

1 **COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

September 18, 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, September 18, 2024, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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13 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- 14 Richard R. Dutremble
- 15 Richard Clark
- 16 Robert Andrews
- 17 Justin Chenette (excused)
- 18 Donna Ring

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20
21 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

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23
24 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

25
26 **09-18-2024 ITEM**

27
28 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

29 Janet Drew (via Zoom) informed all that the Board of Visitors held a meeting this
30 past Saturday and got to talk to people in the jail. Concerns about the medical
31 assistance treatment program were mentioned.

32
33 **2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

- 34 a. Commissioners' meeting of September 4, 2024
35 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner
36 Andrews seconded. Vote 4-0.
- 37 b. Commissioners' special meeting of September 12, 2024
38 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of September
39 12, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded. Vote 4-0.

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41 **3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 42 a. Warrants to be approved on September 4, 2024 in the amount of \$297,511.71
43 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner
44 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- 45 b. Warrants to be approved on September 11, 2024 in the amount of \$777,329.28
46 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner
47 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

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4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

None

5 TO HEAR TAX ABATEMENT DENIAL APPEAL

County Manager Zinser explained that Mr. Howarth applied for the homestead exemption in 1998 and never received it. He was granted an exemption for the year 2023.

County Manager Zinser swore in Mr. Howarth and Berwick Town Manager, Arthur Capello.

David Howarth addressed the Board. He stated that he had been questioning the clerks for the last two to three years and they told him to fill out another (homestead exemption) form. He continued that he went back to the Berwick Town Hall and told them he still wasn't getting the exemptions. An employee took out his file and found a (homestead exemption) form he filled out in 1998. He only got a refund for one year (2023).

Mr. Howarth stated that he went to see James (former town manager) and he had no answers for him.

Commissioner Ring asked how many times did you fill out the form? Mr. Howarth replied, twice. Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Howarth if there were any papers in his folder? Mr. Howarth responded that there were lots of papers in his file.

The County Manager asked if there were any homestead exemption forms in the file between 1998 and recently? Mr. Howarth replied that he didn't have a clue he could get this (homestead exemption). He stated that a friend had looked at his property tax bill and asked why he wasn't getting the homestead exemption.

Arthur Capello, Berwick Town Manager, approached the Board and explained that on June 18, 2024 this matter was brought to the Board by the town's assessor. The assessor explained that a mistake had been made on Mr. Howarth's tax bill for 2023 so the Board of Selectmen granted him an abatement for one year.

Historically, the Board of Selectmen only goes back one year even though the law does allow up to 3 years; explained Town Manager Capello.

Commissioner Ring asked why not grant three years? Town Manager Capello Explained that the Berwick Board only grants one year.

Commissioner Ring commented that since it was missing since 1998, something should've been done. Berwick Manager replied that it (form completed) has to be done every year and we didn't have any until this year.

Commissioner Dutremble commented doesn't it get renewed automatically? Mine does.

County Manager Zinser asked Berwick Manager Capello if Mr. Howarth filed the abatement request for the two prior years?

Berwick Town Manager Capello replied that Mr. Howarth only filed for one year. Commissioner Clark commented that if he filed in 1998 we can't give him that many years but that he is willing to give him the three (allowed by law).

Commissioner Clark moved to grant the abatement for the last three years.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

County Manager Zinser recommended the motion reflect granting Mr. Howarth the

98 exemption for 2021 and 2022.
99 Commissioner Clark withdrew his motion.

100
101 Commissioner Clark motioned that the town of Berwick grant Mr. Howarth the
102 homestead exemption for two additional years. Commissioner Ring seconded the
103 motion. Vote 4-0.
104

105 County Manager Zinser explained that the Findings of Fact will be prepared and
106 voted on by the Commissioners at the next meeting. After executed, we will send
107 the Findings of Fact to the Town (of Berwick) and Mr. Howarth.
108

109 **6 NEW BUSINESS**

110 a. To review and discuss county vehicle policy-

111 County Manager Zinser explained that this policy was requested by
112 Commissioner Ring at a prior meeting. This started years ago and then Covid
113 hit and we didn't continue, explained County Manager Zinser. If
114 Commissioners have specific issues, let me know.
115 Commissioner Ring asked if this is protected from any union benefits? County
116 Manager Zinser replied that there will be a conflict so if imposed, there will
117 have to be impact bargaining.

118 Commissioner Ring stated that she believes it is important that we have a
119 policy.

120 The County Manager asked the Commissioners if there are specific issues that
121 they want put in the policy given them?

122 Commissioner Ring replied that her concerns are addressed in this policy.
123 She asked if we post it before it's implemented?

124 County Manager Zinser replied that he will reintroduce the document to the
125 Department heads for input before the next meeting. He added that he doesn't
126 see this affecting MSEA, but it would affect Teamsters and FOP and in limited
127 circumstances, non-union (administration.).

128 The County Manager stated that he can probably get something back to the
129 Commissioners by December. The Commissioners are fine with that.
130

131 b. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss to present the following new
132 hires and/or transfers:

133 i. Donald Dundon, Jr. in the position of full-time Maintenance Tech I in the
134 Facilities Department with a date of hire of September 23, 2024

135 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Donald Dundon, Jr.
136 in the position of full-time Maintenance Tech I in the Facilities Department
137 with a date of hire of September 23, 2024. Commissioner Andrews
138 seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

139 ii. Tianna Sutherland in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the
140 Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of September 23, 2024

141 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Tianna Sutherland
142 in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with
143 a date of hire of September 23, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded
144 the motion.

145 Vote 4-0.

146 iii. Thomas Bryant in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the
147 Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of September 23, 2024

148 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Thomas Bryant in
149 the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a
150 date of hire of September 23, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
151 motion. Vote 4-0.

- 152 iv. ~~Alexander Chadbourne in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in~~
153 ~~the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of September 23, 2024~~

154 NAME WITHDRAWN FOR HIRING REQUEST

- 155 v. Robert Nejad, Jr. in the position of full-time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's
156 office with a date of hire of September 23, 2024-

157 Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss informed all that Mr. Nejad, Jr. was
158 previously employed by the York County Sheriff's Office.

159 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Robert Nejad, Jr. in
160 the position of full-time Patrol Deputy in the Sheriff's Office with a date of
161 hire of September 23, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

162 Discussion: Commissioner Ring asked why did he leave employment at
163 York County? Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss explained that he
164 had a family issue out west but has now relocated back here. Vote 4-0.

165
166 Commissioner Clark asked Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss
167 what the current number of Corrections Officers was. She replied probably
168 around 52 full-time and 6-7 reserves.

- 169 c. Deputy Manager/H.R. Director Corliss to seek approval of new position
170 for Emergency Management Coordinator-

171 County Manager Zinser explained to the Board that part of the budget
172 approved contemplated a new position in EMA. The job description was
173 given to you. The budget contains a little over 50% of the funding for this
174 position. Grant monies will cover the rest. The coordinator position will
175 assist EMA. County Manager Zinser stated that Art is here and Megan is on
176 Zoom if there are questions.

177 Commissioner Ring stated that she did not see this position in the budget.

178 County Manager Zinser stated that the funding was put in (to the budget) and
179 it said it was moved over from the Juvenile Fire moved into EMA budget.

180 Commissioner Ring stated that from her perspective it was not included in the
181 budget and she is not comfortable creating new positions after the budget has
182 been passed. There was no supporting documentation given showing that this
183 position is necessary.

184 Commissioner Clark asked what happens to the Juvenile Fire Program as he
185 would not want that (program) to go away.

186 County Manager Zinser explained that those duties were given to another
187 EMA employee who is a former fire chief.

188 EMA Director Art Cleaves approached the Board and explained that the
189 Juvenile Fire position is not being let go. Our employee is a former Fire Chief
190 and very well educated in this area.

191 Commissioner Clark motioned to move forward with the Emergency
192 Management Coordinator position. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
193 motion.

194 DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring commented that with where the budgets
195 and taxpayer's costs are and cost of living that residents have been burdened
196 with, she doesn't see the urgency or the need to create a new position. We are
197 putting quite a burden on our citizens with the \$2 million we are going to be
198 looking for to fund our (building) projects.

Vote 3-1 (Commissioner Ring opposed)

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7 OLD BUSINESS

None

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)

Janet Drew (via Zoom) stated that the last discussion was interesting but that she missed the decision.

She also asked if the Commissioners are going to give us a little feedback from their tour of the jail?

County Manager Zinser answered that the Board did approve the item with a 3-1 vote.

County Manager Zinser informed Janet Drew that they are aware of the MAT program and the Board does have a general awareness. Our tour focuses on the building. He continued that the Board needs to be aware of some of the deficiencies like the boilers and generator.

Commissioner Dutremble added that the Maine County Commissioners' Association has requested over \$8 million for the Medical Assisted Treatment program and the State only appropriated \$4 million.

10 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

From: Arthur W Cleaves <awcleaves@yorkcountymaine.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 1:33 PM
To: Gregory T Zinser <gtzinser@yorkcountymaine.gov>
Cc: Megan E Arsenault <mearsenault@yorkcountymaine.gov>
Subject: Communications vehicle for EMA Tactical Teams

After researching many vehicles we believe this vehicle will do everything that we need for Tactical Communications- it will serve 4 of our tactical teams - IMAT, Radio team, Tactical Dispatch and UAS team.

It's a 2002 and very similar to Command 2 – but this vehicle only has 42K miles on in and zero rust

It is already set up for communications and has an additional 6kw generator – consols on the inside and it would be easy to 'wrap' a green stripe on the side to match our other vehicles.

The dealer is asking \$28 K and we could use our vehicle reserve fund for the purchase - if approved by the Commissioners . The vehicle is located in Texas and we would have to arrange transportation if approved.

Re: Listing # 30065

Lang Collins <langcollins@yahoo.com>

Mon 8/12/2024 12:00 PM

To: Scott Gagne <SRGAGNE@yorkcountymaine.gov>

It's a very nice rig , just posted it a few days ago . Call me anytime . 214-683-5125

Lang Collins

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2024, at 10:57 AM, Lang Collins <langcollins@yahoo.com> wrote:

It is

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 12, 2024, at 10:41 AM, Scott Gagne <SRGAGNE@yorkcountymaine.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am interested in one of your listings online. Listing # 30065. This is a 2002 Ford E-450 mobile office. Is it still available?

Thanks

<Outlook-q5d1clnb.jpg>

Scott Gagne

Training and Response Coordinator

207-324-1578



Homepage Search 2002 FORD E-450 MOBILE OFFICE 7.3 DIESEL 42K MILES. 6K WATT GENERATOR

2002 FORD E-450 MOBILE OFFICE 7.3 DIESEL 42K MILES. 6K WATT GENERATOR

2002 • Type 3 • Diesel



\$28,000.00

Condition:	Used
Year:	2002
Mileage:	42,000 miles
Type:	Type 3
Chassis Manufacturer:	Ford
Chassis Model:	E-450
Fuel Type:	Diesel
Drive Type:	2WD
Ambulance Manufacturer:	Wheeled Coach
Remount:	No
Module Headroom:	74Inches
Location:	Plano

📞 214 *** ** - reveal

Send message

Offer ID #30065

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Description

This is a very rare creature! It was built for the U.S Govt by Wheeled Coach to be a National Severe Weather Laboratory. Not even 42k miles on this 7.3 diesel engine. It also comes with a 6000 watt generator with only 700 hrs. Everything operates as it should and be converted to be



Homepage Search 2002 FORD E-450 MOBILE OFFICE 7.3 DIESEL 42K MILES. 6K WATT GENERATOR

