

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 7, 2024

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, August 7, 2024, 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 Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

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

08-07-2024

ITEM

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

None

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a. Commissioners' meeting of June 5, 2024
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner
Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Commissioners' meeting of July 10, 2024
Commissioner Clark approved the minutes with one correction.
Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

a. Warrants to be approved on July 3, 2024 in the amount of \$1,007,635.15
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Warrants to be approved on July 10, 2024 in the amount of \$858,145.08
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- c. Warrants to be approved on July 17, 2024 in the amount of \$444,878.92
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- d. Warrants to be approved on July 24, 2024 in the amount of \$490,220.98
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- e. Warrants to be approved on July 31, 2024 in the amount of \$670,921.44
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 Clark congratulated Commissioner Norman Fournier of Aroostook County as he had a facility for homeless people named after him this week.

5 NEW BUSINESS

- a. To hear MSEA grievance (may be in executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), personnel matter
County Manager Zinser asked the MSEA Union if they wished to have their grievance heard in public or executive session? MSEA Union Field Representative Robin Sukeforth-Upton replied executive session.
Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to §405 (6) (A) personnel matter.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
The Commissioners, County Manager Zinser, Deputy County Manager Corliss Admin. Assistant Kathy Dumont and the County's legal team went into executive session without the Union. The MSEA Union voiced an objection to this.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Andrews motioned to deny the grievance. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.

- b. To hear EMS Physician Response Program from Dr. Bob Brown
Dr. Bob Brown approached the Board. He gave a brief outline of the services he is proposing in York County. He is proposing to establish a dedicated prehospital physician program. Dr. Brown explained that there are multiple ambulance services in the county but none of them are allowed to perform the advanced services and give medical assistance.
This program would allow them to bring these life saving measures to their doorstep. He continued that this program is already a service in Kennebec County between their Emergency Management Agency and a local hospital. Dr. Brown stated that his thought would be to have the same program with hospitals here. He suggested perhaps expanding this service in a phased system to avoid a large cost all at once.
Commissioner Ring asked Dr. Brown if his services are currently provided anywhere in York County? He replied in Newfield, Acton and Shapleigh

Commissioner Chenette stated to Dr. Brown that in his write-up he mentions there is a partnership with Kennebec County EMA and a hospital. Would you envision the same here?

Dr. Brown responded, yes and that he is working with Maine Health. They say they are very interested but would need to see more plans.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that cities and towns already have ambulances and asked if they would approve this?

Dr. Brown responded that they all like and support the idea but that he is not sure how it is going to look yet.

Commissioner Dutremble asked if this program was implemented would it save monies to the cities and towns?

Dr. Brown replied that it would depend how it is implemented but one would see better care.

Commissioner Andrews asked Dr. Brown that since it is just him at this point, had he spoken to other providers such as nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants?

Dr. Brown stated, yes, they are interested but waiting for an answer from the County.

Commissioner Andrews asked if there could be reimbursements through the individual's insurance?

Dr. Brown replied that there is no way to do that at this time.

Commissioner Chenette asked if it is correct that every town and city can take advantage of such a program. He continued that he is trying to understand for his district. How are you going to be there if needed?

Dr. Brown answered that the plan is to not just have me. We would slowly add services.

Commissioner Ring asked about the costs and what about liability? Would the county be the employer?

Dr. Brown replied that Kennebec County is a third-party vendor and it costs about \$6,000 a year for insurance.

Commissioner Chenette commented that he felt a partnership with hospital /health system would result in more trust. He added that he would feel more confident in them being part of a conversation.

Dr. Brown responded that they would also like the county on board. That is why he is asking today to start the process to have some legitimacy.

Commissioner Chenette asked if there is any data to say that we have a problem here in York County?

Dr. Brown replied that cities and towns want to know that the county is in before sharing this data.

Commissioner Chenette asked if Kennebec County could share data. Dr. Brown replied, absolutely.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that this would have to go through the budget process and I can tell you the budget committee would probably say no.

Commissioner Chenette commented that if he heard from the cities and towns in his district, he would listen and want a solution. He added that he is happy to entertain a conversation. He suggested that perhaps Dr. Brown should encourage cities and towns to contact their commissioners. Right now you are presenting something that we don't know there is a problem with, he said to

Dr. Brown. Let's continue the conversation and continue to move forward by letting cities and towns contact us.

County Manager Zinser stated that we do welcome opinions and to hear from the service chiefs as it is an important program. He suggested having the service chiefs work it up through their towns. He encouraged the service chiefs to bring it up with their higher ups.

You mention that there are towns on board. This could be a trial with not much effort similar to the contract deputy approach, suggested County Manager Zinser. The County Manager added that we have to be sensitive to the towns (in regards to adding money to the budget).

- c. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss to present the following new hires and/or transfers:
 - i. Ian Dufour in the position of reserve DAR III in the Emergency Management Agency with a date of hire of August 8, 2024
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Ian Dufour in the position of Reserve DAR III in the EMA with a date of hire of August 8, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - ii. Zachary Quadland in the position of reserve Hazmat Technician I in the Emergency Management Agency with a date of hire of August 12, 2024
Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - iii. Jenny Miller in the position of part-time Medical Billing Clerk in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of September 9, 2024
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jenny Miller in the position of part-time Medical Billing Clerk in the Sheriff's Office.
Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
Discussion: Commissioner Ring asked what the starting salary is. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied, \$22.12 per hour.
Vote 5-0.
- d. Review and approve Civil process changes-
Sheriff King approached the Board. County Manager Zinser summarized that Sheriff King wishes to clean up the classifications (of civil process) and is looking to respond to the needs of civil process. He would like to convert two part-time positions into one full-time.
Sheriff King stated to the Board that he thinks this reorganization is necessary. He explained that a full-time position is more consistent. He continued that he is recommending three things- reorganization, changing the structure and modifying the pay. Sheriff King added that the civil process deputies are also force multipliers to area police departments.
Discussion: Commissioner Ring stated that in reviewing this, she understands and does think it is necessary to do this. However, she said that one of her concerns is the budget. She does not believe that there is control over the expenditures. Civil Process has been making money and there are expenditures. She stated that she thinks it's time it goes back into an expenditure budget. Commissioner Ring continued that there have been big surpluses. If you have that kind of surpluses, you can buy lots of things with no oversight. It needs to go through a budget process and it needs to become an expenditure and not a fund account, commented Commissioner Ring.

Commissioner Chenette asked has this been proposed before and why is it a separate account?

County Manager Zinser explained that this is a self- sustaining fund. The money they generate supports the division. He is not sitting on several thousands of dollars of money. Right now, it is about \$27,000. Expenses are all listed. The County Manager added that the separate fund does allow a greater amount of control in his opinion.

Commissioner Ring replied that many years ago it was all full-time positions, and they were not making enough to sustain their salaries.

Commissioner Chenette asked regarding the request for a 5% increase, when was the last time there was an increase?

Sheriff King replied that he can't recall. They do get COLA, but we are not keeping up with other counties.

Commissioner Chenette motioned to reclassify Rob Crawford from part-time to reserve status. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Chenette motioned to consolidate two part-time positions to one full- time position. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote. 5-0.

Commissioner Chenette motioned to increase civil process pay by 5% effective August 12, 2024.

Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- e. Review and approve RFP for dredge engineering –
EMA Director Art Cleaves approached the Board. County Manager Zinser explained that four proposals were received. He added that they did undertake a review of each, and that this information was given to the Commissioners. The County Manager stated that Anchor QEA came out on top. Therefore, the proposal is to authorize approval for Anchor QEA.
Commissioner Chenette asked EMA Director Cleaves if there were any projects that stood out that helped illustrate their (Anchor QEA) expertise. EMA Director Cleaves replied that all four packets had great projects, but that Anchor QEA showed great collaborative effort and strategic outlook.
Commissioner Chenette added that he did see they worked with the Barnstable County dredging.
Commissioner Chenette motioned to approve the RFP dredge engineering contract to Anchor QEA. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- f. Set date for tax abatement denial appeal (Town of Berwick)
(recommended date of September 4, 2024)
Commissioner Dutremble would like to move this item to the September 18th meeting.
Commissioner Clark motioned to set the date for the hearing for the tax abatement to September 18, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- g. Memo from Sheriff King to promote Corrections Officer Ellis Mattison to Sergeant
Sheriff King approached the Board and explained that there were three candidates, but Corporal Mattison rose to the top (scored best). He added that he is an outstanding officer.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the promotion of Ellis Mattison to

Sergeant effective August 11, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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)

a. Executive session on personnel matters pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A)

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A) personnel matter.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Vote on executive session matter

Commissioner Clark motioned to grant a leave of absence to the employee as requested. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

*** Item 8 heard before executive session***

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 6:52 p.m.