

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 21, 2012

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Jail Community Room in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 A. D. at 4:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Gregory Zinser 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 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON VIEWING OF JAIL SECURITY PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. §405(6) (F)

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

Commissioner Bowles motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Item 2 CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

Item 3 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

None

Item 4 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF March 27, 2012.

Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' March 27, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 with Commissioner Dutremble abstaining as he was not present at the meeting.

ITEM 5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bowles reported on the Board of Corrections meeting he attended on March 20, 2012 and the York County Advocacy meeting he also attended.

ITEM 6 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Zinser introduced Sheriff Ouellette who, along with Lt. Col. Vitiello, discussed the status of the corrected 2012 budget with the Commissioners. The Sheriff informed all that the 1%, which is more like .5%, reduction required will result in personnel cuts and keeping a pod closed. Further discussion regarding training and other jail matters occurred.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the revised jail 2012 budget. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the 2012 tax commitment. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Sinden opposed.

Commissioner Sinden stated that he would not vote to approve the commitment because it is wrong to assess the towns for \$31,363 to fund the shelter corporation that the budget committee added to the budget; an action he felt was improper for the following reasons.

First, the budget committee exceeded its authority by creating a line item in the itemized budget. Statute gives the budget committee authority only to adjust items as submitted in the Commissioner's budget.

Second, the budget committee abandoned their responsibility to act in the best interest of the towns. The committee members are appointed by the elected officials of the towns to monitor the budget process to ensure that the needs of the towns are met. To enable the funding of the shelter corporation, a non-governmental agency, the budget committee cut the funding for the Ortho-

Imaging project, a fiscally beneficial program that would provide a much need service to all of the towns of the county and save many times its cost.

Third, the budget committee acted while in the full appearance of conflict of interest. The committee Chair is married to a well paid employee of the shelter and the Vice-Chair is the Board President of the shelter. Both committee leaders participated in and presided over the deliberations on this issue and both voted for the final budget that funded the shelter corporation.

Finally, the committee added these funds to the budget knowing that they could not and would not be spent. The County had established a policy prohibiting the funding of non-governmental agencies a year earlier. The budget committee was well aware of this policy when it increased the budget. Commissioner Sinden commented on the budgetary practices of the shelter corporation and their contradictory statements of priorities and concluded that he could not condone placing this burden on the towns.

County Manager informed the Commissioners that letters had been sent out to the twenty nine (29) towns and cities advising them of the County's change to a fiscal year.

The Commissioners agreed to hear Mr. Mazur's tax abatement denial appeal at their May 2nd meeting.

ITEM 7 NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 8 OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM 9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Cabral motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Minutes taken by York County Manager Greg Zinser

**SIGNED: _____
Gregory Zinser-County Manager**

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

