

## COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP & MEETING

January 19, 2022

*YORK,ss*

At a workshop and 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, January 19, 2022 A. D. at 3:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble (excused)  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews  
Allen Sicard  
Donna Ring

County Manager Gregory Zinser was present at the meeting.

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

#### **1 TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION WITH SMPDC AND YCCAC-**

County Manager Greg Zinser explained that the Commissioners had heard from Southern Maine Regional Planning and Development Commission and York County Community Action prior and asked them to come back with a proposal which they have (included as record of these minutes).

Paul Schumacher, from SMPDC addressed the Board and thanked the Commissioners for considering the request. He introduced Tom Reinhauer who is the Director of Transportation for York County Community Action. Tom explained that they have settled on a proposal for Sanford, Springvale, Biddeford and Saco. This has been a challenge due to COVID and they would like to add another bus to the route. One bus runs currently Monday through Friday providing three round trips a day. Director Reinhauer explained that they are not asking for a bus purchase but that they would add that vehicle to that route and with ARPA funding they could expand service hours and add another route. They are asking for operating costs of \$346,500 per year. Tom added that they do have plans to serve the new courthouse facility when it opens up regardless of whether or not we are able to expand services. We would modify the route to serve new Layman Way facilities, also.

Commissioner Clark states that the request is for \$346,500 for 3 years. What happens in your 4<sup>th</sup> year? Mr. Reinhauer replied that they would work to incorporate their costs into their current funding. He further explained that their urban and rural funding is going up a bit so they are hoping to save some operational money by shifting some door to door services that are very labor intensive.

Commissioner Andrews asked about how many riders they currently have. Mr. Reinhauer replied that they are averaging 160 a month over the past three months for the connector service.

Commissioner Ring asked if they would expand into Alfred and to the new courthouse. Mr. Reinhauer replied that they would most likely stop there on the way to the train station and back. People could get there from the train station. Commissioner Ring asked if the bus route would include any of our Alfred complexes? Tom Reinhauer replied, yes, as needed.

Commissioner Sicard asked if there had been any discussion held regarding point to point on demand using 12 person vans? Tom Reinhauer stated that maybe as a long range plan of the service. Tom Reinhauer explained that the larger busses allow for 24 passengers plus 2. Little busses have room for 12 and 2.

Paul Schumacher interjected that another added benefit to the service is reducing the volume on route 111 that would be crucial and helpful. Paul added that they have had meetings with the Department of Economic and Community development and there has always been thoughts and exploration on how we might increase transit services to help businesses find more employees. Commissioner Sicard commented that as we build out the jail campus, we can get people living there, but, to get them out, we will need transportation to their jobs. Commissioner Sicard continued that we are breaking one of our cardinal rules, that we would not pay operational money. The Board can talk about that. He asked Mr. Reinhauer if this project wasn't before us, and you had existing funds, how long does that process take?

Tom Reinhauer responded, a year in some cases.

The County Manager explained that the funds need to be obligated by 2024 and expended by 2026. He added that in conversations that we have in our behavioral health committee and other committees, transportation keeps coming up. This program would go a distance in helping with that.

Chair Commissioner Sicard informed all that Chad Heid, Executive Director of the Biddeford/Saco Transit submitted a letter to the Board. He was unable to be here this afternoon but has asked that his colleague, Rod Carpenter read his letter into the minutes (said letter attached as record of these minutes).

Mr. Carpenter informed all that they have electric busses coming and are updating their fleet. Commissioner Clark recommended they call SMRPDC and see what you can do together. Mr. Carpenter asked Commissioner Clark if the Board was open to a bigger project or another project that coincides with it? Commissioner Clark responded that he was not sure.

Commissioner Sicard stated that it is reasonable to him, but up to Barbara Crider and Paul Schumacher to sit at the table and put it all out there. Commissioner Sicard added that Chad is pro-transit and wants to all work together.

County Manager Zinser stated that the issue is here someone talking to us about a new project. SMRPDC and YCCAC were asked to put a program together. Had they seen the need to reach out to another organization, my assumption is they would have done so. We would now be asking them to re-tool their proposal submitted to us.

Commissioner Sicard- replied that the Board wants to do this once and do it right. If that means another meaning of the experts, so be it.

County Manager Greg Zinser informed the Board that he needs a better understanding of the direction the Board wants to go.

Rod Carpenter said that they were not here to railroad their project. We are here to see if you will open your door and to see if you want to do more with transportation.

