

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 3, 2021

*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, November 3, 2021 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

#### November 3, 2021 ITEM

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

Janet Drew thanked the County Manager for the offer to meet. She will be in touch and will bring a partner with her.

**2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

a. Workshop of October 20, 2021

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Regular meeting of October 20, 2021

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

a. Warrants to be approved on October 20, 2021 in the amount of \$428,815.76

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Warrants to be approved on October 27, 2021 in the amount of 502,018.70

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

None

**5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

None

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

a. EMA to provide update of COVID-19 response

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that Deputy Director Megan Arsenault will give an update. Deputy Arsenault explained that EMA has been active in COVID 19 response for nearly two years now. This includes the delivery of shots at the Vaccination Center that was opened with Southern Maine Healthcare and clinics for first responders, schools, etc. She continued that EMA now will offer pediatric vaccinations at the vaccine clinic and schools as well as opening a laboratory to test for COVID 19. Deputy Arsenault continued and explained that EMA also has natural disasters that they are dealing with. She added that she had met with the City of Biddeford and MEMA to assess damages from the weekend storm with damages estimated at almost \$2 million.

Deputy Arsenault introduced Dr. Michael Schmitz who is also helping EMA with vaccines. She informed all that Dr. Schmitz is an emergency department physician at Southern Maine Healthcare and Medical Director for York County EMA.

Dr. Schmitz gave a PowerPoint presentation (included as record of these minutes). He explained that emergency rooms are currently full within Maine and nationally. We have been averaging 100 new cases (of COVID-19) a day for the last month. The number of patients on ventilators is as high as it has been. Dr Schmitz explained that COVID among vaccinated, elderly people is still a serious risk. He added that they are seeing more covid positive patients especially among the elderly. Vaccinations overall in our State of Maine are doing quite well and as of today, 79% of population have received their final dose.

County Manager Greg Zinser thanked Dr. Schmitz, Art and Megan. He asked Dr. Schmitz if he had any thoughts on pediatric dosing and any studies done on that? Dr. Schmitz replied that they will begin to offer the vaccine next week to the 5-11 age group. He continued that they are considering very carefully how they support pediatric patients and their families. In terms of dosing, he explained that he is not an epidemiologist, so he cannot comment on that but that he thinks the studies behind them are sound and protocols are reviewed meticulously.

Commissioner Clark thanked Megan and Dr. Schmitz and asked for the slides to be printed out for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sicard asked Director Cleaves that since they are opening up (vaccines) to younger folks, will they need more hours going forward? Director Cleaves responded that yes, they will have additional hours on Friday night and all day Sunday for pediatric vaccines as well as Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-7 and Saturdays as well for all other COVID vaccinations. Director Cleaves added that hospitals are also hosting clinics at the schools as we are. He continued that there

are 12,400 kids in that age range in York County. We are trying to get second doses completed by the end of December.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he is hearing lots of positive feedback regarding the vaccination center. He gave thanks to all the EMA people.

- b. Hiring of Anthony Payeur as full-time corrections officer with a hire date of 11/5/21

H.R. Director Linda Corliss approached the Board and disclosed that the first two (hiring requests) are brothers. She has reviewed the NCEU contract and the county's H.R Policy and although this is not recommended, it is allowed.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Anthony Payer as a full-time corrections officer with a hire date of 11-5-21. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- c. Hiring of Zachary Payeur as full-time corrections officer with a hire date of 11/5/21.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Zachary Payeur as a full time corrections officer with a hire date of 11-5-21. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

Discussion- Commissioner Ring asked the Sheriff if since they are being hiring and are brothers, would he create a schedule so they don't work on the same shift together? Sheriff King replied that the only time they cannot work together is if one of them is in a direct supervisory capacity. Commissioner Ring responded that this hasn't been a practice that we've done. H.R. Director Corliss stated that if one were to seek advancement down the road, county policy states if they don't resolve, the county can remove one or the other.

Vote 5-0.

- d. Hiring of Heather Dupuis as a reserve corrections officer with a hire date of 11/5/21

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Heather Dupuis in the position of reserve correction officer with a hire date of 11-5-21.

Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

H.R. Director Linda Corliss informed the Commissioners that five officers are scheduled to attend the academy.

- e. Hiring of Edward Dexter in the position of Fire Instructor II and Hazmat Technician with a date of hire of 11/8/21.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Edward Dexter in two reserve positions as listed above. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked if he (Mr. Dexter) is currently employed with the county as he used to be a reserve deputy. Sheriff- King responded that he used to be a reserve deputy but he did resign. Vote 5-0.

