

COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

AUGUST 4, 2021

YORK,ss

At a Workshop 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, August 4, 2021 A. D. at 3:00 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Allen Sicard
Donna Ring

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

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County Manager Greg Zinser explained that this meeting would commence in a workshop forum and begin with county requests.

Commission Chairperson Richard Dutremble stated that in the fifteen years that he has been with York County he has found that it is difficult to upgrade county properties. Some of these items (on the list of county requests) will be accepted by him as well as perhaps also some other projects throughout the county.

Commissioner Donna Ring added that she has been with the county for 40 years and believes this is a wonderful opportunity to take care of our (county's) properties. We struggle to get capital monies for projects, continued Commissioner Ring. She continued that most of these are needed and necessary and that she understands numbers (costs) could change. She stated that she is very supportive of all of this and that she assumes we will get actual numbers later on.

Commissioner Sicard asked about the procedure and would they be reviewed line by line and then each item be voted on to move forward but more information is needed or we vote something down. Then, we will know which projects we will need more information on, commented Commissioner Sicard.

Commissioner Dutremble replied that he believed the Commissioners should vote on those (requests) they are not going to accept.

Commissioner Clark commented that he has a concern that these numbers are not flushed out and may end up being higher. In regard to the requests from various social service agencies, he stated that he doesn't want to pit them against each other. Commissioner Clark continued that he needs real numbers but that he does support them in the abstract. He added that it is very rare something comes in lower than your estimate and that everyone needs to keep this in mind. He stated that he is comfortable voting in principal to look at these but that he wants more specific numbers.

Commissioner Sicard responded that he seconds Commissioner Clark's comments and that they can agree in principal but that the Commissioners want a firm number before they give it a go. Commissioner Dutremble added that a contingency fund of 10% of any project should be added if the vote is in the affirmative.

The County Manager agreed and added that it's fair to say but for the more specific projects on the list, should you agree in concept, that would be an appropriate thing to move forward on. We will not be spending this money right away. Over the coming year, we will be getting the firm costs. County Manager Zinser stated that he would be asking for a commitment on the planning and engineering money as we will need this money now.

County Manager Zinser reviewed the list (attached as record to the minutes). Jail building-HVAC upgrades, medical wing negative pressure rooms and roof units – The County Manager explained that the estimates given are based on general conversations that we have had with our various vendors. County Manager Zinser continued that the system is over 20 years old. The septic upgrades deal with putting in a grinding machine such as was recently completed at the Windham correctional center.

Commissioner Clark asked if there was a firm number of what the engineering would cost as without good numbers, he doesn't know where he is going with this. He added that he would like to see the engineering sooner than later get done on this. Commissioner Clark continued that this should be done properly and that the amount of water that goes through the system is of value.

Commissioner Ring stated that the Windham facility is much larger than the York County jail. County Manager Zinser explained it's more the (cost of the) equipment. He explained that he has aggregated (all of the projects) together for a cost of \$500,000 for engineering and planning.

Commissioner Sicard motioned to approve the (engineering for the) first 2 projects at the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Clark stated that he is not ready to spend the funds and that he will only approve for engineering.

Commissioner Sicard replied that is his motion.

Commissioner Clark stated that the Commissioners must wait to vote at their meeting, not at a workshop.

Commissioner Sicard withdrew his motion.

The County Manager explained that at the Government building there is a request for roof top ventilation upgrades with an estimated cost of \$200,000.00.

County Manager Zinser added that there is a request for pandemic operations improvements/collaboration center with an estimated cost of \$3 million.

He continued that this is an opportunity for us in the county to fund additional money mitigation tactics and additional planning. This would allow us to completely rehab G & H block and go up an additional story. The County Manager continued to explain that EMA became a warehouse during the pandemic. There was not enough room for supplies and they are in trailers now. We believe that we will be in a cycle of pandemic response for a long time.

In response to our own governmental operation, we propose to renovate the rest of this building by taking out a wall and triple the size of the meeting room. This would increase seating capacity to 90.

Commissioner Clark asked what the current funding from FEMA is? County Manager Zinser replied, \$400,000 and we had \$300,000 in reserve.

Commissioner Clark asked if the \$3 million contemplates a second floor as there is no elevator in the drawings. County Manager Zinser replied that they haven't pursued this yet. Those costs would present themselves quicker as engineering has already been done for G&H block.

Courthouse projects include air quality upgrades with an estimated cost of \$750,000. Currently the courthouse has 88 units that are the radiator type style. This cost includes the purchasing of ionizers and the replacements of handlers themselves.

Commissioner Clark asked if the State has announced an opening for courthouse in Biddeford? County Manager Zinser replied early in 2023. Facilities Manager, Rick DeRochemont heard February 2023.

The next item on the list are temperature sensing cameras at the courthouse with an approximate cost of \$250,000. These would serve two purposes- when the State does leave, the goal would be for a court security person to have cameras and be the eyes of the building as well as checking temperatures of people entering the building.

Commissioner Ring asked if monitoring (of temperatures) with the sensory camera would still take place after COVID? The County Manager replied that he hasn't looked into that part.

The next item is the Deeds room layout that also includes a design plan in the Commissioners' packets. Register of Deeds, Nancy Hammond, addressed the Board. She explained that the drawings show two service windows on either side of the doorway and that the door would be kept closed. Right now, we are keeping the public out, she explained and we have to lift a chain to go out and wait on customers. This (layout) would give us a customer service area.

Commissioner Ring asked if this project would require a building permit? County Manager Zinser stated that it probably will whereas the Sheriff's Office request is just furniture.