## **2 GENERAL DISCUSSION OF COUNTY PROJECTS**

County Manager Zinser reported that the G&H expansion study is underway and going out to bid in about a month.

Fairtime will hopefully be back here in a month, explained the County Manager.

He continued to inform all that he has signed an agreement with Tatta and Howard Engineers to perform a feasibility study (regarding sewer) that will cost \$16,000. This report, explained Mr. Zinser, will give us the permits required, etc. That will help us to refine that number.

**3 REVIEW OF ARPA FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS WITH David B. Nalchajian, Sr.**

(ARPA Financial Manager) The Commissioners reviewed a handout attached to the minutes as record that Mr. Nalchajian had prepared. Manager Nalchajian explained that he had been told by Jail Administrator Major Thayer that the body scanner may be fully deployed by February. He informed the Commissioners that the next report to the Government is due the end of January. Mr. Nalchajian informed the Commissioners that there is currently approximately \$11 million of unallocated funds still.

**01-19-22 ITEM**

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

Janet Drew thanked the Sheriff and County Manager for meeting with her. (Jail Administrator Nathan Thayer and York County Clinician Jennifer Ouellette also participated in the meeting via ZOOM). She stated that it was an education for her to realize that we have a sad situation where people who aren't insured and haven't accessed MaineCare and therefore, do not have any access to mental health care. Efforts are being made so that their arrest record can be changed. Ms. Drew commented that she appreciates the efforts and thoughtful comments.

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

a. Commissioners' Regular Meeting of January 5, 2022  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

**3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

a. Warrants to be approved on January 5, 2022 in the amount of \$532,542.06  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant of January 5, 2022 in the amount of \$532,542.06. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

b. Warrants to be approved on January 12, 2022 in the amount of \$980,340.46  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant of January 12, 2022 in the amount of \$980,340.46. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

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

Commission Chair Sicard mentioned that he sat in for Commissioner Dutremble for the MCCA meeting held via ZOOM. He added that Commissioner Ring also attended the meeting.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

a. Review landscaping bids and award contract  
Facilities Manager Rick DeRochemont approached the Board to explain the process followed (documents attached as record of these minutes). Manager deRochemont recommended awarding the bids to JW Booth who has been in business over thirty years and was the lowest bidder. He also was the only bidder who came and did a walk-through of the properties.

Commissioner Clark motioned to award the bid for landscaping and lawncare for the county to JW Booth for \$18,500.00 a year for two years with the option to extend for one year. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

b. Review and discussion of K-9 proposal from Sheriff's Office-

Chief Deputy Forbes explained that about 10 years ago the Sheriff's Office had a K-9 program. He was made aware of the Stanton Foundation K-9 program grant. This program will be of little to no cost to the Sheriff's Office. The dog can train with the State Police. They are holding a slot for us in the school in March, stated Chief Deputy Forbes. (Program documents attached as record of minutes.) Chief Deputy Forbes stated there are so many benefits of having a dog. For example, he commented, Saco, Biddeford and Sanford do not have canines so we could assist. A dog is very helpful with the opioid crisis. He recommended that York County have a dual-trained dog for drugs and for tracking.

Chief Deputy Forbes stated that in the jail, drugs getting inside is a big problem. We will now have the x-ray machine and if the Commissioners approve the program, a canine. We should cut down drastically with drugs being brought into the jail. A dog is also a deterrence as well as great for public relations.

Commissioner Sicard commented that March isn't that far away. Will it be possible to get a dog and an officer by then?

Chief Deputy Forbes replied that a form is ready to be put out to the deputies. He continued that the State Police are already looking for a dog for us. The school lasts for 14 weeks. They'll flush out a dog if it doesn't work, they'll get us another one.

Commissioner Sicard verified that the only additional liability/only money from us would be the one hour a day extra pay that is in the contract.

Commissioner Ring commented that this is a very detailed program and she appreciates this. She added that it is high time we got the canine program back. County Manager Greg Zinser added that he feels we owe it to the Sheriff's Office to go forth with this (program). He stated that he was satisfied that everything was there from a management/administrative perspective to bring it to the Commissioners. Initially, for the first 3 years, costs are covered. After that, there will be veterinarian costs, food, etc.

Chief Deputy Forbes stated that if the dog works with the DEA and FBI, we would get seizure money.

