

1 **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

2 **January 3, 2024**

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6 *YORK,ss*

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8 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
9 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
10 being held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

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13 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- 14 Richard R. Dutremble
- 15 Richard Clark
- 16 Robert Andrews
- 17 Justin Chenette
- 18 Donna Ring

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21 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the
22 meeting.

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24 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

25
26 **0103-24**

ITEM

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- 28 **1 TO SELECT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIRPERSON FOR 2024**
29 Commissioner Clark nominated Commissioner Dutremble. Commissioner Andrews
30 seconded the motion.
31 Commissioner Ring commented that she is also interested in being Chair.
32 Vote 3-2 with Commissioner Ring and Commissioner Chenette opposed.
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- 34 **2 TO SELECT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2024**
35 Commissioner Dutremble nominated Commissioner Andrews as vice-chairperson for 2024.
36 Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 3-2 with Commissioner Ring and
37 Commissioner Chenette opposed.
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- 39 **3 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
40 None
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- 42 **4 TO SELECT A WORKFORCE CENTER DIRECTOR FOR 2024**
43 Commissioner Andrews nominated Commissioner Clark to serve as the Workforce Center
44 Development Director for 2024. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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- 46 **5 TO SELECT A SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING REPRESENTATIVE**
47 **FOR 2024**
48 Commissioner Chenette nominated himself as the SMPRC Board member. Commissioner
49 Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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6 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS-

a. Commissioners' Regular Meeting of December 20, 2023
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Chenette abstaining.

7 TO ADOPT ROBERT'S RULES OF GOVERNANCE FOR CONDUCTING 2024 COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Commissioner Clark motioned to adopt Robert's Rules of Governance for conducting the 2024 Commissioners' meetings. Commissioner Andrews seconded the meeting. Vote 5-0.

8 TO SELECT A DAY AND TIME FOR CONDUCTING REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETINGS FOR 2024

1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning at 5:00 P.M.-following dates: January 3, January 17, February 7, February 21, March 6, March 20, April 3, April 10, May 1, May 15, June 5, (*Thursday, June 20th if needed), *July 10 (July 17th if needed), August 7, (August 21st if needed), September 4, September 18, October 2, October 16, November 6, November 20, December 4, December 18.

*Wednesday, June 19th is Junteenth

*July 3 is the first Wednesday

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning at 4:30 and meeting only once in June, July and August unless needed. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Chenette commented that he believed all have seen that giving a half an hour grace period has been helpful in increasing engagement with our constituents. To go backwards seems wrong, he continued. He added that he thought we should push it back even further like Cumberland County who meets at 5:30. Commissioner Chenette stated that he was yet to hear justification why we would ratchet it back. My constituents want to make government more assessable to them, he continued. We have seen that 5:00 has been successful for working Mainers who have a hard time getting here at 5:00.

Commissioner Clark commented that he had not seen a significant increase in public participation. He added that when he was a Selectmen, the only thing that brought people out was when the issue was controversial. Commissioner Clark reminded all that the opportunity for people to contact their commissioners are abundant whether it be by Zoom, e-mail and/or telephone.

Commissioner Ring stated that from her experiences, when the Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. there was a decent attendance. She added that there are a lot of taxpayers that don't get home to even turn on Zoom until 5:00 so that little bit of leeway would be helpful. Vote 3-2 with Commissioner Ring and Commissioner Chenette opposed.

9 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT POLICIES FOR 2024 AS FOLLOWS:

a. **MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE** (manager recommends '24 IRS rate 67 cents)
Commissioner Clark motioned to adopt the mileage reimbursement rate of 67 cents as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked why are we doing 67 cents and not the State

rate? That is a lot of money to be reimbursed. Commissioner Dutremble explained we have always followed the IRS rules. Commissioner Ring stated that she would like to see us use the State rule. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

b. **MEALS ON COUNTY BUSINESS RATE** (manager recommends increase of \$5.00 to \$15.00-breakfast, \$20.00 lunch, \$25.00 dinner or \$60.00 per diem)

Special note:* When the event you are attending includes any of the meals you are required to take part in the meal. If you are staying at a hotel that provides breakfast, you must utilize the breakfast provided by the hotel. In these instances, the amounts stated above will be deducted from the per diem rate. *RECEIPTS REQUIRED***

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the recommended amounts for meals: \$15.00 for breakfast, \$20.00 for lunch and \$25.00 for dinner or a per diem of \$60.00.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. **POLICE/ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS** (manager recommends '21 rate \$20.00)

