

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

January 7, 2015

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 17, 2014 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Sallie Chandler
Marston D. Lovell
Richard R. Dutremble
Michael J. Cote
Gary Sinden

County Manager Gregory Zinser was present at the meeting.
Human Resource Director Linda Corliss was also present at the meeting.

All present were invited to rise and salute the flag of the United States.

Call Meeting to Order

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

1-07-15 ITEM

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

None

2 TO SELECT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER CHAIRPERSON FOR 2015

Commissioner Dutremble nominated Sallie Chandler for the position of Chairperson.
Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0

3 TO SELECT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR 2015

Commissioner Cote nominated Commissioner Dutremble for the position of Vice-Chairperson for 2015. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

4 TO SELECT A WORKFORCE CENTER DIRECTOR FOR 2015

Commissioner Sallie Chandler stated that she would like to continue to be the representative from the Board unless anyone had any objections. Commissioner Cote nominated Commissioner Chandler to be the representative from the York County Commissioners on the workforce center board. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

5 TO SELECT A SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING REPRESENTATIVE FOR 2015

Chair Sallie Chandler nominated Commissioner Dutremble as the Board's representative for Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

6 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2014

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' December 17th meeting. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 (with Commissioner Lovell abstaining as we was not yet on the board)

7 TO ADOPT ROBERT'S RULES OF GOVERNANCE FOR CONDUCTING 2015 COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve adopting Robert's Rules for conducting the 2015 Commissioners' meetings. Commissioner Lovell seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

8 TO SELECT A DAY AND TIME FOR CONDUCTING REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETINGS FOR 2015

Manager Recommendations: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays beginning at 4:30 P.M.-following dates: January 7th, January 21st, February 4th, February 18th, March 4th, March 18th, April 1st, April 15th, May 6th, May 20th, June 3rd (June 17th if needed), July 1st (July 15th if needed), August 5th, (August 19th if necessary), September 2nd, September, 16th, October 7th, October 21st, November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, December 16th.

Commissioner Sinden motioned to accept the recommended meeting dates for 2015. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

9 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT POLICIES FOR 2015 AS FOLLOWS:

a. MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE (manager recommends '14 IRS rate of 56.5 cents)

Commissioner Sinden motioned to accept the mileage rate of 56.5 cents. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. MEALS ON COUNTY BUSINESS RATE (manager recommends '14 rates of

\$10.00-breakfast, \$15.00 lunch, \$20.00 dinner or \$45 per diem)

**Special note:* When the event you are attending includes any of the meals you are required to take part in the meal. If you are staying at a hotel that provides breakfast, you must utilize the breakfast provided by the hotel. In these instances, the amounts stated above will be deducted from the per diem rate.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the meal rates as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. POLICE/ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORTS (manager recommends '14 rate of \$15.00)

Commissioner Sinden motioned to approve the rate of \$15.00 for police and accident reports. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Commissioner Lovell asked for approval from Sheriff King. Sheriff King approves of this rate. Vote 5-0.

d. BACKGROUND CHECK FEES (manager recommends '14 rate of \$15.00)

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the background check fee as recommended. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

e. NOTARIZATION/ATTESTATION FEES (manager recommends '14 rate of \$5.00/\$10.00)

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to accept the fees as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

10 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sinden reported that work on the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge connecting Portsmouth and Kittery has begun. Projecting 6 month closure even though construction won't be done until 2017.

11 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Discussion of Commissioner attendance at MCCA annual meeting on January 14, 2015.

Commissioner Cote stated that he will attend the risk pool meeting which begins at 9:00 a.m. as well as the annual meeting which begins at 10:00 a.m. He added that MCCA is looking for a head count. Also, Commissioner Cote stated that other information is supposed to be provided in the next couple of days and will make sure that he forwards it on to the County Manager who will then forward it to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Lovell stated that he plans on attending as well as Commissioner Chair Chandler. The County Manager responded that his office will notify MCCA.

Review and recommendation for approval of draft legislation for ambulance service.

Commissioner Lovell asked if we had a sponsor for the bill. The County Manager responded that Representative Beavers of South Berwick has agreed to sponsor the bill. Commissioner Lovell inquired if we were looking for more legislators to sponsor this bill. County Manager Zinser responded that we could if the Commissioners would like. Commissioner Chandler suggested Senator Ron Collins and stated that she would contact

him. Commissioner Sinden asked for clarification in that this does not mean we are going to be starting an ambulance service it is just obtaining legislation to assist towns. The County Manager replied that this is correct and that this bill clarifies the aspect of ambulance services.

Commissioner Cote motioned to adopt the legislation presented (attached to the minutes as record) to forward to our legislature for approval. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Introduce Sheriff King to ratify hiring of one Corrections Officer.

Sheriff King thanked the Commissioners who were present for he and Chief Deputy Baran's swearing in ceremony. He continued that two corrections officers presented for approval hire at the last meeting were eliminated from the process. He would like to ask for approval for hire of one of the "John Doe" slots that the Commissioners approved at the last meeting. Her name is Elise Bettney.