- f. Review and seek approval for jail camera system (executive session may be necessary)

County Manager Greg Zinser reminded the Commissioners that this item has been a subject of conversation for awhile. He added that it may be necessary to go into executive session for security reasons. The bid is \$446,429.64 for a complete replacement of the current system that has been in the jail since 2002.

Sheriff King addressed the Board and stated that he appreciates their support on this. This camera system is sorely needed and important for officers and residents of the jail.

Commissioner Ring asked if this system is going to require any additional staffing? Jail Administrator, Major Nathan Thayer, replied, no. This system is going to replace what we currently have, he explained. We are going to be able to eliminate sub- cameras.

Commissioner Sicard asked if this in the regular budget? County Manager Zinser replied, yes in capital reserves of the jail. Commissioner Sicard asked about scheduling of the project. Jail Administrator, Major Thayer replied that the county will be locked in at this price once we sign (the contract) even if it takes 4-6 months to install.

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to Title 1, Section 402, Subsection 3, paragraph Q. Q. (REALLOCATED FROM T. 1, §402, sub-§3, ¶P) Security plans, staffing plans, security procedures, architectural drawings or risk assessments prepared for emergency events that are prepared for or by or kept in the custody of the Department of Corrections or a county jail if there is a reasonable possibility that public release or inspection of the records would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual or disclose security plans and procedures not generally known by the general public. Information contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to state and county officials if necessary to carry out the duties of the officials or the Department of Corrections under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure; [2015, c. 335, §1 (AMD).]

Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

Commissioner Clark motioned to table this discussion with the understanding that the Sheriff and Jail Administrator will come back in two weeks with additional information to coordinate cameras and locking system. Vote 5-0.

## **7 OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Review and discussion of ARPA project worksheet**

County Manager Zinser explained that ARPA Financial Project Manager David Nalchajian, Sr., has created a spreadsheet with requests and money that has already been committed. Project Manager Nalchajian, Sr. explained the spreadsheets to the Commissioners (sheets included as record in these minutes). County Manager Zinser clarified that the dredge money is not allocated yet but is still being talking about. Mr. Nalchajian explained that requests are at \$50 million but, also \$7 million has to be taken out (Sanford Housing Authority's contribution) resulting in \$43 million on paper.

Commissioner Sicard asked how long before we get an answer from the sewer people? He continued that their estimate of between \$3 million and \$9 million is a big spread. County Manager Zinser replied that we won't have that by the end of the year. The study has to move forward, he explained. Commissioner Sicard replied that it is important for planning purposes to know if we can do something with that land. If not, we can put the money elsewhere.

County Manager Zinser responded that once study is done, we can figure out how big we can go. Our options for septic disposal are Sanford Sewer or on-site, explained the County Manager. Commissioner Sicard stated the original experts said to do more with public sewer. County Manager Zinser replied that the cost

range given to us to run up Route 4 is between \$3 to \$9 million. He added that there will still be a yearly fee. The County Manager continued that with a private system, we will need to know how much does that system cost and ongoing maintenance costs. Commissioner Sicard reminded all that there was a discussion that fees can be discussed as we are bringing on other customers if we pay to run the sewer up. The County Manager replied that we need to wait for the study. Commissioner Clark questioned if the Sanford Sewer District has the right to run pipe in Alfred. The County Manager replied, no, they would have to expand the system so the town would have to vote to approve.

Commissioner Dutremble added that if it was feasible to hook up, anyone hooking in would have to pay an impact fee. A lot of people may not want to hook in and have to pay a fee.

County Manager Zinser stated that they also need to talk about the grinding system that we are putting in the jail that is listed under jail septic upgrades is the grinder.

**8 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

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

Susan Wiswall asked where to find the information on ARPA on the county website. County Manager Zinser replied that the sheets, with a correction, will be placed on the website tomorrow and that he will e-mail Susan a copy.

Janet Drew asked if Layman Way is at full capacity use at this point? County Manager Zinser replied, around 19 or 20 last he heard. There are 24 beds there. County Manager Zinser continued that we are exploring (with ARPA funds) expanding the original mission. Layman Way is set up now as a diversion program from jail so there is not necessarily a lot of opportunities to get in there. We hope to have it opened up more to the public in York County so that anyone in need of rehabilitation for substance abuse can utilize it.

**10 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.