Commissioner Clark motioned to accept the fee of \$20.00 for police/accident/incident reports as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

d. **BACKGROUND CHECKS FEES** (manager recommends Sheriff's '23 rate of \$20.00)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the fee of \$20.00 as recommended by the Sheriff for background checks. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

e. **NOTARIZATION/ATTESTATION FEES** (manager recommends '20 rate of \$5.00/\$10.00)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the rates of \$5.00 for notarization fee and \$10.00 for attestation fees. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

10 TO APPROVE TREASURERS' WARRANT(S)

a. Approve treasurer's warrant dated December 20, 2023 in the amount of \$618,527.80

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant in the amount of \$618,527.80. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Approve treasurer's warrant dated December 27, 2023 in the amount of \$619,892.01

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant in the amount of \$619,892.01. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

11 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chenette stated that for his constituents listening in, his virtual office hours are Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. He added that he is looking forward to hearing comments monthly.

Commissioner Clark wished everyone a Happy New Year.

12 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

None

13 NEW BUSINESS

a. To review and seek approval of Acton/Shapleigh Contract Deputy Agreement

151 County Manager Zinser explained that both towns have approved these contracts. This is
152 an opportunity for the Board to ask any questions. This Agreement covers the cost of the
153 deputy, explained the County Manager.

154 Commissioner Chenette motioned to accept the Agreement. Commissioner Ring
155 seconded the motion.

156 DISCUSSION: Commissioner Clark stated that he will vote to approve this (Agreement)
157 tonight but we have talked in the past to have a more general overview of these contract
158 deputies. We should be aware of what we want to do in the future.

159 County Manager Zinser replied that this will be on the first meeting in February.

160 Vote 5-0.

161 b. To review and seek approval of Good Works Program-

162 The County Manager stressed that we are not really looking for approval on this program.
163 He explained that this just supplements our strategy, but we want to make you aware of
164 what is going on. We have been working with Michael Thompson owner of Good Works
165 Program. He continued that some of our hiring roadblocks have been relocation and
166 housing of individuals as well as transportation in general. This program, continued
167 County Manager Zinser, simply will be complementing what we are already doing. And
168 is another tool in our toolbox. This is bringing in U.S. citizens who want to work.

169
170 Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss further explained that they have been
171 looking at different avenues of recruiting. There is no public transportation in Alfred.
172 This program provides transportation. Our attorney reviewed the entire program.

173
174 Mike Thompson, owner of Good Works, approached the Board. He informed all that he
175 was an EMT and Firefighter. Originally, he formed his company in Maine to house those
176 with risks. Now, in addition he has expanded the company to do offshore recruiting.
177 Employers who have solid entry level jobs with chances for advancement are having
178 issues hiring, explained Mr. Thompson. He will start with recruiting (employees) from
179 the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

180 Mr. Thompson continued that his company provides full, inclusive housing with
181 furnished units. Additionally, we provide round-the-clock transportation. My roots have
182 always been in public safety. We have extensive marketing experience, he stated.

183 We work with other companies such as Shaw Bros. and Genest Concrete.

184 Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Thompson how does he fund this (business)?

185 Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss interjected that the County worked through the
186 process. Good Works already has the housing and we went to see it. The employees will
187 rent from Mr. Thompson (Good Works). The rates are reasonable.

188 Commissioner Dutremble asked who pays for the moving costs?

189 Mr. Thompson replied that his company will pay for their airfare. We used Maine State
190 Housing Authority rates. These are single room occupancy with shared common spaces.
191 We will charge nominally for transportation.

192 Mr. Thompson continued that this is an extension of what Good Works already does. He
193 added that he believes this program has merit.

194 Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss added that in full disclosure, Mr. Thompson will
195 receive the \$1,000 referral bonus directly from the County.

196 Commissioner Ring asked don't we already offer that?

197 Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied, yes, the same amount.

