

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 15, 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, December 15, 2021 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews (excused)  
Allen Sicard  
Donna Ring (excused)

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

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

12-15-2021

#### ITEM

**1 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS**

H.R. Director Corliss read the names of employees with their years of service (names included as record).

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

Susan Wiswell of Kittery commented via ZOOM that, in her opinion, the State of Emergency status is being overused. She stated that temporary workers have been moved to reserve status so why continue (with the State of Emergency)? Ms. Wiswell continued that County employees already have 12 paid holidays, so, why are you adding a 13<sup>th</sup> (referencing Junteenth on the agenda)? She said that she worked at Durgin Pines and got 5 paid holidays. Why are taxpayers paying for 13 paid holidays, questioned Susan Wiswell?

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that the State of Emergency affords the county a high level of flexibility. The primary reason is we feel from our perspective, it is useful for the operation of the vaccination center. Reserve employees are those individuals that are still temporary employees. We did transfer a couple of people into more long- term positions. EMA has the flexibility to bring on and hire employees to keep the vaccine center running (during the State of Emergency). H.R. Director Corliss explained that the DR1, DR2 and DR 3 employees are temporary. When the vaccine center closes, they won't have a job.

The State of Emergency also allows the Sheriff if there became a need, to hire special deputies.

Junteenth, explained the County Manager is driven by the Union contracts in terms as to how holidays are declared. It would require a concurrent vote of the Commissioners.

Janet Drew of York commented via ZOOM that she looks forward to visit in January. She voiced her continued concerns about how the ARPA money is being spent. Ms. Drew continued that we know we have mental health and substance abuse issues and we need facilities for that but she questions the need for a large detox building vs. partnering with healthcare facilities in a time when it's hard to find employees. In her opinion, the return on investment is questionable.

Janet Drew commented that she is happy to see that the York County Jail is releasing everyone with an emergency package.

Again, Ms. Drew stated that she believes that concentrating on a facility in Alfred doesn't distribute the (ARPA) money throughout the county.

She asked what the role of the DRE person is that the Sheriff mentioned earlier in the meeting. Lastly, she said that she is interested in hearing if there is any update from OSHA and any further decision about vaccination requirements as OMICRON increases and healthcare facilities are full. It is (in Ms. Drew's opinion) a responsibility to expect employees to do things that is recommended for the public health as we have done for measles and polio.

County Manager Zinser responded that DRE stands for a Drug Recognition Expert and this position takes a lot of training to obtain and keep that credential.

County Manager Zinser added that there have been no updates from OSHA.

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

a. Commissioners' Regular Meeting of December 1, 2021 (tabled as Commissioner Dutremble was absent from the prior meeting. Therefore, there was not a quorum to vote on these minutes.)

Commissioner Clark motioned to table the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

**4 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

a. Warrants to be approved on December 1, 2021 in the amount of \$655,108.73  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant dated December 1, 2021 in the amount of \$655,108.73. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.  
Vote 3-0.

b. Warrants to be approved on December 8, 2021 in the amount of \$628,504.14  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants dated December 8, 2021 in the amount of \$628,504.14. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.  
Vote 3-0.

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

Commissioner Clark learned this afternoon that Arthur Tardif passed away the end of last month. He continued that Mr. Tardif was a resident of Saco and very much committed to the service of his community. Commissioner Clark stated that he had the honor of serving on the Budget Board with Art Tardif many years.

Commissioner Sicard added that Mr. Tardif served many years as a Saco City Councilor and School Board. He was also a member of the chain gang of Thornton Academy football games.

Commissioner Sicard stated that Southern Maine Regional Planning and Development Commissioner had their December meeting and sent a letter of support for utilizing ARPA funds to purchase a dredge. Commissioner Sicard added that SMRPDC will have a transportation proposal to us shortly.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that he knew Mr. Tardif for a long time and he believed he was a deputy Sheriff for years as well as an umpire for years.

## **6 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

### **7 NEW BUSINESS**

a. Consideration of State of Emergency Extension to March 1, 2022- County Manager Zinser explained that EMA Director Art Cleaves and he realize the value of the State of Civil Emergency. Therefore, we ask for formal consideration.

Commissioner Clark commented that he had spoken with Director Cleaves. He informed him that we are vaccinating between 500 to 700 persons a day. EMA Director Cleaves stated that was correct. He added that they have given over 15,000 vaccines since September. Director Cleaves told all that 576 individuals were vaccinated in Kittery today using EMA staff.

Commissioner Clark motioned that in light of continuing vaccinations, the Commissioners approve the Declaration of Civil Emergency to March 1, 2022. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

b. Approve the following new hires:

i. Steven Stackpole in the position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of January 3, 2022-

H.R. Director Corliss addressed the Board to request the above-noted new hire.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Steven Stackpole in the position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of January 3, 2022. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

ii. Tyler Sar in the position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of January 3, 2022- H.R. Director Corliss requested hiring approval of the above-noted individual.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Tyler Sar in the position of Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of January 3, 2022.

Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

H.R. Director Corliss added that they will both attend the January 10, 2022 academy.

c. Approve Limington Contract Deputy Agreement-

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that it was agreed upon to end this contract date of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Deputy assigned there will be returned to general patrol.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the Limington Contract Deputy Agreement with an end date of March 30, 2022. Commissioner Sicard seconded

the motion. DISCUSSION: Commissioner Sicard asked what are they going to do? County Manager Zinser replied they will utilize standard patrol. Commissioner Clark added to his motion to authorize the County Manager to sign. Vote 3-0.

d. Discussion and vote on adding Juneteenth as a County holiday  
(June 19, 2022 falls on a Sunday so Federal and State of Maine holiday is designated as Monday, June 20, 2022)-

The County Manager explained that the Federal Government added Juneteenth as a Federal holiday as did Maine State Government. We do have somewhat of an obligation to discuss this, explained County Manager Zinser. As part of the MSEA and Patrol contracts, members would get this day (or applicable time off credited to them). Teamsters and Non-Union would also get the day off. NCEU has nothing in their contract so that would be a subject of negotiation for them. Commissioner Clark motioned that York County implement June 19<sup>th</sup> as a holiday for their employees. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Dutremble in the past if we don't give it to them, they would grieve. County Manager Zinser replied that in the past, they have (grieved), but, they were National Days of Mourning. This, in my view, is the first new holiday since I've been here. Vote 3-0.

e. Year end surplus allocations

County Manager Zinser explained that the general fund ended with about \$1.5 million. He read the requested allocations (attached as record to these minutes). Commissioner Clark asked what is the current status of undesignated fund. County Manager Zinser replied about \$2.4 million before the requested year end transfers. Commissioner Clark responded after the transfer it would be about \$2.7 million. Commissioner Dutremble commented that in 2007 when the county was in the hole by \$1.2 million, an Ad-hoc committee was formed and developed goals to include hiring a County Manager, Finance Director, H.R. Director and Facilities Manager. Next, was to give back money to the taxpayers. In next year's budget we should be able to give some money back to the taxpayers. County Manager Zinser replied that we would need to develop the budget to see where we are going but agreed there is a possibility of this. The County Manager continued that as the end of the year approaches and we start talking about the budget, we will estimate and see the status of our reserves and we will put back in the budget what we can. This will be done in coordination with the Commissioners and the Budget Committee. He added that the average increase in expenditures is just a little over 1%. The county is in very good shape right now. Commissioner Clark motioned to accept the year end allocations as presented. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

County Manager Zinser asked the Board if we could set up a time next week for a special meeting on Tuesday for new hires. There are two new hires for the District Attorney's office and maybe up to four new C.O.s also to hire. County Manager Zinser suggested an 8:00 a.m. meeting on Tuesday, December 17th just for new hires.

Commissioner Clark motioned to hold a special Commissioners' meeting on Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

## 8 OLD BUSINESS

### a. Commissioner Access to County software programs-

County Manager Zinser reminded the Board that this is a request from the last meeting. He added that this is up to the Commissioners as to where they want to go with this. The County Manager commented that this (matter) was addressed back in February.

Commissioner Clark moved to table this item. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

### b. ARPA appropriation for Clinical Director-

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that they approved the contract with SHA to work with Jen Ouellette for Clinical Director at their last meeting. He is recommending that we allocate \$100,000 out of ARPA for payment of clinical director services over a period of 3 years.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the allocation for purposes of discussion. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Clark stated that his concern with this is the ARPA money is one time money and there seems to be a tendency to believe that this is free money and we can use it for whatever. We had one (clinical director) before ARPA money and we will have one after. He continued that he is a little concerned that we need to look closer and that we should spend it on one- time things. Commissioner Clark continued that he will not be voting for his own motion for this reason. We need to spend the money on things that are identified in the enabling legislation and act accordingly. The Board had a consensus that we spend the money on one- time projects, stated Commissioner Clark.

County Manager Zinser stated that before the motion fails, he doesn't disagree with Commissioner Clark and that he is happy to set aside money for the remainder of this fiscal year (\$35,000) and have it go through the budget process and see where it goes.

Commissioner Dutremble asked didn't we already allocate the money for this position? County Manager Zinser replied, no, the Commissioners agreed to pay \$110 per hour but no money was allocated.

The County Manager continued that we have enough in reserves.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he agrees with what Commissioner Clark said. He added that the important thing is if we can hire the individual.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that new projects are being brought to us like transportation. He commented that he thinks we are going to be running out of money. I think Layman Way has some money set aside so perhaps it can come out of there, stated Commissioner Dutremble.

Vote 0-3 . Motion fails.

County Manager Zinser asked for some direction.

Commissioner Clark motioned to ask that the County Manager bring the Commissioners a proposal to fund \$35,000 for the remainder of the year and then put it in to next years' budget. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Dutremble announced that he has decided to run one more term.

## 9 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 Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 405 (6) (E). Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0. eligible.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned in regards to possible settlement of opioid lawsuits the Commissioners authorize the County Manager to sign settlement documents as they are presented to him under advice of counsel. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Sicard stated he is okay with this motion as long as we are still in line with the attorney's discussion tonight. If anything changes, he would direct the County Manager come back to the Commissioners.  
Vote 3-0.

**\*\*HEARD before Item 9**

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

Janet Drew stated that she thinks a Clinical Director in operations is great. But a detox center will have ongoing operations costs whereas working with others who are already doing these things would make money go further.

**11 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.