

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

November 5, 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 Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 A. D. at 4:30 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.

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)

Bill Burns asked the board if they had considered inviting the newly elected Commissioner to attend the meetings. Chair Sallie Chandler responded that since the election was just yesterday there had not been time to discuss this but the Commissioners will talk about it since Mr. Burns had brought the subject up. Commissioner Sinden responded that when he was elected, he just came in and attended meetings and that it is the sort of thing that people should do without invitation. Commissioner Cote added that the law says they can be briefed by the previous office holder thirty (30) days before they take office.

2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF OCTOBER 15, 2014

Commissioner Cabral motioned to accept the minutes. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3

HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cote thanked fellow Commissioners for the MCCA conversation at the prior meeting. He added that he will attend the next meeting on November 12th and asked if there was anything they'd like mentioned. The County Manager asked if Commissioner Cote could obtain the date of the annual meeting as he feels it would be beneficial to have the Commissioners attend, if possible. Commissioner Sinden questioned why MCCA did not hold their annual meeting at the conference rather than expect everyone to go to Augusta. County Manager Greg Zinser agreed but added the annual meeting is an important meeting as they've been talking about a lot their strategic planning. Commissioner Cote added that they are also talking about budgets and that the annual meeting is the only time of the year when there is an open meeting. Commissioner Sinden asked if these materials will be available beforehand. Commissioner Cote replied that he will make a note to ask.

Commissioner Dutremble informed the board that he recently attended the SMRPC meeting at which he was informed there will be major construction on Route 1 next summer from Kennebunk to Kittery.

4

HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

- a. Recognition of EMA employees (train exercise)-The Board of Commissioners and the County Manager recognized our EMA employees, Interim Director Dave Francoeur and Deputy Director Blain Cote who were responsible for heading up a mass causality training event which was hailed as very successful.
- b. Recognition of Pam Tourangeau (YC Juvenile Fire Safety & Intervention Collaborative)- The County Manager informed all present that Pam Tourangeau had recently been confirmed as an adjunct instructor for the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, MD. Ms. Tourangeau is the only instructor in northern New England and she can teach classes across the U.S. County Manager Zinser read a letter from State Fire Marshal Joe Thomas, congratulating Pam (included as record of minutes).
- c. Discussion of York County Advocacy Group- Mr. Zinser explained that the County agreed to pay a one year contract in the amount of \$5,000 to \$6,000. On November 17 or 18th there will be a meeting on whether or not the advocacy group will move forward. Commissioner Dutremble asked what they do for us. The County Manager responded that they are an information aggregation resource. They help keep everyone in York County up to date. He added that they are limited to what they can effectively lobby for as the bills have to be beneficial to both county and towns. Commissioner Dutremble asked don't we have a committee already with our legislators and our town and city managers? Don't they get together and discuss and debate things? Don't we elect these people so why should we pay more for them to do what they are elected to do? Commissioner Cote added that most of those meetings he has attended are centered on municipal government. Commissioner Sinden responded that he has attended many of these meetings and that it's been his experience that without guidance one Commissioner cannot take a stand on

anything without checking with the entire board. He stated that in the past, important legislation for the County, i.e., improperly billed for the jail cap, has been raised to the group of legislators and it was neglected. Commissioner Sinden went on to say that we raised it with a specific legislator from the County who sheperded the bill and it got approved. We can talk to our legislators after we come to a consensus on what we need. Every Commissioner has a district and can reach out to the legislators in their district. "I feel this is a far more effective way to lobby", stated Commissioner Sinden. "We should focus our efforts over and above that." Commissioner Cote asked what our cost per year is. The County Manager responded between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per year. He further explained that York County covers one half and the towns and cities split up the other half. Commissioner Cote asked what do the municipalities loose if we don't sign up. County Manager Zinser replied that this is what this meeting is about. Commissioner Cote added that Commissioner Sinden brings up a good point in that we can just talk to our own legislators. The Commissioners have instructed the County Manager to find out what a scaled down cost would look like.

- d. National Adoption Day (November 19, 2014)- Probate courts across the country participate in this event. Our Probate Court will begin the adoption ceremonies at 1:00 at the courthouse. This year we have sixteen (16) adoptions. All Commissioners are invited for a brief, opening ceremony and refreshments. This event highlights the important functions that the Probate department performs.
- e. End of year transfers- audit update
The County Manager referred to the proposed list of transfers given to the Commissioners and asked for an affirmative vote if you there were no questions.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the list of transfers as proposed. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion.
Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Sinden asked if we have an idea of what our upper limit of reserves might be. The County Manager responded that the county is limited by statute as to what our fund balance policy can be. York County's targeted fund balance should be around \$3.2million. With the affirmative vote tonight it will be around \$2.2million. Our own policy states our fund balance should be \$3.2 million.

The County Manager continued that the County does need to have a working capital plan. He stated that these are questions we've been asked in our audits. We've been asked what are we're saving for and what do those items cost? And example of this, explained Mr. Zinser is Command One which is almost ten (10) years old but we never created a capital reserve account to replace it. He added that we are having a difficult time keeping up with repairs at the courthouse such as the

foundation and electrical work with a current cost of \$50,000.00. This does not take into consideration the longer term items like a new roof and replacing boilers stated Mr. Zinser. We do need to create a comprehensive capital plan.

5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. Schedule poverty denial abatement appeal hearing (Limerick)
(proposed date- November 19, 2014)
- b. Schedule poverty denial abatement appeal hearing (Limington)
(proposed date- December 3, 2014)

The Commissioners agreed to both dates.

6 OLD BUSINESS

None

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

Bill Burns questioned if poverty abatements were held in executive session? County Manager Zinser responded that yes, they were.

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).

- a. To conduct an executive session on personnel issues pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) – discussion of EMA Director search candidate.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Retired York County EMA Director, Bob Bohlmann also participated in the executive session.

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

No action taken.

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

