

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 3, 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, August 3, 2011 A. D. at 4:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Richard Brown and Finance Director Vicki Ridlon were 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 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).

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 (Commissioner Cabral not yet present.)

Corrections Officer A was asked if they desired to be heard in public or in executive session. Subject chose executive session and was heard in such. County Attorney Gene Libby and Business Agent for the National Corrections Employee Union, Bill Russell, were also present.

Back in public session.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to honor the written request dated July 27, 2011 of the Sheriff's Department to terminate Corrections Officer A. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Discussion- Commissioner Sinden explained that the Commissioners have tax payer obligations to County employees. He added that it is costly to continue providing insurance to an employee past the end of their FMLA. Mr. Sinden went on to state that he felt the County had been more than generous in this case. Commissioners Bowles and Sinden both stated that they wanted it clearly understood that they were making a judgment on the guidelines presented to them only and had no knowledge of any other issues mentioned by *Corrections Officer A*.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter back into executive session. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Corrections Officer Newton chose to be heard in public session.

Commissioners met in executive session to consult with County Attorney Gene Libby.

Back in public session.

Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler addressed Mr. Newton and informed him that as a probationary employee, he does not have a right to a Hearing and that he may be terminated due to unsatisfactory performance.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to honor the written request from the Sheriff's office dated August 1, 2011 to terminate Officer Newton. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Item 3 AUDIT REVIEW OF 2010 BY KATHY TYSON

Kathy Tyson distributed and reviewed the 2010 audit of York County Government which has been placed on file.

ITEM 4 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 6, 2011 AND SPECIAL MEETINGS OF JULY 9, 2011 AND JULY 23, 2011.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the minutes as written. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

ITEM 5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sinden informed all that the Memorial Bridge connecting Kittery to Portsmouth has been officially closed.

Commissioner Bowles announced that Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission has announced that Southern Maine has been granted its economic development district.

Commissioner Chair Chandler explained the process used by the Commissioners the last two months to hire the new County Manager who will replace Richard Brown upon his retirement.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to appoint Gregory Zinser of Waldoboro, as the new York County Manager. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Discussion- Commissioner Bowles stated that the semi-finalists were all very qualified candidates and that the Commissioners are pleased that they've chosen a candidate who will provide a fresh prospective to the County.

ITEM 6 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

The County Manager asked that the Commissioners, based on the recommendation of the Sheriff, approve the hiring of Timothy Kortess.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to support the Sheriff's recommendation to hire Timothy Kortess as the new jail captain. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

County Manager Richard Brown recommended the Commissioners approve the re-funding of the County's 2000 capital improvement bond through the Maine Bond Bank with an estimated savings of \$500,000.00 over the next seven years and thanked Finance Director, Vicki Ridlon for her hard work on the project.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to adopt the resolution based on the Finance Director's recommendation. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

The County Manager reported that the new York County Government building (former jail) is in good shape. He added that the inside painting is almost complete and the HVAC system is installed. He stated that work on phase two had begun and that our Emergency Management Agency is waiting to hear about more grant funds.

Mr. Brown asked the Commissioners to give some thoughts to what they wished to do with the current EMA building. He explained that he felt it should be taken down and that he and the Sheriff had spoken with contractors who might take the building down and take it away for the scrap metal value. Mr. Brown suggested that perhaps the site might be turned into a park. He will get more information for the next meeting to share with the Commissioners.

County Manager Brown informed the Commissioners that the county is at impasse with all three unions and that mediators had been appointed for two unions.

The Manager distributed snow plow bids for the for the 2011 through the 2014 winter seasons. S.R. Fowler, Inc. was awarded the bid for the Emergency Management Agency building and the jail for 2011-2012 (\$22,500), 2012 through 2013 (\$23,000) and 2013 through 2014 (\$23,500). John Sylvester was awarded the bid for the courthouse through 2014 for \$9,750 per season.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the bids. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. (re-cap sheet attached as record to the minutes)

The Commissioners set the date of September 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. to hear a poverty abatement in executive session.

The County Manager distributed updated information on the County's insurance premiums. The life insurance premiums are up 44%, short term disability is up 238% and long term disability is increasing 62.6% Mr. Brown informed the Commissioners those percentages equate to an increase in premiums for York County in the amount of \$140,000.00. He reminded all that York County will also be paying an extra \$400,000 in health insurance premiums. Mr. Brown added we also will be dealing with a decrease in revenue of approximately \$230,000 from our deeds department.

Commissioner Sinden requested that Manager Brown invite Debra Anderson, Register of Deeds, to the next Commissioners meeting to report on the impact of the loss in revenue for the remainder of this year and next year.

ITEM 7 NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowles asked Sheriff Ouellette about the portable buildings at the jail. The Sheriff explained the history of the buildings and that they are currently “moth balled” and there are no maintenance costs currently being incurred. Commissioner Bowles stated that the Commissioners should have further discussion regarding potential use of the buildings. Sheriff Ouellette stated that the Department of Corrections had contacted him previously inquiring about the possibility of renting the units.

ITEM 8 OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM 9 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

Sheriff Ouellette reported the annual inspection by the Department of Correction of the jail had gone well. He will share the report with the Commissioners once he obtains it.

ITEM 10 ADJOURN

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

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont

ATTEST: _____
Sallie V. Chandler-Chair