

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 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, December 17, 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

12-17-14 ITEM

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

Bill Burns wished all present a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2014

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

3 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Cote reported on his attendance at the Maine County Commissioners' Association meeting. He stated that the personnel policy was

passed. He informed all that there was an increase of \$350.00 to all Counties for dues for 2015 and that several opposed the increase. Commissioner Cote added that there was a 3.84% reduction to the risk pool (about \$9k). The executive committee renewed the Executive Director's contract without input. The Strategic Plan was passed. Commissioner Cote reported that there was lots of discussion on the issue of jails. Several folks felt legislation was going in to throw jails back to the counties with not much support. MCCA voted to put a place holder in comprised of a "hard landing" with support from the State. Commissioner Cote added that a Jail authority could be placed in the legislation or perhaps jail regionalization. He will keep everyone up to date once the legislation gets drafted. Commissioner Sinden asked if the counties will have a chance to see the language and vote on it for support or lack thereof. Commissioner Cote responded that it was agreed that we would all look at language and discuss it. Chair Commissioner Sallie Chandler motioned that Commissioner Cote be York County's MCCA representative for 2015. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4

HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. County Manager Zinser referenced a letter to Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission reference Brownfield Grant and stated that our commitment does not mean any financial match on our end. Our participation opens the County ability to submit for funds for the Brownfield grant.

b. Health insurance coverage clarification- County Manager Greg Zinser spoke about the union's concerns related to health insurance plans that we were offering. We received a response from our broker outlining line by line the Union's various concerns. He stated that it was unfortunate that the unions didn't discuss their concerns as the perceived loss in coverage is not true. In fact, Aetna provided greater coverage with hearing aids. They pay 100%. (The response is attached as record of minutes) Commissioner Sinden asked if we were going to provide this information to leaders of Unions. The County Manager responded that we would. He added that by staying with Harvard Pilgrim, the cost to taxpayers was between \$34,000 and \$40,000 extra. Employees will be paying an extra \$11,000 out of their pockets.

c. Update on ambulance discussion with towns- County Manager Zinser recapped a recent meeting with officials from Acton, Shapleigh, and Newfield. He reported that the conversation was very well received. The discussion centered around the possible formation of a rapid response program similar to Frisbie Memorial Hospital. County Manager Zinser recommended that the Board submit legislation to eliminate any doubt that the County can do this. Section 456 references ambulance services through the Sheriff's Department while Section 457 broadly states that the County can provide the services. The County Manager recommended we submit legislation to modify Section 456 to state except in York County pursuant to 457. Commissioner Sinden asked if the County was considering buying equipment. The County Manager responded not at this time. Commissioner Sinden also asked if the County would be hiring employees. County Manager Zinser responded that depends as it was discussed perhaps using the contract deputy program (county employee through a contract) as a model. We are acting in a facilitator role but it would be a contract based approach if it does involve the County.

d.Chief Deputy King presented new hire candidates for corrections officers. He stated that there are lots of good applicants and that his department streamlined the process and is now using the polygraph. The Chief Deputy informed all that there are currently thirteen vacancies. He is presenting twelve names in order of seniority. He asked that the Commissioners may consider a “John Doe” slot for #13. If we waited for the next meeting, we’d be losing one month of getting people on the floor. We are still in a state of emergency. Our current staff is working a lot of double shifts. We have four people out on FMLA, some on military leave, and some on administrative leave. Cumberland County is also advertising for corrections officers. Commissioner Dutremble asked if the spouse of a current corrections officer who is being presented for hiring approval will be given different shifts. Chief Deputy King replied that would be the case.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve the “conditional” hiring of the twelve corrections officers candidates presented with the agreement that Justin Donnelly will work on a different shift than that of his spouse who is currently employed as a Corrections Officer for York County. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Chief Deputy King also asked for a “John Doe” slot. He’d like to hire and offer to the person a job without having initial Commissioner approval and then come back with the name for approval at the next meeting. He added that he would like to provisionally hire by bringing on jail personnel within the allowance of the budget with the concurrence of the County Manager and bring the name back to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Cote voiced his concern with offering one a provisional position when all necessary testing and background hasn’t been completed. Commissioner Sinden commented that wouldn’t the understanding be that the offer would be made and that it is a provisional offer and the Commissioners would retain the right of veto. He added that he is okay with this as long as the Commissioners would have the final say. Commissioner Cote added that the hires are always subject to budgetary issues stating that if we do not have the position in the budget, we would not approve this hire. He added that he wants to be sure that we are all operating properly here. County Manager Zinser added that the offer letters that go out to the new hires would have to say provisional.

Commissioner Dutremble moved that the Commissioners approve the hiring of one more candidate subject to the stipulations mentioned above. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

5 NEW BUSINESS

6 OLD BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Cote expressed his desire to publicly thank Commissioner Cabral for his service to the County. He would like to wish him the best of luck.

- 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).**

None

- 9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Cabral motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.