

**COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

**November 18, 2015**

*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 18, 2015 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Sallie Chandler  
Marston D. Lovell  
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**

**11-18-15**

**ITEM**

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

**2 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2015**

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**3. HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Cote mentioned that the annual Maine County Commissioners Association meeting will be held on January 13, 2016 at the Senator Inn in Augusta.

**4 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

5           **OLD BUSINESS**

6           **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Request Commissioner approval on reclassification of Jail Records Clerk position

County Manager Zinser explained the process followed. It was determined by the Department Leader and Human Resources Director, Linda Corliss, that the individual was performing Grade 5 duties. Commissioner Lovell clarified does this mean that in the future anyone who fills this (medical records clerk) position shall fill a grade 5 and then receive whatever applicable step action because of the employee's longevity? County Manager Greg Zinser replied that is correct.

Commissioner Dutremble asked where will the money for this reclassification come from. The County Manager replied that it will come from existing jail funds.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the reclassification of the jail records clerk from a Grade 4 to a Grade 5. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- b. Reminder of National Adoption Day on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 to 12:00

The County Manager reminded all of this important event taking place at the courthouse and that there would be ten (10) adoptions on this day.

- c. Discussion of York County's position for joint MCCA/MSA Jail meeting on November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Governor Hill Mansion

County Manager Zinser informed all about the upcoming meeting and added that a couple of weeks ago three bills were submitted regarding the jails. Commissioner Cote will go as our member (spokesperson) as well as the County Manager but they need guidance, stated Mr. Zinser. He continued by offering some background and possible avenues. He stated that the first item that concerns him is the overall attitude towards county government in Augusta (not a lot of love for us). He stated that he is hesitant to attempt to change aspects of the law we don't agree with, as we might come out worse than we are now. County governments are not all on the same page. The County Manager suspects that some counties would go off on their own to change in a way that benefits them. The second item is the money for the jail. We all agree that we are underfunded so therefore, I feel we should try to secure the supplemental funding (\$2 million). The downside to this action, stated Mr. Zinser, is that we will be back at the table every year doing this. My concern is that if we go after a law change, we will be in a world of hurt. The County Manager suggested the Board adopt a position. He added that we really don't want to see the law opened up again but we would like to see more money. Commissioner Cote stated that a lot of people have the same feeling. The legislature is tired of this. "I agree with the County Manager. Our response needs to be guarded", stated Commissioner Cote. Commissioner Sinden commented that the whole issue of boarding is dead and that we are on our own with the debt service on the jail. Commissioner Cote explained that the law has a clause in that contains rental language. He added that's what these other counties are doing (Waldo) under the rental portion. That's not off the table for

us and I don't think there's an amount put on that. County Manager Zinser said that some of the smaller, more vocal facilities may want to reopen the law as it benefits them to do so. Commissioner Sinden replied that the reason he believes the jail system is dead relates a lot to what the County Manager just said. York County wasn't as unified as we thought it would be. We were sold out within the County by the judicial people and others. We never really had a chance of getting boarding monies back. Commissioner Sinden asked if this rental clause is a reality. County Manager Zinser replied that the Sheriff can speak better to that but added that he recalls in the past, the transportation (distance between the jails) was too great to overcome. Commissioner Dutremble commented that whatever way we go we should have a permanent law for once. The State could come back and take away our revenues. We better make sure it's in stone. He continued that he believes we should strive to make sure we settle this once and for all. Commissioner Dutremble suggested having all people in a meeting in one room. Commissioner Sinden replied that didn't do any good last time. Commissioner Cote stated that there is a legislative delegation meeting in December. The County Manager added that the town managers are very concerned. There is a drive by them to try and get MMA to change their position. He added that our folks do support verbally this plight for additional funding. County Manager Zinser asked the Sheriff if he knows what MSA is thinking. The Sheriff responded that they have a meeting tomorrow. Sheriff King added that maybe the renting (of cells) is something that's allowed. He suggested we should contact Oxford and get some sentenced people but agreed that the Manager is right that we are not in that prime location. The County Manager asked if the Sheriff had begun working on the federal inmate certification. The Sheriff replied that they need to look at some consent decrees. County Manager Zinser stated that the concern is that a lot of facilities are still attempting to get revenues. He added that the true boarding rate for our facility ranges from \$85 to \$133 per day. Cumberland County has set the bar and it can only go lower (\$54 per day at Cumberland), stated Mr. Zinser. Commissioner Cote stated that there is talk regarding the receiving jails that have room entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the older, smaller jails as they are going to have to find room. In this MOA agreement, continued Commissioner Cote, we would set a rate and everyone would stick to this rate. He added that it would then come down to how do we deal with transportation. In this way we would come together sort of as an authority and we have flagship jails so why shouldn't we use that to our advantage, stated Commissioner Cote. County Manager Zinser added that this would be a consolidated effort with a loosely tied operating agreement where we all operate in similar fashion. If we band together, we control the beds, said Zinser. Commissioner Sinden remarked that water districts, sewer districts, get together and share services. Commissioner Sinden continued that it's exactly what we have to be doing. "Taxpayers in this county decided to build this facility and prior to it being built, we were boarding people out. Why shouldn't we do whatever we can to help self fund ourselves. We need to bond together with some of the bigger facilities. If we show some good will we have a chance to make this happen", stated Commissioner Sinden. County Manager Greg Zinser added that this is another reason to lobby hard enough to get the new courthouse built on jail land.

