

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 1, 2022

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, June 1, 2022 A. D. at 4:30 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.

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

#### 06-01-22      ITEM

- 1      PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
- 2      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
  - a.    Commissioners meeting of May 18, 2022  
         Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes with corrections.  
         Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.  
         Vote 5-0.
- 3      TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a.    Warrants to be approved on May 18, 2022 in the amount of \$857,046.07  
         Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner  
         Dutremble seconded the motion.    Vote 5.0
  - b.    Warrants to be approved on May 25, 2022 in the amount of \$543,736.88  
         Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner  
         Dutremble seconded the motion.    Vote 5-0.

**4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Chairperson Sicard referenced the annual jail tour the Commissioners took prior to this meeting and thanked the Sheriff and his staff.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

a. S.O.S. Dredge-ARPA update-

Commissioner Chairperson Sicard informed all that Kevin Roche from Save our Shores was present to give an update on the dredge. He added that the Commissioners were informed by the County Manager that the dredge RFP had been posted on to the County's website.

Kevin Roche approached the Board and thanked them and the County Manager for the work done to get the RFP prepared and posted. He then referenced the three contingencies given the group by the Commissioners at a prior meeting he had attended.

The first was the RFP that is now completed. The second contingency was funding. Mr. Roche informed all that the City of Saco voted to put \$170,000 into their budget for the first year to operate the dredge. This was a unanimous vote, reported Mr. Roche. He added that they did inform the City of Saco that this amount would be sufficient for the first year.

The third contingency, continued Mr. Roche, was to set up an entity in the event the decision is made by the Commissioners to purchase the dredge. Mr. Roche informed the Board that they now have Articles of Incorporation for what is now called the Southern Maine Dredge Authority. These Articles have been sent to the State. Mr. Roche added that they also have draft bylaws as well as a business plan and a timeline. Mr. Roche stated that they will default to the founding members to be Saco Bay communities and have still left York County as a founding member with no financial obligation other than the dredge purchase.

Commissioner Sicard asked Mr. Roche to get these documents to County Manager Zinser so he can forward them to the County's attorney for review and then post onto the County's website.

Commissioner Sicard asked Mr. Roche if there was any news on the State front (regarding the dredge). Mr. Roche responded that Senator Bailey will make this a priority in January to get the Commission approved to oversee the authority.

Commissioner Sicard asked if Senator Bailey will ask for funding, also? Kevin Roche replied that, yes, different people/offices will ask for funding and that there are funds available.

**QUESTIONS:**

Commissioner Dutremble asked why the original amount of \$710,000 was not approved in the City of Saco's budget but rather \$170,000. Kevin Roche responded that the group convinced the City of Saco that they only needed \$170,000 for the first year as the dredge would not be on-site until the end of 2023. He added that Mayor Doyle wanted him to relay that this does not mean the City of Saco won't approve \$700,000 in year two. Commissioner Dutremble asked why did they not appropriate the remainder and put it in reserves? Mr. Roche replied that he did not know but that he does know there is still \$300,000 to \$400,000 in their (Saco's) ARPA bucket.

Commissioner Chairperson Sicard thanked Mr. Roche for the update and asked him to send the documents referenced earlier to County Manager Zinser to forward on to legal for review before posting them onto the County's website.

b. H.R. Director Linda Corliss to request approval for the following new hires:

i. Nicki Fowlie in the position of reserve Fire Instructor II in EMA with a start date of 6-06-22

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Nicki Fowlie in the position of reserve Fire Instructor II in EMA with a start date of 6-6-2022.

Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

ii. Steven D. Broy in the position of Deputy in the Sheriff's Office with a start date of 6-13-2022

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Steven D. Broy in the position of deputy in the Sheriff's Office with a start date of 6-13-2022.

Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Ring asked if Mr. Broy resides in York County.

H.R. Director Corliss replied, yes, in Old Orchard Beach.

Vote 5-0.

c. Review and seek approval of contract with Biddeford Housing

County Manager Zinser explained that this is an 18-month MOA with Biddeford Housing Authority and will give us time to see if this building will work. He added there will be some minor renovations necessary but foresees some element of District Attorney staffing there by next April.

Commissioner Sicard clarified that there would be no knocking down of walls required. County Manager Zinser responded, no. Commissioner Sicard asked if the District Attorney's employees would be the only ones in this building.

County Manager Zinser responded that they may be another entity renting another part of the building. Also, he informed the Board that the Teen Center may use some of our space while their building is being renovated. This would help to reduce some of our rental space cost (for the D.A.'s office staff).

