

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 19, 2025

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, March 19, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Justin Chenette
Donna Ring

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

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

03-19-2025

ITEM

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

Sheriff King reminded all that they are having their annual awards ceremony at 3:00 and a chili cook off with Samantha York emceeing. This event is open to the public.

Janet Drew spoke via ZOOM and stated that she is happy to hear that the plans to take over the medical care will encompass the detox center and the jail. The Board of Visitors report brought up issues around medical care. She continued that the first Board of Visitors meeting is on April 8th and she hopes they will be able to do a visit at that time.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

- a. Commissioners' meeting of March 5, 2025
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of March 5, 2025.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

- a. Warrants to be approved on March 5, 2025 in the amount of \$2,084,421.54
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- b. Warrants to be approved on March 12, 2025 in the amount of \$806,746.42
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Chenette informed all that he was at the State house today. Gordon Smith told him that he was interested in seeing the results of our recovery center and echoed the good things they are hearing across the State.

Commissioner Chenette added that he recently attended the 6th Annual Saco Bay Symposium as a panelist. This event brings every level of government together, explained Commissioner Chenette. EMA Director Cleaves and County Manager Zinser were also in attendance. Commissioner Chenette commented that he is hopeful that the dredge will be used as a regional tool. Everyone was very supportive that the county was taking on a leadership role when it comes to storm damage and coastal erosion.

5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. To hear tax abatement denial appeal from Neil Linsky v. Town of Berwick
County Manager Zinser explained that Neil Linsky was present but no one from the town of Berwick. The County Manager swore Mr. Linsky in. Mr. Linsky explained that he and his wife bought property in 2000. At that time, it was represented to us by our realtor and the estate's attorney that their property included thirteen acres. South Berwick Water District approached us and wanted to buy some of our land.
Between the technology that existed in 2000 and today, it was discovered that we did not have 13 acres but only 10. Mr. Linsky explained that he went back to his deed and found where the discrepancy happened. Two acres was deeded over to the previous owner's niece. The two acres of land were not transferred over so for the past 24 years we have been paying taxes on those two acres of land. The Berwick Board of Selectmen have offered us two years of adjustment, but I am requesting that the third year be given to us. Commissioner Clark asked, you are seeking an abatement of another \$69.62? Mr. Linsky replied, yes.
Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Linsky if he had a title search done on his property before he purchased it?
Mr. Linsky replied that no, the real estate person had known the Blackmores for a long time. We read the deed and the estate attorney attested that everything written on the deed was as it was so we took their word.
Commissioner Ring asked if he had a survey done on his property?
Mr. Linsky replied, no.
Mr. Linsky explained that this is land in the back not near either of the houses. That is why the abatement is such a small amount.
Commissioner Ring stated to Mr. Linsky that he didn't have a title search or a survey so therefore she doesn't see where the town is at fault.
Mr. Linsky replied that he was not saying it's the town's fault but two people were being charged for the same land.

Commissioner Chenette asked Mr. Linsky what did the town give you for a reason to not do the third year?

Mr. Linsky replied they told me that it was a Berwick town tradition to give only one year but they looked back in their bylaws and found they could give me the second year. They never give a third year I was told so they told me to come before the Commissioners.

Commissioner Clark motioned to grant the abatement in the amount of \$69.24 for tax year 2022-2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

County Manager explained to Mr. Linsky that the Findings of Fact that will be voted on and then the decision will be sent to the town and yourself.

- b. To schedule tax abatement denial appeal (recommended date of May 7, 2025)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the scheduling of the tax abatement at the May 7, 2025 meeting. Commissioner Andrews seconded the meeting. Vote 5-0.

- c. To reschedule tax abatement for Michael Desroshers v. Town of Limerick to May 19, 2025 due to scheduling conflict for the town

Commissioner Clark motioned to reschedule the tax abatement for Michael Desroshers v. Town of Limerick to May 19, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- d. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss to present new hires/transfers:

- i. To seek hiring approval of Jimmie Baccon in the position of full-time Civil Deputy and part-time civil deputy in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of March 24, 2025.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Jimmie Baccon in the position of full-time civil deputy in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of March 24, 2025. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- ii. To seek hiring approval of Jesse Jibunze in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jesse Jibunze in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Ring asked does this individual speak and read English. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss said, yes.

Commissioner Ring asked, and he won't need any translation? Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Linda Hutchins-Corliss replied, no.

Commissioner Ring asked did he enter through a legal port of entry?

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins-Corliss replied that she does not know what port he entered through.

Commissioner Ring stated that there is no signature on the application.

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied that is because the application is done online.

Commissioner Ring replied that she is concerned that they are not signing off on authorization and background checks.

Commissioner Chenette added that an electronic signature counts as a signature. You should receive a PDF document with a signature. It is interesting to me that you don't get that, he stated.

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins- Corliss responded that she will look into this.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

- iii. To seek hiring approval of Joao Simao in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Joao Simao in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked if he entered through a legal point of entry?

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins- Corliss replied that she does not know which port of entry he used.

Commissioner Ring asked about the relative he states in his application that works for us.

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins- Corliss stated that he is not related to him and is just a friend.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

- iv. To seek hiring approval of Moise Mamingi in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Moise Mamingi in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Discussion-Commissioner Ring asked if he entered the U.S through a legal port of entry?

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins- Corliss replied that she did not know, and our attorney said it would be discriminatory to ask.

They just need to have legal paperwork.

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins-Corliss typically we do not get copies of background checks.

Commissioner Chenette stated that just because we cannot pronounce names, doesn't mean these are not our new Maine people. The new Maine people are hardworking individuals, and he encourages others to apply.

Commissioner Ring responded that she doesn't object to new individuals coming into our country. When they do not enter through a legal point of entry, is when she has a problem.

Commissioner Dutremble reminded her that our lawyer said it is illegal for us to ask that.

Commissioner Clark asked the Deputy Manager/H.R. Director has every one of these folks provided from the Federal Government that they are legal to work in this country. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Hutchins-Corliss replied, yes.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

- v. (not on the agenda) Kellen MacDonald in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the hiring of Kellen MacDonald in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of April 7, 2025. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss gave an update on the number of corrections officers at 52 plus the 4 hired tonight that will be going to the June academy brings us to 56 full-time corrections officers. Also, the Academy does now allow us to do a little pre-training.

6 OLD BUSINESS

None

******HEARD BEFORE ITEM #8******

7 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), REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)

- a. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) personnel matter.
Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) personnel matter. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve up to a 3-month leave of absence for employee A.
Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve up to a 3-month leave of absence for employee B. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) labor negotiations update.
Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) labor negotiations. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
No action taken.

HEARD BEFORE ITEM#7

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

Janet Drew (via Zoom) asked for stats on jail population and what part of it might be Federal prisoners. County Manager Zinser replied that she could ask the Sheriff those questions but to his knowledge we only had two detainees.

County Manager clarified that at the last meeting he stated that medical is under review. It is clear to say it was not something that will absolutely happen. It will come back to this Board.

Treasurer Kilroy addressed the Board via Zoom and stated that the County Treasurer's role is sparse but it does exist. She informed all that she recently met with Mr. Zinser and he got her up to date with financial matters. Treasurer Kilroy stated that you are in good hands with the Deputy Treasurer and the whole team. She added that EMA's hazard mitigation is top tier and very remarkable. Thank you for the opportunity to say hello.

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:45.