c. Health Insurance Options-

County Manager Zinser informed the Board that besides the two plans we are contractually obligated to offer, we are adding a third option- a traditional HMO. He added that the benefits are similar to the other two plans. The difference is there is a

referral process with an HMO plan type. Also, this plan costs \$50 less per week for the family plan, stated the County Manager. He continued that as the Commissioners are aware, the HSA plan option was added a few years ago. The Insurance Committee has been meeting and has told us that the complaint they hear from employees is that it is difficult to make the switch to the HSA as the employee is on the hook for the full amount of the deductible. They asked if there was any way to incentivize and suggested adding additional funds. The County Manager told the Commissioners that his response was not only are their rates going up 20% so are the County's but that he would seek permission from the Commissioners to give some of the contributions up front. He suggested that the County contribute three months up front on January 1<sup>st</sup>. County Manager Zinser continued that he feels the advantages of the HSA for the County are many including lower utilization which might result in lower renewal rates for the County in the future. If we preload some money to encourage folks to move over into this plan it is money we would be giving them anyway. Commissioner Sinden clarified that they would be receiving their January, February and March payments? The County Manager replied that this was correct. Commissioner Lovell commented that he would agree to go along with this but that he would like to see a break out of the numbers. He added that putting the money up front is cash we don't have available to us. He would like to understand more clearly the financial impact of the HMO and POS alternatives to the County. County Manager Zinser responded that he would get this information to Commissioner Lovell. County Manager Zinser added that the cost to the county is a 20% increase amounting to about \$400,000.00. Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve funding three months worth of contributions for employees who enroll in the HSA plan for 2016. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

County Manager Zinser informed the Board that two Grievances from NCEU will be heard by them at their December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

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

Sheriff King informed the Board that Chief Deputy Baran had displayed flags of each branch of the armed service and listed the names of each Corrections Officer that had or is currently serving by branch on the bulletin board at the Sheriff's Office in honor of Veteran's Day. He also announced that the annual County Holiday Party will be held at the Sheriff's Office in the jail lobby this year on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Levi Johnson will also be graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy on that day.

Sheriff King also announced that the Department of Corrections annual inspection had been completed and that the jail received a score of 99.2. One of the essential standards for the DOC is contact visits which are not allowed currently at York County jail and therefore we were graded down.

The Manager added topics for future meetings will include the possibility of a canine at the jail and the possible addition of a new officer through a MDEA grant.

Commissioner Sinden asked if this grant for the MDEA is the Governor's proposal. Sheriff answered yes. Commissioner Sinden continued that the positions are filled from police departments rather than the street and it is a fully funded position. The County Manager stated that hopefully we will have information on this at next meeting.

- 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).**

- 9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.