Commissioner Ring motioned to authorize the Sheriff's Office's canine proposal. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

c. Seek budget guidance from Commissioners for fy'23-

County Manager Zinser explained that this is the yearly conversation regarding the budget where he is looking for general guidance from the Commissioners. The County Manager continued to state that he has started transferring everything from fy '22 to fy'23 (on the budget sheets).

Commissioner Ring asked about the possibility of the Commissioners receiving a 3 yr. comparison report on the budget. She also asked if it was correct that we don't have our audit yet. County Manager Zinser replied that we hope to have it in February and that the County is also undergoing a Federal audit. Commissioner Ring also asked for a printout of all expenditures for fy'21 and specified that she wants to look at all of the funds to include civil process, contract deputy programs, any funds and any projects.

County Manager Zinser responded that he will get these reports to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Clark asked how many, if any, new hires are in this budget? County Manager Zinser replied that he didn't know yet. He added that there has been some general conversation about this and that he would anticipate a couple. Commissioner Ring requested that any report available that provides all current employees by department would also be helpful.

Commissioner Sicard stated that we've been able to keep county tax rate pretty low but now, with inflation and COVID how does the County Manager see these things?

County Manager Zinser responded that there will be massive increases in the wage lines due to the NCEU contract agreements last year. He stated that his rough estimate would be that payroll would be up \$600,000, if not more. This has corresponding impacts to FICA and retirement, explained the County Manager. This will show a 4 or 5% increase just on payroll line. Deeds revenue is right where we think it should be. The County Manager added that there is legislation on the table regarding funding of jails and that, on paper, it's a good thing.

Commissioner Sicard asked if EMA has been getting reimbursed by the Feds? County Manager Zinser explained that is a separate routine from the regular operating budget. That agency does a lot with few people. At some time we have to look at that, commented the County Manager.

County Manager Zinser informed the Board that he is going to ask for an appropriation from the jail's undesignated fund to pay off debt service early in the amount of \$300,000.

- d. Schedule tax abatement denial appeal Hearing  
(suggested date of March 2, 2022 Coms. Meeting)  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve hearing the tax abatement denial appeal at the Commissioners' March 2, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- e. Review and discussion of County vaccine policy – County Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that letters had been sent out to the Unions to bargain this issue but, then the Supreme Court tossed it so here we are seeking additional guidance. The County Manager suggested that the Commissioners might consider tabling this item.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to table this item. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.  
County Manager Zinser stated that this item will be put on next meeting agenda.
- f. Seek Commissioner approval for the promotion of David Lambert to the position of Captain effective January 24, 2022.  
Sheriff King stated that Mr. Lambert has done a great job and is a 38+ year employee. He came out on top of the promotional process.  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the promotion of David Lambert to Captain. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

## 6 OLD BUSINESS

a. ARPA related business- County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners what they wanted him to do. He added that the York Hospital folks- Choose to Be Healthy coalition and York County Cottage Program (recovery services) had sent us an e-mail with additional information. Commissioner Ring stated that she would like to refamiliarize herself (with the information) first. County Manager Zinser advised that he will put this on the next agenda and will re-send the documents presented by these two entities to the Commissioners.

The County Manager then asked the Commissioners how they would like to proceed with SMPDC and YCCAC and Biddeford/Saco/OOB request. Commissioner Ring replied that she is looking at this as a new request and we have refused people who haven't put their requests in in time but thank you and maybe another process next summer.

Commissioner Sicard responded that while he agrees with Commissioner Ring regarding the timeline, he might suggest we give the new Executive Director at least time to meet with Paul, Barbara and Tom and perhaps all come back to us in March.

Commissioner Sicard stated that there are two questions for the Board. Would they like to go with Commissioner Ring's proposal and send a thanks but no thanks letter or do we move forward with SMRPDC and YCCAC's proposal?

Commissioner Ring replied that she has no problem with what they presented tonight. We have to start somewhere.

Commissioner Clark stated that he has concerns that this is operational money. We really need to think about this. He advised tabling this item so that the three entities can have a discussion to see if they can work together.

Commissioner Clark motioned to table making a decision on SMRPDC and YCCAC's proposal. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Discussion: County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners to what they are asking him to tell them?

Commissioner Sicard responded that they should be "putting their heads together" and see if we can get all players on board. This is a starting point, he commented. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Sicard suggested this item be put on the agenda in March or whenever they are ready.

**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)**

County Manager Zinser explained that since item e under New Business was tabled, an executive session was not necessary.

a. Enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), personnel issues.

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

**9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark moved to adjourn. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.