

# COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

June 21, 2023

YORK,ss

At a special 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, June 21, 2023, A. D. at 5:00 P. M.

## COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

County Manager Gregory 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

### 06-21-2023      ITEM

- 1      PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**  
None
  
- 2      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
  - a. Commissioners' regular meeting of June 7, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 (Commissioner Dutremble not yet present) .
  
- 3      TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a. Warrants to be approved on June 7, 2023 in the amount of \$840,977.91  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 (Commissioner Dutremble not yet present).
  
- 4      TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Chenette thanked Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Ring for attending Southern Maine Regional Planning and Development Commission's annual dinner along with him.

Commissioner Chenette pointed out that there is a new item (5F) appearing on the agenda that was a last-minute addition to approve the budget.

## 5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. To review and seek approval of MSEA contract (executive session might be necessary pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) labor negotiations)  
County Manager Zinser recommended this item be discussed in a brief executive session and suggested we do so at the end of the New Business items.

**\*\*HEARD AFTER ITEM 5d\*\***

Commissioner Ring motioned to go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) labor negotiations)

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Ring motions to come out of executive session. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Dutremble is now present at the meeting.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the M.S.E.A. contract and extension. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- b. To review and possibly take action on letters seeking forgiveness of interest payments on late tax payments from Biddeford and Buxton  
County Manager Zinser explained that it has happened a few other times and the Board has always waived the interest payments.

Commissioner Clark questioned what is the process? County Manager Zinser stated that taxes are due on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The County Manager continued that both Biddeford and Buxton had staff changes and we were in the throes of our audit.

Commissioner Clark responded that he would hope that we would look at this. He added that he does think that if they haven't paid in 90 days, we should bring it to their attention by either a phone call or certified letter.

Commissioner Clark moved to grant forgiveness of the interest for late tax payments from the City of Biddeford and the Town of Buxton. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Chenette agreed with Commissioner Clark and stated that he is more concerned about our communication with them. We should be able to identify things that are supposed to come in.  
Vote 4-0.

- c. H.R. Director Corliss to seek approval of hiring/transfers of the following:
  - i. Rachel Stansfield in the position of full-time Development Director with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Rachel Stansfield in the position of full-time Development Director with an effective date of hire of July 10, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

- ii. Zarek L. Melick in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of June 19, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Zarek Melick in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of June 19, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- iii. Penny Callahan in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of June 19, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Penny Callahan in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of June 19, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- iv. John N. Konstandin in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of John Konstandin in the position of full-time corrections officer with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- v. Christen A. Janes in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023  
Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Andrews. Vote 4-0.
- vi. Andrew B. Palmeri in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Andrew Palmeri in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with an effective date of hire of July 3, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

H.R. Director Corliss informed the Commissioners that 16 officers will be going to the July 10<sup>th</sup> Maine Criminal Justice Academy in Windham. This brings the number of corrections officers up to 44. Commissioner Ring asked when the new corrections officers would be working on the floor. H.R. Director Corliss replied that they have 5 weeks at the academy and then on the floor with FTO for several weeks. By the end of September, they will be filling shifts on the floor.

d. To review and award HVAC maintenance agreement

County Manager Zinser referenced the memo from Facilities Manager Rick deRochemont. He explained that the county has been with AAA Energy for many years and Mechanical Services as well. Mechanical Services and others did not follow the full RFP. County Manager Zinser added that four proposals were received.

Commissioner Chenette asked if it was typical that so many did not follow the bids?

County Manager Zinser replied that they had a wide range of costs. We did investigate as to why the RFP wasn't followed by some. Mechanical Services explained that they had excluded monthly inspections as they don't have enough staff. Another company could not work on a unit that is in most county buildings. Commissioner Clark motioned to accept bids from AAA for HVAC maintenance on county buildings in the amount of \$131,264.00 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

e. To seek termination approval of an employee (executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), personnel issue may be necessary)

Commissioner Ring motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), personnel. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Ring motioned to come out of executive session.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to accept the Sheriff's recommendation to approve termination of Jason Leach effective June 21, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

\*\*\*HEARD AFTER ITEM 5a\*\*\*

- f. (ADDED ITEM) To approve FY '2024 budget- County Manager Zinser informed all that the FY'2024 budget was approved by the Budget Committee in the amount of \$23,435,504.00. Commissioner Ring approved the FY'2024 budget in the amount of \$23,435,504.00. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Commissioner Clark suggested that a meeting is scheduled to discuss money as set forth for homelessness. Vote 5-0.

## 6 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Chenette stated that he had two items regarding the dredge – the Dredge Authority Board and a potential seat on it and the crane situation.

County Manager Zinser explained that an issue arose with the delivery of the dredge arriving today or tomorrow. A crane needs to be on sight, and this is the Buyer's responsibility. The crane isn't there. County Manager Zinser continued that the problem is largely resolved. Saco will front the money for the crane and at some point, the Board will need to decide if they are going to pay back the money. I think the appropriate thing to do is to delay any action until we know what the pricing will be, stated County Manager Zinser.

County Manager Zinser stated that he did ask for a seat and that his impression is that the Board wants a full seat but that is up to the Board.

Commissioner Chenette stated that it might be helpful to have the terminology for offloading for the crane situation.

County Manager Zinser responded that, for the record, some of the responses were a bit over the top. The language is clear that we, as the buyer, are responsible for the offloading. It will have to come out of our general fund. Commissioner Chenette stated that it is important to note that we appreciate the City of Saco for fronting the money.

Commissioner Chenette added that the crane situation has highlighted that we need to be sure that we supervise a project we funded with ARPA money. A seat (on the Board) ensures this is done.

Commissioner Ring commented that her take is that the county has invested nearly a half million dollars on a piece of property, so she wants to be sure that we know that our donation is being properly used. How else would we find that out if we do not have a position on the Board?

County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that we retain full ownership until this Board is satisfied that a proper Authority is in place.

There was a prior motion that we will retain ownership until such a time it is up and running and this Board is satisfied that our investment is up and running.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that everything has to be done the right way. He added that he doesn't want what happened with MERC to happen with the dredge. It (MERC) wasn't well thought out and there were lots of complications and problems, stated Commissioner Dutremble. We need to make sure it is done the right way. A lot of people have criticized what we have done, said Commissioner Dutremble.

Commissioner Chenette asked Commissioner Dutremble if he wanted a voting opportunity to which Commissioner Dutremble replied yes as that is what we have done with the teen center.

Commissioner Clark stated that former Commissioner Sicard spoke frequently that we would have a seat on the Board. If the County isn't going to have a seat on the Board, we are making a serious mistake. He continued by stating that this money was allocated, and this was our contribution. He doesn't want to establish a precedent that if something comes up, they can run back to the county to ask for money.

Commissioner Dutremble reminded all that, originally Saco was supposed to fund the project with more money. Once their committee is formed, Saco said they will put \$731,000 up for repairs.

Commissioner Chenette stated that we need to go back to the contract. It was clear to others that we were obligated for offloading but maybe not to us. Maybe legal needs to look at the contract again, he suggested.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned that a full fledged person (Commissioner) be a member on the Board (dredge). Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**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)**

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

None

**9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.