

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

July 13, 2022

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, July 13, 2022 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard Clark
Richard Dutremble
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

07-13-22 ITEM

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

Daria Cullen, a volunteer of the Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition, addressed the Board and said that she was here for the family of Nicole Turner, who died at the jail last week of an overdose. She stated that they have very few answers and that they want to understand what is being done at the jail, i.e. trained medical staff, Narcan available, etc. She added they would like to know how does a resident assist themselves when they are alone and overdosing? What changes have been made since Nicole's death? Any responding officers interviewed? What alternatives were available to Nicole that might have circumvented her arrest? She was put in jail in a very vulnerable state, stated Daria Cullen. She relayed that she had been told that the last thing Nicole said prior to entering the jai, was that she just wanted to leave there with a clean slate. Treatment for residents with substance abuse disorder cannot be in the jail, continued Ms. Cullen. She added that jails are punitive and that we need to stop criminalizing people like Nicole. Ms. Cullen stated that no one should die in jail; especially not anyone who is struggling with substance abuse. She handed a list of questions to Sheriff King and said that she hopes the family will be hearing from someone soon. Ms. Cullen also announced that there would be a vigil at the York County Jail on July 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Janet Drew addressed the Board via Zoom and stated that she first got to know the Commissioners when they were talking about ARPA funds and a proposal for detox center using ARPA funds. She continued that at the time she met with Sheriff King, Major Thayer and County Manager Zinser this past winter, we talked about better ways to care for people with illness. The system is set up so this is what we do with people, stated Ms. Drew. She continued that her worst fears were just confirmed (detox in jail). Ms. Drew added that she agreed with Daria that nobody should die in jail. There is enough ARPA money that you could put some of it towards prevention and not give people arrest records and not punish them for trauma and add to their trauma.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

- a. Commissioners meeting of June 15, 2022
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Commissioners special meeting of June 29, 2022
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes with one correction at line 53. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

- a. Warrants to be approved on June 15, 2022 in the amount of \$492,182.27
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrants. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the warrant. Vote 5-0.
- b. Warrants to be approved on June 22, 2022 in the amount of \$505,057.65
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the warrant. Vote 5-0.
- c. Warrants to be approved on June 29, 2022 in the amount of \$616,093.92
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.
DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring asked why the warrant is so large. Finance Director Lori Lemieux replied possibly ARPA but she'd have to look at it again.
Vote 5-0.
- d. Warrants to be approved on July 6, 2022 in the amount of \$294,937.39
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dutremble, who represents the York County Commissioners on the Board of the MCCA, informed all that the yearly meeting will be in person this year on September 14th. A headcount will be needed so that a venue with sufficient room can be reserved. The Two gubernatorial candidates will be there plus two more speakers. Ring- Kathy will get more information and put e-mail out to department heads.

Commissioner Sicard asked if the Commissioners had all received a copy of a letter from the Sanford Republican Committee regarding campaigning near the doors to Sanford High School and that the Commissioners authorize a response from the County Manger to reply that we do not have authority to get involved.

Commissioner Sicard announced that he received his second (COVID) booster at the Sanford Vaccination Center yesterday.

5 NEW BUSINESS

a. H.R. Director Linda Corliss to request approval for the following new hires/transfer:

- i. Paul Mitchell from Major/Patrol Commander in the Y.C.S.O. to Major/Administration in the Y.C.S.O. with an effective date of July 18, 2022.

H.R. Director Linda Corliss addressed the Board and explained that this (administrative major) is a new position that was approved by the Commissioners during the budget process. She added that current Major Paul Mitchell is looking to transfer from Patrol Major to Administrative Major.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the transfer of Paul Mitchell from Patrol Major to Administrative Major with an effective date of July 18, 2022. Commissioner Andrews 2nd.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring stated that when this position was brought forward she did not support it. She added that she believes it could be done with a civilian position and is a burden on our budgets. Therefore, she will not support this new position.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed. Motion passed

b. Review and discuss RFP for archivist with Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond-
Nancy Hammond-

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that he and (Register of Deeds) Nancy Hammond had a conversation about putting out an RFP to bring on an archivist. He then turned this agenda item over to Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond. Register Hammond explained that the goal is to take care of the documents handed over to her three years ago. She continued that some (documents) were stored away not in archival fashion. Register Hammond explained that documents have archival value vs. interest value.

Some are legal documents that we are charged with keeping, she explained. Commissioners' records are currently stored in the (courthouse) basement and are not accessible as public record. Part of this work would be to get that information put online.

She explained that the job of the Archivist is the opening up of documents that are fragile and letting us know if they need preservation.

Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond stated that she is hoping that members of staff gather more skills to facilitate managing documents to preserve.

Commissioner Ring asked if this is a contract service? County Manager Zinser replied, yes. Commissioner Ring clarified that this is not an employee?

County Manager Zinser replied, no.

Commissioner Sicard asked if these people handle the microfiche as well?

Register of Deeds Hammond replied that one employee has found that we have multiple copies of microfiche so, yes, the archivist could tell us what could be destroyed as well as make other recommendations. She added that she contacted IQS and they can microfilm and digitalize it.

Commissioner Ring asked if anyone had any idea how long it would take? The County Manager replied that they can ask that at the pre-bid and we can do an addendum adding that item.

Commissioner Ring asked if the Register of Deeds perceived that as time goes on the staff in Deeds can handle this (function)? The Register of Deeds replied, yes.

Commissioner Clark commented that we have a duty to preserve this stuff but that he hopes we will narrowly focus as we don't have an infinitive amount of money. He recommended that it is made very clear as to what you want done so you have a bid that meets what you can afford. Register of Deeds, Nancy Hammond replied, yes, someone to help us prioritize.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the RFP. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- c. Discussion of dredge acquisition- County Manager Zinser informed all that the RFP went out and that one bid was received. We did receive inquiries from another company but they chose not to bid. The County Manager continued that at this point he does not think we are ready to approve anything. We did our job as you asked us, he said to the Board. The costs are roughly \$1.4 million for the dredge and \$500,000 for a support boat. As time goes on, we will have more conversations with Save Our Shores folks. Commissioner Ring commented that she couldn't determine what the bottom line was. County Manager Zinser replied that all costs probably equal about \$1.5 million. Commissioner Dutremble added that the cost of training was incorporated in Saco's budget. County Manager Zinser responded that he thinks that money is to hire staff.

David Plavin from S.O.S. addressed the Board and explained that the training is local and done by the harbor masters from the County so they can understand how the dredge works. When we hire the actual crew, we are under the assumption that they will already be trained.

Commissioner Sicard mentioned that they met with Scarborough last week. Mr. Plavin replied that they are trying to get a clearer idea of what will work for these communities. We are registered with the State of Maine.

Commissioner Sicard asked if there is a possibility of purchasing a used support boat. David Plavin replied or perhaps a rental boat job. He added that they are working with a vendor. The costs last summer were quite different than they are now, stated Mr. Plavin. Commissioner Sicard thanked them for their work and added that he is pleased to hear that communities are coming forward and willing to work for them. Mr. Plavin stated that there will be a host city and it will be Saco.

- d. Discussion of H.R. hiring(s)- County Manager Greg Zinser explained that in this year's budget, the hiring of an H.R. Manager during the month of January was approved. We would like to move the hiring up as we had a retirement. H.R. Director Linda Corliss explained that the retirement came up sooner than she anticipated so therefore, there is excess money to cover this new position if she moves the hiring up a bit. She added that she would like the person involved in the vacant position. H.R. Director Corliss added that she is looking to post it but it might take some time to find someone. County Manager Zinser stated that the vacating of that position opens up this opportunity and there will be no budgetary impact.

Commissioner Ring asked will you fill the retirement position?
H.R. Director Linda Corliss replied that a position will be filled.
Commissioner Ring stated that she did not agree with this position so she won't support it now.
County Manager Zinser stated that if there is no resounding objection Linda (Corliss, H.R. Director) will move forward.
Commissioner Ring replied that if we hire them earlier than anticipated it will impact the budget as we budgeted for six months.
County Manager Zinser replied that there will be enough money as the parting person was with us for so long.

Commissioner Ring asked do we have a temporary employee working in H.R. now? How long have we had this position?
County Manager Zinser replied, yes, a long time on and off.
H.R. Director Linda Corliss explained that is a specific project to scan files so that employee files can get onto the H.R.S. system that she has been looking into getting. In order to do that we expand the program we have with Tyler Technologies. The temporary employee is scanning the documents.
Commissioner Ring stated that her question is if this has been ongoing for a few years why didn't we put in for a clerical position?
H.R. Director Corliss responded that this project is temporary and once we get caught up there won't be a need.
Commissioner Ring asked is it because the current staff you have doesn't want to do the work? Why should you be using a temporary (employee) for a couple of years?
H.R. Director Linda Corliss explained that it has to do with skill level and time.

Commissioner Clark motioned to authorize the H.R. Director to post and begin to fill the positions that she has open.
COMMENT from Commissioner Clark that although he made this motion, it is unnecessary. This Board has gone through the process of filling the position for this department. This is not an individual game. This Board by majority has created this position. I think the H.R. Director can do her job.
Vote 5-0.

6 OLD BUSINESS

None

****HEARD AFTER ITEM 8****

- 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. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F) review of confidential records pursuant to Title 1, Section 402-paragraph 3 (Public Records) Q- "Security plans, staffing plans, security procedures, architectural drawings or risk assessments prepared for emergency events that are prepared

for or by or kept in the custody of the Department of Corrections or a county jail if there is a reasonable possibility that public release or inspection of the records would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual or disclose security plans and procedures not generally known by the general public. Information contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to state and county officials if necessary to carry out the duties of the office of the officials or the Department of Corrections under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure.”

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session reading the above-noted statute. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

NO ACTION TAKEN

*****HEARD PRIOR TO ITEM 7*****

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

Daria Cullen addressed all again to remind them of the vigil on Saturday outside the York County Jail and invited the Commissioner and Sheriff to meet the family. Substance abuse disorder should not be treated in the jail, she stated. She added that it is her hope that something will be done to ensure that what happened to Nicole will not happen to anyone else. The vigil begins at 6:00 p.m. on July 16th stated Ms. Cullen.

Janet Drew commented via Zoom that she had received a letter from someone housed at the jail begging for help to get care. She passed this letter onto the Commissioners and the Sheriff and was told this was resolved. The Sheriff offered to talk to me alone but I suggested the Board of Visitors, commented Ms. Drew. There are better ways to care for people. We need to support health care services within their communities for people who don't have money to pay for their healthcare, said Janet Drew.

Commissioner Sicard stated that as a point of information we visited Layman Way today. There are 20 beds full of mostly young people diverted from the correction side focusing on their recovery of substance abuse. He reminded everyone that York County is the only county in Maine spending over \$1 million a year in treating drug abuse.

Sheriff King stated that York County Jail has the largest medically assisted treatment program in Maine. There are currently 75 residents in that unit and a body scanner. The Sheriff clarified that the Maine State Police reported that there was an overdose but, this is not necessarily true. All of these questions will be answered in due time. Once everything is done, people will find that everything is being done.

Sheriff King informed all that they have our own internal reviews going on along with the Maine State Police.

We all feel really, really badly and our sympathies go out to Nicole's family. I will be at the vigil, stated Sheriff King,

9 ADJOURN

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