

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 20, 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, October 20, 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.

### October 20, 2021 ITEM

- 1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**  
None
- 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**
  - a. Workshop of October 6, 2021  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes as amended.  
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - b. Regular meeting of October 6, 2021  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - c. Workshop of October 13, 2021  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- 3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**
  - a. Warrants to be approved on October 6, 2021 in the amount of \$706,556.64  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
  - b. Warrants to be approved on October 13, 2021 in the amount of \$823,780.04

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**

None

**6 NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Introduce H.R. Director Linda Corliss to request the hiring of Jennifer Garcia in the position of a full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of November 1, 2021- H. R. Director Linda Corliss addressed the Board to seek hiring request. Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jennifer Garcia in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a hire date of November 1, 2021. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Introduce H.R. Director Linda Corliss to request Commissioner approval of the transfer of Christopher Derrah from the position of deputy to full time Corrections officer effective October 25, 2021- H.R. Director Corliss addressed the Board to request the transfer as listed above. She explained that Mr. Derrah has temporarily been working in corrections and asked to transfer and has already attended the academy.  
Commissioner Ring asked what his rate of pay will be? H.R. Director Corliss replied, \$21.30 an hour. Commissioner Ring asked if his seniority would be affected? Director Corliss stated that it does affect it as he is considered a brand new corrections officer.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.  
Discussion- Commissioner Ring asked if he is a commissioned deputy? Was he deputized? Sheriff King replied, no.  
Commissioner Clark asked H.R. Director Linda Corliss how many folks are waiting for the academy. Director Corliss replied that one is going to the November academy and they have 4 to 5 in the pool getting close to hiring status.
- c. Introduce Jail Administrator Major Nathan Thayer to discuss jail body scanner- County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that this is an initial discussion on the proposed body scanner. This topic came up during the days of the Board of Corrections.  
Jail Administrator/Major Nathan Thayer addressed the Board and stated that this is a hot topic across the country especially in regards to COVID. This one is unique, continued J.A. Thayer. Other facilities across the country have been able to use ARP funds as it has a temperature scan. We are looking for contraband. The scanning is also beneficial so a pat search can be eliminated as there will be no physical contact. If something shows up questionable, then contact would be necessary. Cumberland, Androscoggin Counties and Two Bridges have recently purchased this and they both find it beneficial. This scanner helps with COVID and security. A person could have drug charges and

still not have the criteria for a strip search, explained Major Thayer. But, with this scanner we would be most likely be able to see contraband.

J.A. Thayer continued that they are finding more new arrestees are binex tested. But, there are a lot of unknowns with new arrestees.

Commissioner Ring asked if the county would set the policy on its use and would that take the place of the strip search?

Commissioner Clark asked that a new quote be obtained as the one presented was confusing. J.A. Thayer will obtain a new quote that answers the Commissioners' questions.

Commissioner Clark commented that if it's something you need, he is willing to purchase it but he would need to know if it comes out of ARPA money. He added that he would be more likely to support it coming out of the budget.

Sheriff King commented that was a very good question and that the Representative assured them that it would be covered under ARPA money.

County Manager Zinser stated that there are multiple, contractual issues that need to be dealt with including the CPS medical contract. He continued that the Board would need to meet to put that contract into effect by November 1. We could get the information requested and have this on the agenda for next week.

G&H block needs to be before you for approval as there are time limitations since we are using FEMA funds, reminded the County Manager.

## **7 OLD BUSINESS**

County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners if there was any ARPA actions needed. Commissioner Sicard thanked the dredge people.

Commissioner Sicard motioned that the Commissioners authorize up to \$1.8 million to purchase the dredge and work with the County Manager to run through legal counsel and work with the Saco delegation.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion (for discussion).

Commissioner Ring commented that she doesn't have a problem with the dredge that she would like to see more involvement and more cooperation and coordination from the other coastal towns. She continued that until we get that she is hesitant to approve.

Commissioner Andrews agreed with Commissioner Ring.

Commissioner Clark commented as he said during the workshop he is concerned with a number of items. He continued that he would like to see more of an intergovernmental structure to discuss how it would be managed and deployed.

While he salutes the Town of Saco for supporting costs, he stated, there is no commitment from any other community in York County. He would like to see a Memorandum of Agreement or Mutual Aid contract, some structure that determines how and when projects get scheduled.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he thinks it is needed but we need more information. He added that there needs to be a financial cost analyst and we need to work out a plan first to see where we are headed. Let's not rush into this. Let's do this the right way, recommended Commissioner Dutremble.

He stated that this project has to serve more than 1 to 2 communities as if not, we aren't doing our job as Commissioners.

Commissioner Sicard withdrew his motion to give them 90 to 180 days to further explore and talk to other towns and come up with an MOA. Commissioner Ring withdraw her second.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Clark stated that this matter will appear on the April 6, 2022 agenda. Commissioner Clark seconded Commissioner Sicard's motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Ring asked the County Manager if he has heard anymore on the transportation? County Manager Zinser replied that he suspected one of the individuals that was here may come back with a specific request at a later point in time as they would like to see the outcome on some of the studies out. This person expressed some concern if meeting would be fruitful to come up with one plan. This individual is going to go back and reassess. County Manager Zinser added that he is waiting for a return phone call from the Non-profits.

Commissioner Sicard stated that he agreed with Commissioner Clark's comments to fund salaries for 3 years (regarding Choose to be Healthy) when she already has access to state and federal funds. She seems to be getting it done. He added that his recommendation is to turn this one down.

a. Introduce David Nalchajian, Sr., ARPA Financial Project Manager to give update on American Rescue Plan funds- Mr. Nalchajian addressed the Board and explained the document he circulated to the Commissioners. Realistically, the Commissioners decided to allocate only the money that we have on hand in the amount of \$2.16 million. So far, explained ARPA Financial Project Manager Nalchajian, we have only committed \$5.5 million. We've allocated about 25% of the money mostly on administrative and corrections officers' incentives. County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that they have committed \$5.4 million so far. Some things are starting to move forward. Commissioner Sicard asked when the quarterly report goes out? Dave Nalchajian noted delays and recognized delays by the treasury department. Lots of people were in default, he explained, due to technical issues and no staff on board to do the reporting. Information hasn't been coming in as expected. He continued that the next quarterly reporting has been extended out into the end of 1-31-2022. Commissioner Sicard asked if we filed for 9-30? Mr. Nalchajian replied that we did.

Because of all of the delays, we are still running under the interim rules, he explained. He added that he expects that the final rules would encompass a lot of the reporting.

Commissioner Clark stated that he thinks this is useful and that he would like to see this once a month.

Commissioner Ring asked why aren't our projects encumbered? The County Manager replied because they have not been voted on yet. He added that the engineering will help us flush out the numbers.

Commissioner Sicard stated that he felt it would be worthwhile to have an update to go through the county list again to see where we are.

County Manager Zinser replied that they are not going much of anywhere because we have engaged the engineers and planners so until they come back, we won't have better numbers. But at the next meeting, let us review where we are as you make some of these decisions, for example, the dredge. Do you want the towns to contribute money to that? The towns are getting quite a bit of money, too, reminded County Manager Zinser. Commissioner Sicard replied that \$660,000 in operational money is a hefty amount. As we move forward, the County Manager

stated, we will update you where we are. He added that he did have a conversation with Sanford Sewer District as well as the engineering company that we use here. Tomorrow, we have a meeting at the jail for the grinding system. We have budgeted \$2.5 million but it could be higher. Sanford Sewer District has said that the cost could be anywhere from \$3 to \$10 million, stated County Manager Zinser to run sewer by. He continued that the initial reaction he is getting is that we should really stay away from any type of on-site treatment but we are going to explore it as he knows this is the desire of the Board.

The County Manager reminded the Commissioners that they haven't closed out Y.H. Recovery and Choose to Be Healthy. Commissioner Ring replied that as far as she is concerned, the treatment center lost staff and she is supportive of any assistance we can give them.

Commissioner Clark reminded his fellow Commissioners that they can let some of this stuff sit. We don't know where we are going to end up yet. He added that he doesn't feel any burning need to say yes or no. Commissioner Ring replied that she agreed with that but these people want some type of response. We need to somehow let them know that we have time to make these decisions.

County Manager Zinser replied that he can inform them that their requests are under review.

Commissioner Clark motioned to hold a special meeting next Wednesday, October 29th at 4:30. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Purchasing policy amendment

County Manager Zinser stated that the Commissioners wanted language for local bidders so we added a line as you have seen. I believe we did what you asked, he stated.

c. Discussion of dispatch terminals-

County Manager Zinser explained that the antenna and backup dispatch terminals are separate projects. He informed them that they would need to have a decision on this fairly soon as G&H block approval request will be on next week's agenda and this includes space for backup dispatch. The County Manager continued that this is a critical infrastructure here in the county.

Commissioner Ring asked how many terminals? The County Manager replied, three.

Commissioner Clark stated that this needs to be put on the agenda for the next meeting for a formal vote. He added that he has questions on the tower.

County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that he has one other issue regarding the vaccine center and bringing on lab director and medical director. The job descriptions here and he asked, would this be something you would authorize us to do tonight? EMA Director Art Cleaves explained that there are two individuals we would like to bring on. We need those for certifications to be able to continue operations. The oversee operations at the clinic and supervise laboratory. We submitted for our certificate, explained EMA Director Cleaves and these individuals would be working minimal amount of hours each week. All is reimbursable from FEMA, stated Director Cleaves.

H.R. Director Corliss followed up with information. For the medical director, Dr. Schmitz has been volunteering his time for well over one year. His liability insurance is going to increase. He would work for about 10 hours per week. The Lab Director, she explained is the current lab director at York Hospital and will be a reserve employee to train people on how to use the testing machine. Then, he

will be used more for questioning and again, only be working about 10 hours per week.

Commissioner Clark asked did we post these (open positions)? H.R. Director Corliss replied, no we would hire directly during a State of Emergency.

Commissioner Clark suggested to H.R. Director Corliss that she have them ready to go next week and we can approve them with our normal procedure.

H.R. Director Corliss clarified that tonight she was just looking for approval of job descriptions.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve the job descriptions for the two EMA positions. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

**\*\*HEARD AFTER ITEM 9\*\*\***

**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)**

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to

M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A). 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 was taken.

**\*\*\*HEARD PRIOR TO ITEM 8\*\*\***

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

Janet Drew commented that she is concerned that the body scanner seems like a huge amount of money that goes on forever. She added that she hopes some of the money will go to the communities.

**10 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.