

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

February 19, 2014

YORK,ss

At a regular 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 Wednesday, February 19, 2014 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Daniel C. Cabral (excused)
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.

Call Meeting to Order

YOU ARE 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 MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of February 5, 2014. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

None

4 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

- a. Introduce Chief Deputy King to present Corrections Officers applications for hiring consideration.

Chief Deputy King requested hiring five (5) Corrections Officers. The County Manager informed the board that the BOC did approve payments for the third quarter and that budget projections in January did encompass the positions being requested. He added these hirings would assist in decreasing some of the overtime. Chief Deputy King informed the board that he had to declare a staffing emergency last weekend and that *"we have an obligation to staff"*. He added that the jail is fourteen vacancies down. He recommended the hiring of the following: Charles Okiru, Briana Moulton, Alex Kublanovsky, Lacey Guzman, and Thomas Slawson all with a start date of March 17, 2014 at entry level pay in accordance with the NCEU contract.

Commissioner Sinden asked for clarification that we would not go into a deficit on the jail budget by hiring the five corrections officers. The County Manager responded that he is fairly confident, barring something catastrophic that we would not. Commissioner Sinden requested that Chief Deputy King and Lt. Col. Vitiello assist the Commissioners in putting the pressure on the State to make their payments to us as required by law. He added that *"we are abiding by the law and so should they."*

Commissioner Cote added that he agrees with Commissioner Sinden's statement and stated that he is glad that we can hire five corrections officers and certainly appreciates the situation of the shortage of personnel but that we are not in the position to exceed the cap. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he believes there is always a way to fund personnel as another line item can be looked at and perhaps delay payments to fund positions. County Manager Zinser replied that in no way is anyone belittling the problem of lack of staff but the County cannot deficit spend without a guarantee that the money is coming to us.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the recommendation from Chief Deputy King to hire five Corrections Officers. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

- b. Discussion of corrections legislation

The County Manager informed the board that Commissioner Ponte had delivered his letter stating that the Department of Corrections can take over running the county jails. He added that York County needs to take a strong stance.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that it needs to be made clear that in 2008, York County was the only county that rejected the plan. There was no incentive for any counties to save money. Commissioner Dutremble continued that there was a surplus of \$1.2 million every year being turned over to the general fund when the County controlled the jail and added that York County would've been in a better position financially if the State would've left the jails under the counties' control.

Commissioner Sinden asked, “Looking forward, where do we go? What does the State takeover mean and is Ponte being realistic? Who would the staff be working for and would they be State employees and if so, how would this happen? He added, “Is the legislature going to create the new program. I don’t think it will be much better. The State isn’t going to provide any money as they have no money to provide. The Governor will take every opportunity to cut. Commissioner Ponte needs a dose of reality as to what a takeover would look like.”

Commissioner Chair Chandler stated that a letter stating York County’s position should be sent to the Criminal Justice and York County Delegation as well as cc’d to Commissioner Ponte. County Manager Zinser will draft a letter for the Commissioners’ review.

Lt. Col. Vitiello added that Maine Municipal Association seems to be absent from all of the conversations.

- c. Discussion of meeting time- The County Manager explained that moving the meeting time up has been discussed during the past couple of meetings. It was decided to temporarily hold the meetings beginning at 5:00 p.m. for the next four meetings.

5 NEW BUSINESS

6 OLD BUSINESS

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

Bill Burns questioned if there was an emergency fund in the jail budget. The County Manager explained there is not an emergency fund allowed under the current State law in the jail budget. Bill Burns questioned who can call the State of Emergency to which the County Manager replied that the Sheriff can by statute. Commissioner Sinden clarified that the State is in default by not funding the counties’ jail systems, not the counties. Bill Burns further stated that there has to be some legal way to access reserve accounts. The County Manager responded that that he is aware of.

8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E).

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405

405(6)(E). Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

No action taken.

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

S/YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Minutes taken by Administrative Assistant

SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont

SIGNED: _____
Sallie V. Chandler-Chair