

COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP

January 30, 2013

YORK,ss

At a workshop of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Government Building in the Commissioners' Community Room in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 A. D. at 6:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Daniel C. Cabral (excused)
Richard R. Dutremble
Michael J. Cote
Gary Sinden

County Manager Gregory Zinser, Finance Director Vicki Ridlon and County Attorney Gene Libby were present at the meeting.

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

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS- COMMISSIONER CHAIR CHANDLER

Commissioner Chandler introduced herself and asked that all Commissioners and Budget Committee members do the same.

2 PRESENTATION OF COUNTY'S POSITION ON BUDGET MATTERS

County Attorney Gene Libby presented an explanation of the State statutes including the code of ethics.

County Manager Zinser addressed the budget committee and stated that the County believes their position according to the statutes is very clearly answered. He added that the roles and responsibilities of each entity are clearly defined in statute. Mr. Zinser added that it is clear in the County's opinion that the Budget Committee is a County based committee.

The County Manager continued to state that the County Commissioners have never questioned the budgetary authority of the budget committee. He added that it wasn't the Commissioners' intent to completely take over the caucus process -only the notification process as many York County cities and towns had expressed concern that they were not notified of the caucus process. Therefore, the County felt it best to send out certified mail to all of the cities and towns. In the end, the Commissioners

felt it best to honor the budget committee's caucus as our goals were met in that there was great attendance at the caucuses. County Manager Zinser stressed at no point was a decision made by the Commissioners to meddle in the budget committee process.

Commissioner Sinden stated his belief that it is clear in Section 102 of the State statutes that County Commissioners are given full authority over all departments, boards and committees. The Commissioners' responsibility is to ensure the caucus process proceeds fairly. The Commissioners' role is to present a budget to the budget committee by November 1st. At no point was the decision made by the Commissioners to meddle in the budget committee process.

County Manager Zinser commented that the budget committee often had discussions on items that were outside their scope of authority i.e., the fiscal year change. This led to a delay in discussions on the budget. It makes it difficult for the County to operate without a budget.

Budget Committee Member Chip Vanell asked if it was the Commissioners' contention that the budget committee only discuss statutory items?

The County Manager responded that it was.

Budget Committee Member Richard Clark commented that his town (Wells) has always been informed of the caucus and any conversation to the contrary is nonsense. Mr. Clark went on to state his frustration in that he feels the budget committee was not given documents they requested in a timely fashion. He also said that the Town of Alfred should not have to pay for clerical functions and that the County should put a line in its' budget for budget committee expenses. Mr. Clark ended with a statement to the Commissioners that they need to look at the problems they've created for the budget committee.

Commissioner Sinden stated that he had requested time with all five of the towns in his district. He was uninvited by Wells and told he would be invited later in the year but, has not yet been. Commissioner Sinden added that in the three other towns where he was welcomed, there was a noticeable lack of understanding of the County budget process. He added that the budget committee took an oath to complete the duties of the office.

Budget Committee Member Jim Emerson commented that many town officials who did attend the public hearing were angry the Commissioners were not in attendance. He added that the committees' delay in voting on approving the budget was not an antagonistic action, they simply wanted to allow the smaller towns the opportunity to re-engage the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sinden urged all to work together to "twist" legislators' arms to not allow the Governor's cuts to happen.

John Sylvester informed the board that the budget committee will review what Attorney Libby has presented and will come to a conclusion and discuss it with the Commissioners. He added that rectifying the bad blood that exists will take more than this meeting.

Budget Member Mr. Spoffard spoke and stated that he felt a lot of time was wasted on items not pertinent to the budget during this process and that there was lots of animosity. He agreed that the Commissioners should create a line item in their budget for budget committee costs. Mr. Spoffard continued that there needs to be more

communication and some participation by the commissioners during the budget committee process. He also agreed with Mr. Emerson that people were disappointed that the Commissioners were not present at the public hearing.

There was discussion of a charter. Commissioner Sinden informed all that this was attempted, without success, a couple of years ago.

John Sylvester asked the board if they were going to take the letters of request to delay the implementation of the fiscal year change into consideration.

Commissioner Chair Sallie Chandler explained that the county is a whole year into the process of converting to a fiscal year and that it would be difficult to stop the process. She added that the fiscal year change is best for the cities and towns as well as the county.

Commissioner Cote replied that he will look at the letters.

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ADJOURN

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

S/YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS