terminating funding to outside agencies as of June 30, 2011. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Bowles motioned to increase the amount of funding for outside social service agencies from \$149,758 to \$166,492. This will provide for funding the six agencies through the end of their current fiscal years. (A spreadsheet with a breakdown of amounts to each agency is attached as record of this meeting). Commissioner Bowles continued his motion to include direction to the County Manager to send a letter to each agency informing them of the Commissioners' decision and that the decision is irrevocable so that the agencies can prepare accordingly for the future loss of revenue. (A copy of letter attached as record of this meeting.) Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

Discussion continued amongst the Commissioners with Commissioner Sinden voicing his concerns that the motion would leave the agencies short on funding for 2011.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to amend Commissioner Bowles' motion to fund the agencies by the amount recommended by the Budget Committee. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 1 (Com. Sinden) for and 3 (Coms. Chandler, Bowles and Dutremble) opposed. Amended motion does not pass.

Vote on Commissioner Bowles' motion to provide funding through the agency's 2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$166,492. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Bowles spoke in defense of his motion stating that all agencies are going to be funded by York County for their full fiscal year. He added that no town has developed their 2012 budget so the agencies still have time to approach York County cities and towns to ask for funding.

Commissioner Sinden offered to attend any town meetings with agency representatives in his district.

It was also agreed by the Commissioners that a letter would go out to all York County cities and towns informing them of the Commissioners' action.

Five (5) minute recess occurred.

Item 2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2011 AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2011.

Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011 meeting as amended. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the minutes of January 26, 2011 special meeting as amended. Vote 3-0 with Commissioner Dutremble abstaining as he was not in attendance.

Item 3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chandler reported on the York County Advocacy Meeting she, along with County Manager Richard Brown and Assistant Kathy Dumont, attended in Augusta. She stated two bills had been submitted to assist with lowering York County's jail cap.

ITEM 4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Brown recommended that the Commissioners set the delinquent tax rate for York County cities and towns at 7% for 2011.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to set the tax rate at 7% as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

The County Manager presented a proposal prepared by Finance Director, Vicki Ridlon, to refinance the capital lease on the County's HVAC system resulting in savings to York County in the amount of \$187,872.00

Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the refinance of the HVAC system as recommended by the Manager. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Brown informed the board that he had met with the apparent contractor to be awarded the bid for the future Emergency Management Agency building energy efficiency upgrade (Pine Brook Construction). He stated that the necessary work should be able to be performed within budget.

County Manager Brown reported that office chairs had been purchased after the necessary bid process had been completed.

The County Manager explained that an interview panel had been assembled for the EMA Director search. He further informed the Commissioners that the process would take place on the second and third Saturdays of March resulting in the top two candidates being brought to the Commissioners for selection or rejection.

ITEM 5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE FINANCE DIRECTOR

Monthly reports distributed to Commissioners.

ITEM 6 NEW BUSINESS

Tax abatement denial hearing for Mr. and Mrs. Bishop of Berwick, ME was set for the next Commissioners' meeting on March 2, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

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

None

ITEM 8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. §405(6) (A) AND LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (E).

None

ITEM 9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont

ATTEST: _____
Sallie V. Chandler