

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

April 12, 2023

*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, April 12, 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

#### 04-12-2023      ITEM

- 1      PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**  
None
- 2      TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
  - a. Commissioners' regular meeting of April 5, 2023  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023.  
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 3      TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a. Warrants to be approved on April 5, 2023 in the amount of \$712,881.64  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 4      TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Chenette asked County Manager Zinser if the Commissioners had a tour of new courthouse scheduled. County Manager Zinser replied that he had not thought of scheduling a tour of the new courthouse but if the Board wants, he can do so. He added that it is not a building that the County owns. Commissioner

Chenette replied that we interface with them enough to warrant a tour. The County Manager stated that he will set something up.

## 5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. H.R. Director Linda Corliss to seek approval of the following new hires/transfers:
  - i. James Howard in the position of reserve Public Safety Instructor 1 in the EMA/Fire Administration with a date of hire of April 17, 2023  
H.R. Director Corliss presented the hiring request to the Board. Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of James Howard in the position of reserve Public Safety Instructor 1 in EMA/Fire Administration with a date of hire of April 17, 2023. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  
- b. To continue and finalize 'FY24 budget review-
  - i. Megan Gean Gendron to present Layman Way Recovery Center budget-  
County Manager Zinser clarified that Ms. Gean Gendron will not be here but Dr. Gay, and Billy Winslow from the Layman Way Recovery Center are here to present the budget. The County Manager added that this budget is not projecting massive changes but that there is an increase in the contract. There has not been an increase in the contract for the past budget cycles.  
Dr. Gay presented the Layman Way Recovery Center FY'24 budget. She informed all that there have been 259 referrals from the York County Jail and 382 from other parts of the county. She explained that the Center was opened up to more than York County Jail residents during the pandemic and received a lot of referrals from the community.  
Dr. Gay continued that they have had a total of 120 graduates with 93 being referrals from the jail. Two graduates were recently hired that were in the program two years ago.  
In 2023, as of last week, there have been 46 referrals with 20 of those not following through. Last week there were seven persons waiting for paperwork from the D.A. Currently there are thirteen residents.  
Dr. Gay explained that their numbers for women residents are lower than usual as there aren't any women in our jail right now. Some women have been transferred back here. She added that they also have an extensive outpatient MAT program with 20 – 25 in the group.  
Layman Way Counselor Billy Winslow addressed the Board and informed all that they offer many different programs including educational programs through RSU 57, career development programs sponsored by the State as well as education for substance abuse.
  - ii. To vote and transmit proposed 'FY 2024 budget to Budget Committee, if applicable.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the FY 2024 budget as submitted and send it to the budget committee. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION-

Commissioner Chenette commented that in regard to the request for two new Finance positions, he had mentioned at the previous meeting the role of county treasurer and how that role could help with the Finance Department. Commissioner Chenette asked if there had been any discussions with him?

County Manager Zinser replied that he and Deputy County Manager Corliss had a conversation with him and he does not want to make a proposal to the Board with any changes at this point.

Commissioner Chenette then stated that he is unclear how we are able to vote on the administrative section of the budget as there have been conversations in executive session with various roles. What if there are changes to be made to the budget prior to it being sent off to the Budget Committee and there are changes in budget, he asked.

Commissioner Dutremble replied that there are always ways to adjust the budget.

Commissioner Chenette asked if there was a reason why we wouldn't want to address this prior?

Commissioner Dutremble replied that the Budget Committee needs the budget by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Chenette responded that makes him uncomfortable. We should have scheduled an executive session at the last meeting or this meeting. He continued that he is grappling with sending an incomplete document to the Budget Committee.

County Manager Zinser asked if this is in regard to him?

Commissioner Chenette replied, correct. County Manager Zinser suggested that he and the Commissioners could recess and go into executive session to provide solidification to the budget.

