

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 1, 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, June 1, 2011 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Richard Brown was present at the meeting.

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

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

None

Item 2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF MAY 18, 2011

Commissioner Cabral motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2011 meeting. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 5-0

Item 3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bowles reported that he recently attended Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission's meeting. He asked that the Commissioners endorse a proposal from SMRPC to realign the boundaries of their economic development district by signing a letter to the Maine Economic Development Agency.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to endorse the realignment proposal from Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

ITEM 4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Health Insurance- The County Manager reported that we have been informed by our insurance broker to expect a 24.7% increase in insurance rates for 2012. He added that this amounts to an increase of approximately \$400,000.00. Mr. Brown explained that the unions have been asked to contribute 15% towards their insurance coverage. If this does not happen, Mr. Brown stated that he sees the County as having two options: pass on the cost to cities and towns or by having a smaller workforce (\$400,000 equates to about 11 jobs).

b. Budget Guidelines- County Manager Brown informed the Commissioners that LD1 guidelines amount to the County being allowed to ask the Budget Committee for only about \$175,000.00.

The Manager advised that all departments have to absorb an average of a 1 ½% wage increases from past Union contract obligations.

County Manager Brown recommends that the Commissioners instruct department leaders to present flat budgets for 2012.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned how the \$400,000 increase in insurance cost would be absorbed if the budget has to remain flat for 2012?

The Manager responded if the Unions do not agree to contribute 15% towards their health insurance, then payroll will “take the hit”.

The Commissioners discussed other budget issues, i.e., decrease in deeds revenue and their effect on the County budget.

Commissioner Sinden motioned that the Commissioners direct the County Manager to request that department leaders prepare budgets with no increases for 2012. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bowles clarified that although he voted to approve the flat funding of the 2012 budget, he reserves the right to vote against sending that budget to the budget committee if it appears additional revenue is needed. Secondly, he voiced his concern that this motion might create the expectation that the Commissioners are going to present a flat budget to the budget committee.

Commissioner Dutremble reminded all that this will be a preliminary budget only.

c. Update on the new York County Government building- Mr. Brown reported the new “effis” exterior is now being installed on the building. He also advised that he recommends taking the current EMA building down and perhaps making a County park on the land.

d. Update of Union Contracts- Mr. Brown commented that progress continues to be made.

e. Manager Retirement – County Manager Richard Brown announced that he will be retiring effective September 2, 2010.

f. Manager Recruitment- Commissioner Sinden stated that he felt the procedure presented by the County Manager was an efficient tool. He further stated that since Mr. Brown’s arrival as County Manager, most of the negative items have been corrected and the County is now on firm footing and has very sound management.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to accept County Manager Brown’s resignation and recruiting procedures along with a great deal of thanks. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Bowles motioned to have Commissioner Sinden serve on the County Manager hiring sub-committee. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

g. Grievance Hearing- The Commissioners did not set a date for the grievance. The Manager will contact them to do so.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS
None

ITEM 6 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowles gave a brief update on LD82. He had recently spoken to Representative Moulton, who advised him he was attempting to get the bill removed from appropriations and on to the Governor’s desk.

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 Dutremble motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:50.

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

**SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont**

**ATTEST: _____
Sallie V. Chandler-Chair**