

1 **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

2 **August 7, 2024**

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6 YORK,ss

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8 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
9 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
10 being held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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13 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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15 Richard R. Dutremble
16 Richard Clark
17 Robert Andrews
18 Justin Chenette
19 Donna Ring
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21 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.
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24 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

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26 **08-07-2024 ITEM**

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28 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

29 None

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31 **2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

- 32 a. Commissioners' meeting of June 5, 2024
33 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner
34 Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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- 36 b. Commissioners' meeting of July 10, 2024
37 Commissioner Clark approved the minutes with one correction.
38 Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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40 **3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 41 a. Warrants to be approved on July 3, 2024 in the amount of \$1,007,635.15
42 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
43 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 44 b. Warrants to be approved on July 10, 2024 in the amount of \$858,145.08
45 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
46 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 47 c. Warrants to be approved on July 17, 2024 in the amount of \$444,878.92

- 48 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
49 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
50 d. Warrants to be approved on July 24, 2024 in the amount of \$490,220.98
51 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
52 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
53 e. Warrants to be approved on July 31, 2024 in the amount of \$670,921.44
54 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner
55 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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57 **4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY**
58 **COMMISSIONERS**

59 Commissioner Clark congratulated Commissioner Norman Fournier of Aroostook
60 County as he had a facility for homeless people named after him this week.
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63 **5 NEW BUSINESS**

- 64 a. To hear MSEA grievance (may be in executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A.
65 § 405 (6) (A), personnel matter
66 County Manager Zinser asked the MSEA Union if they wished to have their
67 grievance heard in public or executive session? MSEA Union Field
68 Representative Robin Sukeforth-Upton replied executive session.
69 Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to
70 §405 (6) (A) personnel matter.
71 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
72 The Commissioners, County Manager Zinser, Deputy County Manager Corliss
73 Admin. Assistant Kathy Dumont and the County's legal team went into
74 executive session without the Union. The MSEA Union voiced an objection to
75 this.

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77 Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.
78 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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80 Commissioner Andrews motioned to deny the grievance. Commissioner Clark
81 seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.
82

- 83 b. To hear EMS Physician Response Program from Dr. Bob Brown
84 Dr. Bob Brown approached the Board. He gave a brief outline of the services
85 he is proposing in York County. He is proposing to establish a dedicated
86 prehospital physician program. Dr. Brown explained that there are multiple
87 ambulance services in the county but none of them are allowed to perform the
88 advanced services and give medical assistance.
89 This program would allow them to bring these life saving measures to their
90 doorstep. He continued that this program is already a service in Kennebec
91 County between their Emergency Management Agency and a local hospital.
92 Dr. Brown stated that his thought would be to have the same program with
93 hospitals here. He suggested perhaps expanding this service in a phased
94 system to avoid a large cost all at once.
95 Commissioner Ring asked Dr. Brown if his services are currently provided
96 anywhere in York County? He replied in Newfield, Acton and Shapleigh
97

98 Commissioner Chenette stated to Dr. Brown that in his write-up he mentions
99 there is a partnership with Kennebec County EMA and a hospital. Would you
100 envision the same here?
101 Dr. Brown responded, yes and that he is working with Maine Health. They say
102 they are very interested but would need to see more plans.
103
104 Commissioner Dutremble commented that cities and towns already have
105 ambulances and asked if they would approve this?
106 Dr. Brown responded that they all like and support the idea but that he is not
107 sure how it is going to look yet.
108 Commissioner Dutremble asked if this program was implemented would it
109 save monies to the cities and towns?
110 Dr. Brown replied that it would depend how it is implemented but one would
111 see better care.
112 Commissioner Andrews asked Dr. Brown that since it is just him at this point,
113 had he spoken to other providers such as nurse practitioners and physicians'
114 assistants?
115 Dr. Brown stated, yes, they are interested but waiting for an answer from the
116 County.
117 Commissioner Andrews asked if there could be reimbursements through the
118 individual's insurance?
119 Dr. Brown replied that there is no way to do that at this time.
120 Commissioner Chenette asked if it is correct that every town and city can take
121 advantage of such a program. He continued that he is trying to understand for
122 his district. How are you going to be there if needed?
123 Dr. Brown answered that the plan is to not just have me. We would slowly add
124 services.
125 Commissioner Ring asked about the costs and what about liability? Would the
126 county be the employer?
127 Dr. Brown replied that Kennebec County is a third-party vendor and it costs
128 about \$6,000 a year for insurance.
129 Commissioner Chenette commented that he felt a partnership with hospital
130 /health system would result in more trust. He added that he would feel more
131 confident in them being part of a conversation.
132 Dr. Brown responded that they would also like the county on board. That is
133 why he is asking today to start the process to have some legitimacy.
134 Commissioner Chenette asked if there is any data to say that we have a
135 problem here in York County?
136 Dr. Brown replied that cities and towns want to know that the county is in
137 before sharing this data.
138 Commissioner Chenette asked if Kennebec County could share data. Dr.
139 Brown replied, absolutely.
140 Commissioner Dutremble stated that this would have to go through the budget
141 process and I can tell you the budget committee would probably say no.
142 Commissioner Chenette commented that if he heard from the cities and towns
143 in his district, he would listen and want a solution. He added that he is happy
144 to entertain a conversation. He suggested that perhaps Dr. Brown should
145 encourage cities and towns to contact their commissioners. Right now you are
146 presenting something that we don't know there is a problem with, he said to
147 Dr. Brown. Let's continue the conversation and continue to move forward by
148 letting cities and towns contact us.