Commissioner Ring questioned why this is an MOA and not a lease. County Manager Zinser responded that it is a lease but not a traditional one. We will occupy the front half of the building and figure out as time goes on what we would want to do. This cost does cover all maintenance of the building.

Commissioner Ring asked if the date reflecting the MOA began in May is correct. County Manager Zinser replied, yes.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the MOA with Biddeford Housing and to authorize the expense of \$4,300 per month come out of the contingency account for up to 18 months. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Sicard asked would this still allow us with a rent to own option. County Manager Zinser replied, yes. We can engage an architect to work with us to see if this building will meet our needs.

Vote 5-0.

d. EMA updates

i. Vaccine Center discussion- County Manager Zinser referenced a letter included in the meeting packet from EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault that requests an extension for keeping the vaccine center open and extending the Civil State of Emergency through December 31, 2022.

Deputy Director Arsenault addressed the Board and gave a brief update on the Vaccine Center and requested the use of reserve funding. She explained that they have seen an increase in patients over the past couple of months and in June, it is hoped that children under five can begin to receive their vaccines.

To date, explained Deputy Director Arsenault, EMA has recouped all \$3 million. As of July 1, 2022, the reimbursement from FEMA goes from 100% to 90% with the State reimbursing 6%. This leaves the county responsible for 4%. This is what we are asking backup reserve funding for.

Commissioner Sicard asked Deputy Director Arsenault if there is any indication as to where the Federal Government may go with this. He stated that he is concerned they may change to a 50/50 split beginning January 1, 2023. Deputy Director Arsenault replied that they do not have any indication but have been informed that through December 31, 2022, the cost share will be 90/10.

Commissioner Sicard commented that since the lease on the vaccine center is month to month, we could “pull the plug” if the cost share goes to 50/50.

County Manager Zinser explained that 4% is a backup of county outlay of actual cash out of contingency. Commissioner Sicard added unless the State backs out or we have to wait for reimbursement. County Manager Zinser replied that FEMA has approved this so it cannot be denied.

ii. extension of civil state of emergency

Commissioner Ring asked what does the State of Emergency get EMA extra?

County Manager Zinser explained that it gives EMA the authorization, along with Human Resources to staff the vaccine center. They have lots of staff, but many can only work certain hours. It also allows for added payments for hourly people to receive overtime. Salaried workers get straight time for hours worked in excess of 40 per week. It also gives them buying power but that has calmed down.

Commissioner Ring replied that she believes the County (EMA) has done a tremendous job and she is very proud of everything the County has done. Last week’s payroll for EMA was \$28,000. Commissioner Ring stated that she is unsure of how many of the hours are for the vaccine center but that is a huge amount of payroll. Commissioner Ring stated that EMA has seven full time employees and the rest are reserves and temporary help. The rent on the center is \$23,000 a month, she added.

Commissioner Ring continued that she has to justify the cost and that she believes what is left can be managed by the medical profession. She added that she is looking at an end date. The State of Emergency does not change how we operate and is supposed to be temporary, commented Commissioner Ring. This is a tremendous cost to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Sicard replied that the money is reimbursed at 100% and in July of this year, we are only responsible for 4%.

Commissioner Clark stated that one year ago it looked like COVID was over. That changed quickly. We may be done with COVID but I do not think it is done with us, stated Commissioner Clark. He added that he believes it is best to act on the side of caution.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the State of Emergency through December 31, 2022 and deal with the 4% cost coming out of contingency, if necessary. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

e. Set dates and times for Commissioner walk throughs of Layman Way Recovery Center and courthouse- County Manager Zinser asked the

Commissioners if they wished to tour Layman Way on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and then hold a brief meeting afterwards. If they are unable to tour Layman Way, they can tour the courthouse. The Commissioners agreed this would work and Commissioner Sicard asked the County Manager to e-mail them to let them know which building they would be touring.

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

None

**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)**

None

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

Mark Call asked the Board via ZOOM why the video from the last meeting did not go online until minutes before this meeting? He requested that it be put on our website 24-48 hours prior to the meeting in the event the public wished to review it and ask any questions. Mr. Call also asked how to get in touch with his Commissioner as he had e-mailed his Commissioner three or four times and did not get a response.

Commissioner Sicard replied that the video is typically up quickly. County Manager Zinser replied this was a unique one.

Commissioner Sicard stated that for him, e-mail is the best way to contact him. If e-mail is not working, he suggested calling the office so that the Commissioner can be contacted to get in touch with the person.

**9 ADJOURN**

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