

COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

August 19, 2013

YORK,ss

At a special meeting 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 Monday, August 19, 2013 A. D. at 4:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Gregory Zinser was present at the meeting.

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

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

None

2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE FY'14 AND '15 JAIL BUDGETS

County Manager Greg Zinser began the meeting by stating that circumstances within the Board of Corrections are not changing and funding is still an issue. Next, he introduced the Sheriff to present the jail budgets for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

Sheriff Ouellette began by stating that everyone was told to flat fund their jail budgets by the Board of Corrections. He added that the Maine Sheriffs decided not to do so as they feel it could potentially be a safety issue. We presented a budget (budget A) that, in his opinion, is the best guestimate to adequately take care of York County inmates. The Sheriff further explained that one pod is currently closed in the York County jail. The Maine Pre-Trial contract which consists of three persons is assisting by handling an average of one hundred

twenty (120) persons a week which would otherwise be in the jail causing overcrowding.

Sheriff Ouellette also informed the Commissioners that he had received an e-mail from the Board of Corrections asking if York County might be interested in opening a pod to house State prisoners. The Sheriff stated that it makes no sense to flat fund the jail budget and that he would only be interested in housing the prisoners if budget A was approved.

The Sheriff introduced Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello to review the budget with the Commissioners.

Lt. Col. Vitiello voiced his concerns that the overtime budget line is underfunded. He stated that he feels it might be possible to get the food contract a bit lower.

Lt. Col. Vitiello addressed the board and stated he disagrees with the County Manager's recommendation to fund only a transport van. He added that the Sheriff wants both a car and a transport van. Commissioner Sinden questioned the need for the car request.

Lt. Col. Vitiello responded cars are needed for Captains in the event they get called into the jail. The Sheriff added they also need cars for when they go to the academy, shooting range and to pick up uniforms. Commissioner Sinden responded that he uses his own vehicle when doing business errands and submits a travel voucher. He added he believes that company cars in government service are an annoyance to tax payers.

Sheriff Ouellette added that when the captains negotiated their last contract the former County Manager asked the Sheriff to provide them with vehicles and he did so. He gave them old cruisers and now buys program vehicles which last five to seven years.

Commissioner Cote questioned how often do the Captains get called to the jail when they are on call in a year's time? The Sheriff responded that he did not know. Commissioner Cote went on to state that he feels it's fair for the Captains to have a car when they are on call but if they need a car during the work day, they could use one available on site.

Commissioner Sinden voiced his concern in regards to approving a budget at a high end and then having to cut which usually includes cutting personnel. He added his belief that the legislature has not provided tools to make the current system work. He believes even approval of a lean budget may still require cuts.

Lt. Col. Vitiello responded that he recognizes the Commissioner's concerns but suggested seeing what happens at the BOC meeting tomorrow and meeting again with the Commissioners at their next meeting. He added that he feels the higher budget should be approved and forwarded to the BOC.

Commissioner Chandler stated that agreeing to budget A means the Commissioners agree on the staffing levels presented in this budget and she does not necessarily agree with the levels of staffing in budget A.

Sheriff Ouellette commented that he believes all of the other counties have used their actuals in their budget submittals. He added that he feels the BOC is really looking to lease a pod from York County and that he would “*only entertain a conversation with them if they give us budget A*”.

Commissioner Sinden stated that the leasing of a pod issue is a different issue not built into the budgets up for discussion at this meeting.

The Sheriff agreed but stated, “Why should I want to give them budget B with only eighty (80) corrections officers when if I give them budget A, I can run my facility the way I should.”

Commissioner Sinden responded that he is concerned if the Commissioners commit to budget A that halfway through the budget period, BOC could run out of money. He added that it is a big risk either way but that budget B is a little less of a risk.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he feels the higher budget should be presented in the event BOC cuts budget B even further.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve and submit Budget B (fiscal year '14) in the amount of \$10,150,763.00 to the Board of Corrections. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 3-2 with Commissioners Chandler and Dutremble opposed.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to submit Budget A for fiscal year '15 in the amount of \$10,842,375.00. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Cote opposed.

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

None

4 ADJOURN

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