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the hire of Elise Bettney. Com. Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Review hiring information and recommend approval for hiring of two part time District Attorney department personnel.

Linda gave a synopsis of both candidates (attached as record of minutes). Commissioner Cote asked if these positions were in the current budget. H.R. Director, Linda Corliss replied that was accurate.

Commissioner Lovell moved to approve the hiring of Thomas Belanger and Kelli Bshara for the part time positions in the District Attorney's office. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Ms. Corliss added that the new hires would start somewhere around the first of February.

12 NEW BUSINESS

Recommend hearing Doiron tax abatement denial appeal hearing (Town of Berwick) at next Commissioners' meeting on January 21, 2015.

The Commissioners are fine with this date.

13 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Cote asked the status of getting the cameras operational in order to stream meetings. County Manager Zinser replied that they were fully operational. We are ready to go on our end and have been working on coordinating with town hall streaming (the company). Commissioner Cote asked for a time frame; would it be one or two months? Commissioner Lovell asked if it possible to record meetings. The County Manager replied that we have that capability. Commissioner Sinden explained that with town hall stream citizens can watch the meetings live and they are also archived online. Cable companies can download directly.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

M.S.E.A. President Rachel Sherman and County Patrol Association President Matt Nadeau addressed the Board to clarify the Unions' response in regard to the health insurance choice.

Ms. Sherman spoke and stated that the Union membership wanted to assure the board that we evaluated both companies and polled our members. She added that they did not have a lot of time to get questions answered. According to Rachel, current members of Aetna are unhappy with the customer service in droves and going to Harvard Pilgrim. She added that the County should provide education for employees to understand how they could better manage their health care. Also, the Unions strongly encourage the re-formation of the insurance committee.

The County Manager responded that he recognized the speed at which the process moved but reminded all that we will be in the predicament of not knowing the insurance costs until November each year. He added that the further complicating factor is whether this will be effective as most Union contracts state that Harvard Pilgrim is the health insurance provider. Mr. Zinser thanked the Unions for polling their memberships. He added that he was directed by the Commissioners to find out if our broker was misinforming us. We forwarded the Union's letter to our broker with the points that you rose. The response from our Broker showed that the coverage offered through Aetna was actually better. The County Manager stated that he was not going to get into the customer service topic as that is subjective decision making. He does agree that the insurance committee should get back together. He reminded all the need to recognize that even if we find a plan that can appease everyone, the contracts are very specific. The County Manager also informed all that we are currently running at 105% utilization. We are big fans of wellness incentives, Mr. Zinser added. Commissioner Sinden spoke in support of our Broker. He stated that he questioned the Unions' letter and believes our Broker's response was sufficient that in all cases, point by point that the Union raised Aetna was equal to or superior to Harvard Pilgrim. "I don't want to leave the impression that our Broker was low balling us", stated Commissioner Sinden. Rachel Sherman replied that she and Matt Nadeau, were appearing before the Commissioners to let them know that they had a small amount of time and this was the choice that was made. Commissioner Lovell asked if the information from our Broker will be made available to the Unions. The County Manager replied that it would be.

Matt Nadeau stated that the previous County Manager was a catalyst in getting the Insurance committee started and that it is important to get it going again.

County Manager Zinser agreed and did inform all that our Broker did attend a meeting of the former insurance committee and explained the insurance process. He is certain that he will do so again.

Linda Corliss, H.R. Director, addressed those present to state that the County Manager has directed her to work on education about insurance including putting out more information on wellness and incentives. Commissioner Lovell asked if the insurance committee meeting schedule could be posted so the Commissioners could drop in to the meetings. Commissioner Sinden responded that he is not sure that this is a venue that the Commissioners ought to attend as the Commissioners will ultimately have to act on the Committee's recommendation and shouldn't be there to influence their decisions.

Commissioner Lovell responded that this is good public information and anyone should be able to attend.

Ms. Sherman again addressed the Board to state that Commissioner Lovell had asked her if the Unions were happy. She stated that the Union leaders would love to be able to talk to the Commissioners on a regular basis. She added that she was glad the conversation regarding the health insurance had taken place and again wanted to stress how much work they put into the insurance decision. She added that they put every effort into this to make sure everyone was fairly represented.

Art Titcomb, who is a member of the County Patrol Association wanted to bring up the fact that customer service from insurance companies is important. He stated that HP was extremely good while he was out with an illness. His wife had Aetna and he stated that you “have to pull teeth to get things done”.

15 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).

a. Review legal counsel communication (1 MRSA § 405 (6) (E)).

Commissioner Sinden motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Chief Deputy Baran and Sheriff King remain in the meeting for the executive session.

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

No action was taken by the Commissioners.

16 ADJOURN

Commissioner Sinden motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cote seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:40.

S/YORK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS