

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

November 18, 2020

*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 18, 2020 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble  
Michael J. Cote  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews  
Allen Sicard

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

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

#### 11-18-20      ITEM

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

Commissioner-Elect Donna Ring addressed her concerns about the agenda and when it is made public and that no supporting documentation is attached. She added this is especially difficult when seeking approval or overriding a policy when no data is given out. The Commissioner-Elect continued that she believed that any new item listed under “New Business” needs to be discussed and then perhaps approved at the next meeting.

( via phone) Susan Wiswell from Kittery congratulated both Commissioner Clark and Commissioner-Elect Ring and thanked Commissioner Cote for all his work for the county and wished him the very best in the future.

Deputy Manager/H.R. Director, Linda Corliss approached the Board and stated that she wished to recognize York County employees for the terrific job they did with their contributions to the food drive held in conjunction with York County Food Pantry. With the York County employees’ donations, 900 cans of cranberry sauce were purchased through Cal’s Shop n Save who gave us a deal. Deputy Manager Corliss gave a “shout out” of appreciation to those involved.

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

a. Regular Meeting of November 4, 2020-

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 4, 2020.

Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote- 4 affirmative while

Commissioner Cote abstained.

**3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- a. Approve treasurer's warrant dated November 5, 2020 in the amount of \$545,685.20  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Approve treasurer's warrant dated November 12, 2020 in the amount of \$536,912.57  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

- a. Commissioner Cote to give update on Jail Standards issue/Public Hearing  
Commissioner Cote asked that the Commissioners review the packet regarding the proposed rule changes from the Maine Department of Corrections with letters. (attached as record to these mins.)

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

County Manager Greg Zinser asked EMA Director Art Cleaves to give an overview on the reimbursement process for COVID-19 items.  
EMA Director Cleaves distributed a spreadsheet to the Commissioners (attached as record of these minutes). He informed all that from the Commissioners' permission to purchase stock, they have been able to help York County and of the \$605,000 spent for supplies, York County will get reimbursed at 100%.  
Commissioner Cote asked Director Cleaves if this is a sure thing? EMA Director Cleaves stated, yes and that two checks have come in and the rest is in the cycle to be received before the end of the year.  
Commissioner Cote asked how our cities and towns are with getting supplies? Director Art Cleaves replied they are good but that the concern is the long-term care facilities and staffing for them. Commissioner Cote responded that this speaks well with what the County has been doing in supporting their towns.  
EMA Director Cleaves stated that we are the only county that's been doing this from the beginning.  
Commissioner Sicard commented that the vaccine will be rolling out to first responders as early as next month. Do we have the refrigerators needed for the vaccine?  
Director Art Cleaves explained that they are working closing with Maine CDC and DHHS. They don't have a plan at the State level yet but they know we are willing to help. Commissioner Sicard- added that Universities may have freezers.  
Commissioner Clark thanked EMA Director Art Cleaves and his staff. 99.9% reimbursement approval is great work, stated Commissioner Clark.

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

- a. To review and seek approval on Correctional Health Partners, LLC Extension Agreement with jail-  
County Manager Zinser explained that this item was tabled by the Commissioners at their last meeting.  
Commissioner Dutremble motioned to take this item off the table. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve a one- year extension (amendment) to the agreement and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Cote asked why a one- year extension? Sheriff King replied that they only had one bidder and it crept up on us with COVID hitting. He added that it is not wise to have persons (bidders) in the facility.

County Manager Zinser explained that when the original RFP from three years ago was put out, it did notify the bidders that this (agreement) would be eligible for two- one- year extensions.

Vote 5-0.

- a. To review and seek approval on sub-recipient Agreement with Caring Unlimited – regarding domestic violence investigator-

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that this Agreement has been reviewed by legal counsel and appears to be a standard sub-recipient Agreement and gave this their approval.

Commissioner Clark motioned to execute the sub- recipient agreement and allow the manager to sign it. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cote questioned if the total cost of the investigator is covered in this grant? Sheriff King responded that it is his understanding that it is. Commissioner Cote then asked if this investigator is going to be available to investigate in all of York County or just in our area? Sheriff King replied that most of the other towns already have them. So, our towns will be his or her main area. But, they may be called away if it is a major case. Commissioners Andrews clarified then the towns covered by State Police wouldn't be covered by this (agreement)? Sheriff King replied, typically not. "But, stated Sheriff King, "once the State Police find out we have this investigator, we will be tasked with them".

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that this matter was already discussed at a prior meeting and that the Commissioners directed it be reviewed by our attorney.

Vote 5-0.

- b. Seek approval for one-time policy modification to increase annual buy back from 10 days to twenty days-

County Manager Zinser requested that the Commissioners contemplate a one- time variation of the buy -back policy. He stated that in this time with COVID many individuals were not able to take vacation. Therefore, he is asking that the buy- back policy be extended from 10 days to 20 days.

The County Manager offered clarification that, if approved by the Commissioners, the funds would come from (outstanding liability). He explained that the County budgets for that (earned time). He added that the 10 days are budgeted for and that the extra ten would come out of the liability account and reduce the county's outstanding liability. County Manager Zinser also stated that he had received phone calls of appreciation for bringing this forward to the Commissioners, understanding that it is not yet approved.

Commissioner Sicard asked if he understands that this is one time only for 2020? He also asked if the employees understand this?

County Manager Greg Zinser replied, yes, they understand. He added that particularly in this year, there were a lot of situations that occurred that prevented people from taking vacation.

Commissioner Dutremble questioned was it wise to say 2021 budget year? What happens in next budget year if it happens again?

The County Manager replied that it may come back depending on what happens.

Commissioner Dutremble recommended taking these funds out of the fiscal year 2021 budget.

Commissioner Clark questioned where it is stated that this is a one-time deal.

County Manager Zinser clarified that he gave the current policy to the Commissioners for their review.

Commissioner Clark stated that he approved this one-time change in policy in concept but that he wants something in writing that explains what we are doing and why that goes in the file. But, he will approve it tonight so that employees can make their plans.

County Manager Zinser responded that it would be authorized as record (of the minutes) but that he is happy to draft something.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve this matter in concept with the County Manager bringing us specific language at the next meeting to memorialize intent of this policy exception. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

Vote 5-0.

7

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Spirit of America Awards-awardees' accomplishments to be read aloud at December 2, 2020 Commissioners meeting.

County Manager Greg Zinser informed all that the plaques are in. He added that letters were prepared for the Commissioners to sign and will be mailed out along with the plaques in a couple of days. At the next (Commissioners') meeting we will read aloud their information. The County Manager asked if we should begin the meeting at 4:00 as there are 27 people. Commissioner Clark stated that he would prefer the meeting start at 3:30.

Commissioner Clark motioned to set the time for the next meeting (December 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 3:30. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**\*\*\*Heard after public comments\*\*\***

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)**

a. 1 M.R.S.A. 405(6)(A) County Manager's review

Commissioner Cote motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

Action taken-

Commissioner Cote explained that the County Manager had his yearly review before the Commissioners and that it was found to be satisfactory. He added that the Commissioners asked the County Manager to come back (to the next meeting) with a generated, 2-year extension.

9 **\*\*\*Heard prior to Executive session\*\*\***

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

Commissioner-elect Donna Ring asked if there is a cost or value to the one time change of the (buyback) policy? The County Manager replied that he doesn't know how many people are going to take this.

Ms. Ring stated that she wants to express her concern about this. The policy is very clear and they also got a 5- day buy back in June. There are another 100 employees that have very strict language about this and it is use it or loose it. Why can one group have a one-time policy change? These people are getting 41 days and can carry 25 days beyond, stated Ms. Ring. We budget for 54 weeks now. Are we giving them too much time, asked Ms. Ring? This is a major cost as well as an extremely generous earned time benefit. This shouldn't be a policy just for one.

Susan Wiswell asked (via phone) in regards to the proposed jail rules discussed earlier in the meeting, how can we make that information available to the public? Commissioner Cote asked the County Manager to get the information on our website? County Manager Zinser replied, yes and we can advertise on Facebook. The Secretary of State has also been advertising it.

Cheryl Mills (via phone) stated that she plans on participating. She thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to call in (at Commissioners' meetings) to further community involvement. She added that it is difficult to clearly hear other participants. Ms. Mills asked if the Commissioners are looking at a better way of involving people such as utilizing ZOOM? Commissioner Cote replied that she had a good comment. He continued that three meetings ago we had a discussion about setting up ZOOM. The manager is working on that and the equipment has been ordered and upon arrival IT will install it.

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the construction of new courthouse has started.

## **10      ADJOURN**

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