198 She further explained if that we have an individual that applies from Saco, they can also
199 rent from him.

200 Commissioner Ring asked how long have you been operating this program?

201 Mr. Thompson replied in 2016 and then basic recruiting in 2021 where our focus has
202 been for at-risk housing.
203 Commissioner Ring replied that this sounds lovely but her concern was that we would
204 have Good Works hire our people and H.R. now has nothing to do.
205 Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied that these applicants will have to
206 go through the same process. We will set it up via ZOOM. They have to pass the
207 physical once they get here and they have to be presented to the Commissioners, she
208 explained. We will have to have someone working with him through the process.
209 Mr. Thompson further explained that this (program) is offered as a compliment to what
210 the County does for hiring as we have a different base to work with.
211 Commissioner Ring asked if they will speak English?
212 Mr. Thompson replied, yes, we will run assessments.
213 Commissioner Chenette stated that he had a couple of clarifying questions.
214 Commissioner Chenette asked how much was budgeted for the referral bonuses?
215 County Manager Zinser replied that we have never needed to budget the money.
216 Commissioner Chenette then asked how many (new hires from Good Works) are we
217 anticipated? The County Manager replied, 10 to 12 people.
218 Commissioner Chenette asked what happens if they are here and quit and work
219 somewhere else?
220 Mr. Thompson replied that if they are paying rent and following the rules, they could stay
221 in their housing.
222 Commissioner Clark asked can they stay a certain amount of time?
223 Mr. Thompson replied that they can stay as long as they want. We have relationships
224 with landlords.
225 Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Thompson where is most of his housing?
226 He replied in Biddeford.
227 Commissioner Andrews asked if Mr. Thompson has enough properties to bring in 10-12
228 people?
229 Mr. Thompson replied yes, he has set a building aside for this project.
230 Commissioner Chenette stated that while he appreciates the good will and intentions, the
231 market sometimes dictates and maybe at some point you might want to sell your
232 property. What happens to those people?
233 Mr. Thompson replied that they sign a lease and an agreement for transportation. He
234 added that he is very serious about keeping people housed and that he doesn't see my
235 goals changing.
236
237 c. To review and seek approval of bids for (8) eight police cruisers for Sheriff's Office
238 Commissioner Ring asked out of the 8 vehicles are any for contracts? Sheriff King
239 replied that two are for contract deputies and six are for the county.
240 Sheriff King added that this is keeping with our regular rotation.
241 Commissioner Ring responded that she understands but doesn't agree with it. Several
242 vehicles in the Sheriff's Office are under 50,000 miles. She added that the Sheriff will
243 need to give taxpayers a break. There are some vehicles not being used. What are the
244 two gray vehicles for? You want 6 white and 2 gray on your bids.
245 Sheriff King replied that there are two vehicles that are not white. Commissioner Ring
246 asked why? Sheriff King replied that his office is inundated with traffic complaints they
247 (gray vehicle) are better for traffic control. Commissioner Ring asked is it assigned to a
248 deputy and does he work traffic? Sheriff King responded, no, he works regular patrol.
249 Commissioner Ring added that from her perspective she understands it is more cost
250 effective for the vehicles to be the same color. She asked on top of the \$43,000 cost for
251 each vehicle, how much to set them up? Sheriff King responded about \$12,000.00.

252 County Manager Zinser informed all that the Sheriff's Office vehicle reserve is about
253 \$200,00.00.
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255 Sheriff King added that it is very difficult to get vehicles. Ford has now placed
256 restrictions on ordering.
257 Commissioner Ring replied that she understood. With the number of staff we have, are
258 we looking to expand our staffing, she added.
259 Sheriff King responded that there are three School Resource Officer grants they are
260 hoping to fill.
261 Commissioner Ring asked and they don't pay for the vehicles?
262 County Manager Zinser stated that the school district will be responsible for a portion of
263 the vehicle and so will we in the summer months.
264 Commissioner Chenette asked which eight vehicles will be replaced?
265 Sheriff King responded that he doesn't have that information but we would take a look at
266 the mileage and condition of the cars.
267 Commissioner Chenette asked and we know there are eight that meet that criteria?
268 The County Manager stated yes, six for the Sheriff's Office and two for the contract
269 deputies.
270 Commissioner Dutremble stated that the mileage does not reflect the wear and tear of the
271 engine as lots of times they are idle. Also, if the State Police pull out of rural patrol, you
272 might need more vehicles.
273 Sheriff King agreed and added that it is good that we have an ample amount of vehicles
274 in the event of a crash, etc.
275 Commissioner Ring motioned to accept Arundel Ford's bid of eight (8) vehicles with the
276 understanding that two (2) are for contracts in the amount of \$42,427.00 each.
277 Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
278 Commissioner Clark asked when will these arrive?
279 Commissioner Ring answered it says on the paperwork the end of February.

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281 d. Introduce Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Linda Corliss to seek approval of the following
282 new hire(s):
283 i. Andrew Dumond in the position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a
284 date of hire of January 2, 2024
285 Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Andrew Dumond in the position
286 of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of January 2, 2024.
287 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
288 Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss reported the number of Corrections
289 Officers is up to 48 full-time with fourteen scheduled to go to the academy in January.
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291 **14 OLD BUSINESS**
292 None

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294 **15 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
295 None

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297 **16 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES PURSUANT**
298 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC**
299 **DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR**
300 **NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION**
301 **WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E).**
302 None

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ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Vote 5-0. Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

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