

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 1, 2012

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 A.D. at 4:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Gregory Zinser, Chief Negotiator Dick 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)

ITEM 2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 5, 2012

Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 with Commissioner Cabral abstaining as he was not present at the July 5th meeting.

ITEM 8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. 405 (6)(C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. (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 5-0.

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

ITEM 3 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Bowles reported on the three Board of Corrections meetings he had attended. The first was an all day workshop at Two Bridges Jail at which the discussion was where BOC wants to be headed. The second meeting was the mini crisis Somerset County caused when it refused to house State and County prisoners. Lastly, an emergency session was held on July 31st to deal with the Somerset issue. Somerset County has now agreed to house County prisoners.

ITEM 4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Zinser introduced EMA Director, Bob Bohlmann, to the Commissioners. Bob Bohlmann informed all that final approval had been received on the hazard mitigation plan for all twenty nine cities and towns by FEMA. Flood insurance program and hazard mitigation funding are now available to all towns in York County.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to direct Chairperson Chandler to sign the County Patrol Association Contract. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

The County Patrol contract for the term January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 was signed by Commissioner Sallie Chandler, Sheriff Maurice Ouellette, County Manager Greg Zinser, Chief Negotiator Richard Brown and County Patrol Association President, Ron Lund.

County Manager Greg Zinser introduced Sheriff Ouellette to the board. Sheriff Ouellette reviewed the Medical RFP proposals and recommended the Commissioners award the contract to Correct Care Solutions.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to award the Jail Medical Contract to Correct Care Solutions. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Sheriff Ouellette addressed the board to discuss two COPS grants that have been awarded to his department. The Sheriff explained acceptance of these grants would bring his department back up to staff level of last year. He stated that in 2000, he had more manpower then he does now. Sheriff Ouellette requested that the board votes favorably to accept two COPS grants. He will be going to a couple of towns to see if there is interest in a contract deputy and would like to know he has the grants prior to his visits. The grant totals \$250,000 for three years for two officer positions with a local cash match of \$235,070.

Commissioner Sinden commented that he is always astounding that communities are not interested in policing. He added that he feels towns need to step up and take responsibility for the safety of their residents. He continued stating, "If towns are not interested in community policing at essentially half the cost, I do not want to punish towns who have stepped up and taken responsibility." He would like the Sheriff to go to the towns first and ask for grant approval when there are two towns that want to take advantage of this opportunity. The Sheriff responded that he is responsible in looking at public safety by statute. He added that the way we are operating now is *"we have a gun to our head and we are going to see who pulls the trigger."* He feels legislation needs to take care of the problem. He doesn't feel he has enough people to do the job.

Commissioner Sinden commended Sheriff Ouellette and his deputies for the job they are doing but added that the towns he represents just went through their budget process. They are trying to maintain their level of first responders. Commissioner Sinden cited his town, Eliot, as an example of a police department that has one person on the road at night and has to rely on neighboring towns for backup. In his opinion, there is no way that Eliot can increase their police force. He feels it is the same in every town in York County. Commissioner Sinden continued that a contract officer is the ideal solution for towns in this part of York County.

Sheriff Ouellette advised the Commissioners that he will lose another officer at the end of the year and that he still has one officer on layoff status.

Commissioner Bowles commented that he has lots of questions such as the County's financial commitment, obligation to ongoing benefits and severance and is not ready to vote on this matter tonight. Commissioner Bowles stated that he agrees with Commissioner Sinden that leaders of York County towns without a police officer are putting their citizens and our deputies at risk. He added that he would be willing to attend meetings with Sheriff Ouellette at the towns that do not have their own contract deputy.

The Commissioners agreed to table the vote and revisit at a later meeting.

The County Manager reported to the Commissioners that he and the Finance Director have been working on the six month budget in conjunction with changing to a fiscal year. He doesn't see any huge initiatives at this time except maybe changing a few items to allow for better efficiency in the County. County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners what they hope to see within the budget process. Commissioner Dutremble asked if the six month budget would be presented to the budget committee at the same time. Mr. Zinser stated that it would be and the expectation according to the law, is

the budget is to be presented to the budget committee sixty (60) days prior to fiscal year. He added that both budgets will be presented at the same time. The County Manager said that he will need to encourage the budget committee to move the process along.

The County Manager stated that as statute dictates, he feels we should start our own caucus process.

Mr. Zinser informed all that the NACO prescription card roll out began today, August 1st and that this is a big accomplishment for York County.

It was decided that the first meeting in September will be on the 4th at 4:30 due to the Maine County Commissioners' Convention beginning on the 5th of September.

The County Manager circulated a proposal from Nancy Marshall Communications. He asked that the Commissioners review this for a later discussion. Mr. Zinser further explained that he is looking to find effective means of communications with our towns. This item will help us with a strategic plan of communication with our towns and help to brand our County.

ITEM 5 NEW BUSINESS

The Commissioners will hear a poverty tax abatement denial appeal on September 4th at 4:30 in executive session during their regular meeting.

ITEM 6 OLD BUSINESS

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

ITEM 9 ADJOURN

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

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont

ATTEST: _____
Sallie V. Chandler-Chair