Commissioner Ring asked if it is correct that they are approving all of the new requests and that there are no changes to this budget? This budget includes a 4% pay increase for all non-union employees and the Sheriff doesn't have to provide us with inventory of vehicles with mileage? Commissioner Ring stated that she doesn't think it is right that as a Board we create positions and give raises in the middle of the year. She continued that she sees pay increases as much of 14% in this budget but that the Budget Committee is led to believe they (employees) are only making a certain amount. She stated that she sees no reason why a pay increase should be given when it is not in the budget.

Commissioner Chenette commented that in reference to the two new Finance positions he will support this but his expectation is we are addressing the issues in the audit. He continued that in the next cycle theoretically we are addressing the vast majority of those concerns and a very specific plan for procedures, systems and controls in place for accounting purposes. Commissioner Chenette continued that he doesn't want to throw two new positions at it and then the audit report is still saying we aren't meeting the basic level of standards. It's not about approving these two new positions but what's the game plan.

County Manager Zinser stated that to be clear, you will not see any resolve because of the October hire date of the new Finance positions. The current budget cycle is over in two months and this budget cycle will begin July 1, 2023 so the two new employees won't be hired yet.

Commissioner Chenette replied that he would hope that between now and October there will be a game plan. County Manager Zinser responded that he understood.

Commissioner Chenette reminded all that Commissioner Clark informed all that he is looking at energy audit in order to save money on our various energy needs. He asked County Manager Zinser to explain why those funds are not included in the budget.

County Manager Zinser explained that it is an Energy Efficiency Block Grant that is over \$80,000.00 We will be reviewing the programmatic requirements for that and an allowable use is an energy audit.

Commissioner Chenette asked when the deadline is? The County Manager believes it is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Ring asked how the Finance Generalist's hourly rate of pay at \$25 per hour was arrived at?

H.R. Director Linda Corliss stated that she conducted a salary survey in the private sector and MMA puts out a salary study. She added that in today's market, if we are too low (with wage) we won't get anyone.

Commissioner Ring replied that this amount is a lot higher than clerical positions in the county for basically a data processing position. There are a lot of positions in the county that don't make that.

Commissioner Dutremble commented these positions have to follow rules and regulations. They are not data processing positions.

Commissioner Dutremble also stated that he has been involved with the audits for a long time and every audit has a note with improvements.

Next year, they will probably put a footnote that we are addressing it.

c. To review and approve Pet Partners Proclamation

The County Manager explained that the pet therapy industry has declared April 30<sup>th</sup> as National Pet Therapy Day. He continued that both Layman Way Recovery Center and the jail use pet therapy.

Commissioner Dutremble read the proclamation (attached as record to these minutes). Commissioner Chenette motioned to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark commented that he shared his life with animals and they are wonderful things and pet therapy is a wonderful thing but that he is concerned that the next Proclamation might not be one we want. By approving this one, we have opened the door for a lot of discussion that may not be for what we want.

Commissioner Chenette questioned the process.

County Manager Zinser replied we do not have a particular policy. We've done this a couple of other times but Commissioner Clark does raise a good point.

Commissioner Clark commented that he assumes we all get e-mails addressing particular things. He continued that he doesn't want us to go down the road where we become a debating society. Commissioner Clark stated that he thinks it's a slippery slope.

Commissioner Chenette agreed with Commissioner Clark and added that at least we should have a conversation around whether there should be a policy. This

could elevate our position as a county, though, Commissioner Chenette stated. We could have a conversation about non-political things. County Manager Zinser replied that he is happy to see what other cities/towns/counties do.

**6 OLD BUSINESS**

**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)**

Commissioner Chenette motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) personnel matters. Commissioner Ring 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 informed all of action taken. As a result of discussions and review and projects that the County Manager is now managing, he motioned to increase his salary by \$4,000 for the fiscal year and add that amount to the FY 2024 budget. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 (Commissioner Ring opposed).

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the budget in the amount of \$23,310,504.00 and to amend his earlier motion to transmit the budget to the budget committee.

Vote 4-1(Commissioner Ring opposed).

**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 6:17 p.m.