149 County Manager Zinser stated that we do welcome opinions and to hear from
150 the service chiefs as it is an important program. He suggested having the
151 service chiefs work it up through their towns. He encouraged the service chiefs
152 to bring it up with their higher ups.
153 You mention that there are towns on board. This could be a trial with not much
154 effort similar to the contract deputy approach, suggested County Manager
155 Zinser. The County Manager added that we have to be sensitive to the towns
156 (in regards to adding money to the budget).
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- 158 c. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss to present the following new
159 hires and/or transfers:
- 160 i. Ian Dufour in the position of reserve DAR III in the Emergency Management
161 Agency with a date of hire of August 8, 2024
162 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Ian Dufour in the
163 position of Reserve DAR III in the EMA with a date of hire of August 8,
164 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - 165 ii. Zachary Quadland in the position of reserve Hazmat Technician I in the
166 Emergency Management Agency with a date of hire of August 12, 2024
167 Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote
168 5-0.
 - 169 iii. Jenny Miller in the position of part-time Medical Billing Clerk in the
170 Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of September 9, 2024
171 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jenny Miller in the
172 position of part-time Medical Billing Clerk in the Sheriff's Office.
173 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
174 Discussion: Commissioner Ring asked what the starting salary is. Deputy
175 County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss replied, \$22.12 per hour.
176 Vote 5-0.
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- 178 d. Review and approve Civil process changes-
- 179 Sheriff King approached the Board. County Manager Zinser summarized that
180 Sheriff King wishes to clean up the classifications (of civil process) and is
181 looking to respond to the needs of civil process. He would like to convert two
182 part-time positions into one full-time.
183 Sheriff King stated to the Board that he thinks this reorganization is necessary.
184 He explained that a full-time position is more consistent. He continued that he
185 is recommending three things- reorganization, changing the structure and
186 modifying the pay. Sheriff King added that the civil process deputies are also
187 force multipliers to area police departments.
188 Discussion: Commissioner Ring stated that in reviewing this, she understands
189 and does think it is necessary to do this. However, she said that one of her
190 concerns is the budget. She does not believe that there is control over the
191 expenditures. Civil Process has been making money and there are
192 expenditures. She stated that she thinks it's time it goes back into an
193 expenditure budget. Commissioner Ring continued that there have been big
194 surpluses. If you have that kind of surpluses, you can buy lots of things with
195 no oversight. It needs to go through a budget process and it needs to become
196 an expenditure and not a fund account, commented Commissioner Ring.
197 Commissioner Chenette asked has this been proposed before and why is it a
198 separate account?

199 County Manager Zinser explained that this is a self- sustaining fund. The
200 money they generate supports the division. He is not sitting on several
201 thousands of dollars of money. Right now, it is about \$27,000. Expenses are
202 all listed. The County Manager added that the separate fund does allow a
203 greater amount of control in his opinion.
204 Commissioner Ring replied that many years ago it was all full-time positions,
205 and they were not making enough to sustain their salaries.
206 Commissioner Chenette asked regarding the request for a 5% increase, when
207 was the last time there was an increase?
208 Sheriff King replied that he can't recall. They do get COLA, but we are not
209 keeping up with other counties.
210 Commissioner Chenette motioned to reclassify Rob Crawford from part-time
211 to reserve status. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
212 Commissioner Chenette motioned to consolidate two part-time positions to one
213 full- time position. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote. 5-0.
214 Commissioner Chenette motioned to increase civil process pay by 5% effective
215 August 12, 2024.
216 Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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218 e. Review and approve RFP for dredge engineering –
219 EMA Director Art Cleaves approached the Board. County Manager Zinser
220 explained that four proposals were received. He added that they did undertake
221 a review of each, and that this information was given to the Commissioners
222 The County Manager stated that Anchor QEA came out on top. Therefore, the
223 proposal is to authorize approval for Anchor QEA.
224 Commissioner Chenette asked EMA Director Cleaves if there were any
225 projects that stood out that helped illustrate their (Anchor QEA) expertise.
226 EMA Director Cleaves replied that all four packets had great projects, but that
227 Anchor QEA showed great collaborative effort and strategic outlook.
228 Commissioner Chenette added that he did see they worked with the Barnstable
229 County dredging.
230 Commissioner Chenette motioned to approve the RFP dredge engineering
231 contract to Anchor QEA. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote
232 5-0.
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234 f. Set date for tax abatement denial appeal (Town of Berwick)
235 (recommended date of September 4, 2024)
236 Commissioner Dutremble would like to move this item to the September 18th
237 meeting.
238 Commissioner Clark motioned to set the date for the hearing for the tax
239 abatement to September 18, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
240 motion. Vote 5-0.
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242 g. Memo from Sheriff King to promote Corrections Officer Ellis Mattison
243 to Sergeant
244 Sheriff King approached the Board and explained that there were three
245 candidates, but Corporal Mattison rose to the top (scored best). He added that
246 he is an outstanding officer.
247 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the promotion of Ellis Mattison to
248 Sergeant effective August 11, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
249 motion. Vote 5-0.

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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.