Commissioner Ring asked if the employees had any input on these ideas?

County Manager Zinser interjected that this design request is for a service window not a workstation. All new desks were put up during COVID (in Deeds). The requested plan will create more of a bubble within a room to take care of customers.

Commissioner Ring stated that these are very specific quotes so she wants to be sure whether or not we would need permits.

Register of Deeds, Nancy Hammond stated that she did have a conversation with her staff regarding the door having a key code so she has engaged the staff in what we are doing. She added that part of her reasoning for asking for this is her employees' concerns about having to be face to face.

Sheriff King addressed the Board and explained that he is trying to make the room more functional. Currently, multiple deputies use the same furniture. His request includes mitigation

panels so multiple deputies can work there. The desks requested are the raiseable ones. We used the same consultant who designed the State Police Barricks.

Commissioner Ring asked Sheriff King if there was any employee input? Sheriff King replied, no.

Commissioner Clark asked Sheriff King how is this COVID related?

Sheriff King replied that the barriers and the desks have an antibacterial surface.

Commissioner Clark responded to the Sheriff that this should be done out of his regular budget. He added, *“Let’s at least try to conform to the intention of the COVID response.”*

The next requested line is for premium pay with an amount of \$2.4 million. County Manager Greg Zinser explained that the Commissioners have already committed to pay premium pay. He added that he is happy to get the formulas for the Commissioners to look at.

Commissioner Dutremble asked if there are any employees who have retired since this?

The County Manager replied, no, this is only for people that are still working. It is a tiered approach for the county at large. Commissioner Ring stated this is covid related and if the employees worked throughout covid, they should get paid.

County Manager Zinser replied that usually that’s only for people still working.

Commissioner Ring responded that it is up to the Board whether we pay people who have since left.

County Manager Zinser replied that is within the Commissioners’ purview.

Commissioner Clark asked the County Manager when will he have this a little more ready for them to vote on? County Manager Zinser replied, September.

Commissioner Clark replied, then, we can have further discussions.

The next item on the list is for air quality upgrades at the Recovery Center with an estimate of \$250,000.

ARP Fund Manager is the next item. County Manager Zinser introduced David Naldajian and informed the Commissioners that he began working for York County on Monday.

Probate records digitization of records is the next request listed and this would include putting records online instead of making it a necessity for people to come into the office. We don’t have an exact number for this yet, explained the County Manager but the cost would probably around \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Clark replied that he is entirely in favor of this request but that he is not buying that it is a proper expense under the COVID response. He added that he thinks the county should budget for it.

County Manager Zinser replied that David will flush these projects out.

Commissioner Clark stated that they can put it in next year’s budget. We need to try and follow the guidelines.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that whatever we approve, he would like the County’s lawyer to look at it and make sure it follows the guidelines.

The County Manager replied that he has had discussions with our attorneys to familiarize themselves with the guidelines as he agrees that some of the larger projects will need legal advice.

Next, there is a request for a vehicle to provide for a mobile vaccine clinic at a cost of \$38,000. This is a State bid and is a Ford Interceptor SUV with some modifications.

Commissioner Ring asked if the \$38,000 was just the vehicle cost.

County Manager Zinser replied the cost is \$33,000 and the rest of the money was put into outfit the vehicle.

Commissioner Clark asked if the Commissioners were to approve this, when would it be available?

The County Manager replied that as of two weeks ago, they had 5 available.

County Manager Zinser concluded his explanation by stating that the generalized request is for \$12,670,000.

Commissioner Dutremble replied that the Commissioners already approved funding for the ARP manager so we do not have to vote on it again.

The County Manager clarified that the Commissioners voted to hire the individual but that they need to vote to use ARP funding.

Commissioner Ring asked if the deeds and Sheriff's office requests could come out of a regular budget and asked if there is any surplus available from fy'21 budget?

County Manager Zinser replied, yes, absolutely but the question is, is it a truly legitimate use of ARP funds. He continued that Deeds is a no-brainer and even in the Sheriff's Office, but, it's not worth an argument so if the Commissioners say to take it out of contingency, we will do it.

County Manager Zinser explained that this concludes this portion of the workshop. He suggested that maybe the discussion should now be what the Commissioners want to do at the next meeting. He asked the Commissioners when do they want to have this meeting?

Commissioner Dutremble told the County Manager that he will get his answer at the 4:30 meeting.

County Manager Zinser replied that part of that questions is, depending what the vote is for section 1, he would just want to have clarity on the other items requested as well as what about the broader requests for use of funding in response to public hearings and written requests?

Commissioner Ring suggested this discussion take place during the first meeting in September.

Commissioner Clark responded that he is fine with that but that the Commissioners will have a similar issue to accomplish, in that most of the requests we received had no specific requests to them. That is fine but at some point, people will have to come up with plans, stated

Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that at the next meeting, the Commissioners can discuss outside agencies and the ones we have a consensus to bring back and then they can give us figures.

County Manager Zinser stated that the theory of the next meeting is to narrow it down.

Commissioner Clark asked when the discussion of the training center for first responders will come in?

County Manager Zinser replied, in September.

Commissioner Sicard asked why Chief Hooper's requests are not considered county?

County Manager Zinser responded that is up to the Board. Public sewer discussions will take a huge chunk of money if the Board decides on that.

Commissioner Ring clarified that if the money is allocated for a specific project, when does it have to be completed?

County Manager Zinser stated that if we obligate (the money) by 2024, we have until 2026 to spend the money.

Commissioner Dutremble moved that the workshop is over. Workshop adjourned at 4:16 p.m.