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214 *** ** - reveal

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Description

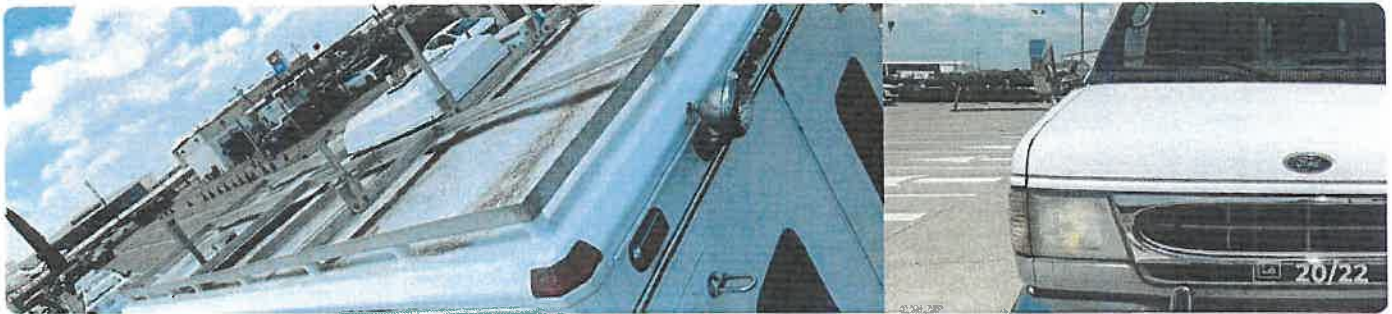
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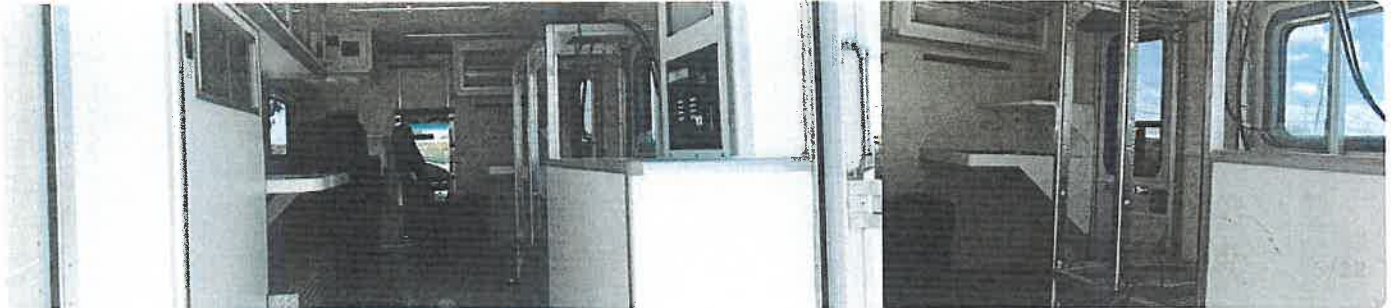
+ Sell My Ambulance



Homepage Search 2002 FORD E-450 MOBILE OFFICE 7.3 DIESEL 42K MILES. 6K WATT GENERATOR

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF YORK**

45 Kennebunk Road
Alfred, Maine 04002

(207) 459-2313
Fax (207) 324-9494

www.yorkcountymaine.gov

Robert L. Andrews
Vice-Chairperson
District 1

Richard R. Dutremble
Chairperson
District 2

Justin Chenette
District 3

Donna L. Ring
District 4

Richard Clark
District 5

Gregory T. Zinser
County Manager

Kathryn A. Dumont
Assistant to the Manager

Lorene B. Lemieux
Finance Director

Linda Hutchins- Cortiss
Deputy County Manager
Human Resource Director

October 2, 2024

David Howarth
158 Route 236
Berwick, Maine

Town of Berwick
11 Sullivan Street
Berwick, Maine 03901

RE: Decision on Abatement Hearing
Map/Lot R066-16-A
Town of Berwick

Dear Mr. Howarth and Town of Berwick:

On September 18, 2024, the York County Board of County Commissioners held a hearing on an appeal filed by Mr. David Howarth of a tax abatement decision made by the Town of Berwick on June 5, 2024. Mr. Howarth appeared and testified on his own behalf. Arthur Capello, Berwick Town Manager, appeared and testified on behalf of the Town of Berwick. The Commissioners make the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. Mr. Howarth owns a parcel of real estate located at 158 Route 236 in Berwick, Maine. (Map/Lot R066-16-A).
2. In 2024, Mr. Howarth filed a homestead exemption request with the Town of Berwick for tax year 2023. After Mr. Howarth requested the homestead exemption for tax year 2023, it was discovered in the Town of Berwick's records that Mr. Howarth filed a timely homestead exemption application 1998 that was

approved. The homestead exemption, however, was never applied to the property in error.

3. The Town of Berwick granted Mr. Howarth an abatement in the amount of \$389.30 for tax year 2023 pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841(1).
4. 36 M.R.S. § 841(1) permits an abatement of up to three years in the case of an “illegality, error or irregularity in assessment[.]” The reason why the Town of Berwick granted an abatement of only one year, rather than the three years permitted by statute, is that the Town of Berwick’s pattern or practice is to grant one year only.
5. The Commissioners found that the failure to apply the homestead exemption approved in 1998 constitutes an “illegality error or irregularity in assessment” pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 841(1) and voted unanimously (4-0) to grant an additional abatement for tax years 2021 and 2022.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Dated: _____, 2024

Richard R. Dutremble, Chair

Dated: _____, 2024

Robert Andrews

Dated: _____, 2024

Donna Ring

Dated: _____, 2024

Richard Clark