

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 17, 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, February 17, 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

#### 2-17-2021            ITEM

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

Janet Drew of York ME (via ZOOM) asked how we are doing with reducing arrests in York County. One of the other counties have stopped all non- violent arrests, stated Ms. Drew. She continued that Sheriff King quoted that we have a similar program. Since COVID, the Board of Visitors hasn't had access to talk with prisoners but there is a mandate that the Board does talk with mentally challenged people and statute that Commissioners are required to visit the jail, stated Janet Drew. County Manager Greg Zinser responded that it is the Commissioner's obligation to inspect the jail. Typically, this occurs in the month of February but probably they will be doing this a bit later due to COVID. Sheriff King addressed Ms. Drew's concerns and stated that they have worked with the courts regarding the types of arrests and have an intake modification plan. We have diverted some arrests away and we require that police just issue a summons whenever practical. We still have telehealth and counselors still come in. Sheriff King continued that he has a very active Board of Visitors and we talk about these same issues. Later on in the meeting, he stated that he will be speaking to the Commissioners about a tablet that we will be introducing into the jail. Sheriff King stated that they don't keep statistics as to how many people are diverted away from jail. We don't know how many times police officers do that. Janet Drew finding out why they didn't divert (*when someone is placed in the jail*) might be helpful.

- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
- a. February 3, 2021 Regular Meeting-  
Commissioner Clark pointed out a correction and motioned to approve the minutes with the correction. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - b. February 5, 2021 Special Meeting- Commissioner Clark stated there was an error and then motioned to approve the minutes with the corrections. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4- 1 with Commissioner Andrews abstaining.

- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER’S WARRANTS**
- a. February 3, 2021 in the amount of \$400,587.64  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - b. February 10, 2021 in the amount of \$695,734.44  
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**
- a. Give update on vaccination site  
County Manager Greg Zinser stated that hopefully by the end of next week York County’s vaccination site in Sanford can be online. The issue is the IT for Maine Health. Director Cleaves is on the line if there are any questions, stated the County Manager. Director Cleaves echoed what the Manager said in that the center is pretty much ready to go. Two factors are what is the schedule for the vaccine and obtaining the vaccine other than what Maine Health is getting now so that we know the number of vaccines we are expecting in the following weeks. Commissioner Ring asked what the anticipated hours are for the facility. Director Art Cleaves replied it will be open 8 hours a day but that he will have to get back to her on the start time. Commissioner Ring asked if the site will be open Monday through Friday? EMA Director Cleaves responded that the intent is to work 6 days a week and that they may even ramp that up if the supply is enough. 1,000 vaccines a day is the goal, stated Director Cleaves and adding that perhaps even more than that.  
Commissioner Ring asked if there is enough staffing. Director Cleaves replied that staffing is looking very good. We will have volunteers from UNE and towns will supply (EMT’s). He added that he will have those numbers in a few days with specific names. Commissioner Sicard asked for confirmation that the City of Sanford will provide police support for traffic. Director Art Cleaves responded that yes, they have agreed to supply security on a day- to -day basis.  
Commissioner Dutremble asked how does one register? EMA Director Cleaves replied through Maine Healthcare. Maine residents can go online or call to register. Commissioner Dutremble asked how the person will be notified-through the center or Maine Health? Director Cleaves replied registration is centrally controlled through Maine Health.

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

a. Commissioner review and possible approval of Securus contract- The County Manager explained that the jail currently has a contract with Securus for telephone communication. Sheriff King addressed the Board and said that COVID made us re-think a lot of things with one being video arraignment and visitation for inmates. We asked SECURUS about the tablet. They are willing to put in the infrastructure so we can get video signals into this secure area. It is a contract but it won't cost the taxpayers any money. The inmate pays for this usage.

Commissioner Clark asked if an inmate wants to make a call is it a collect call? Captain Bean explained that inmates can make calls using a debit account through SECURUS and it is a fee structured account. Commissioner Clark commented that there are a huge number of companies making a huge amount of money that he sees as exploitive. He continued that he would rather look at something that is less money rather than using a huge corporation in Texas which is what we are trying to push on people. Commissioner Clark continued that he doesn't think he will be voting for this contract. He added that he would hope the jail would be looking at other ways to do this at a reasonable cost and be able to treat people a little more equitably. Captain Bean explained that the tablets expand what we can give to the inmates such as phone calls from their cells. Defendants can reach out to their attorneys for free, also, commented Captain Bean. Sheriff King stated that he appreciated these comments. He continued that there was a recent article in the New York Times that talked about SECURUS. We had a conversation with the SECURUS representative about this. She said she is cognizant of that and they very strongly reviewed that. If there was another vendor that was more equitable, stated Sheriff King, we would look at that. We have to make sure the calls are recorded and restricted so, this is a huge expense. Sheriff King stated that he shared Commissioner Clark's frustration. There is a lot of upfront money and engineering that goes into this.

Commissioner Ring asked if she understood correctly that inmates can purchase a tablet and indigent inmates would have one to use. Captain Bean explained that actually, there will be "pool" tablets for use. For example, if there's an inmate that won't be at the jail long, he or she can use one of the tablets for about \$5 a month and they can keep in their cell and order a movie, etc. Commissioner Ring asked if they break it it's not the county's problem. Captain Bean responded, no, there is insurance for the tablets.

Commissioner Ring motioned to table this item to further review the contract. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 (Commissioner Sicard opposed).

b. To schedule a poverty abatement denial appeal (City of Sanford)  
(recommended date of March 3, 2021)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve this date and directs the Manager's office to notify the parties. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.  
Vote 5-0.

**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)**

- a. Conduct an executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) labor negotiations- Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to the above-noted statute. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.  
Sheriff King and Attorney O'Brien were present in this session.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.  
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Discussions with legal counsel pursuant to 1 M.R. S.A. § 405 (6) (E)  
Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to the above-noted statute. 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.

No action taken for either session.

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

**\*\*\*\*HEARD before executive Sessions\*\*\*\*** Janet Drew thanked the Commissioners for tabling the SECURUS contract item. She commented that she believes there has to be better ways coming or known (to provide this service). Cheryl Dearman Mills (via ZOOM) asked what the cost per month for a resident of jail would be to use a tablet and are they allowed to keep the tablet in their cell 24 hours a day? Sheriff King responded that they don't have an exact cost but believes it to be around \$5 to \$6 a month and yes, they can have it in their cell. Janet Drew asked if that cost would include all their communications? Sheriff King replied, no, there is an individual charge for each call they make but programming, education, law library, music is free. Janet Drew asked what the cost is for calls inmates make? Sheriff King responded that he was not sure but that SECURUS gives everyone two 30-minute phone calls per week. They have been doing for 6 months.

**10 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.