

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 6, 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 6, 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

10-6-2021 **ITEM**

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

Janet Drew addressed the Board and stated that she had listened to Penobscot County Commissioners' meeting yesterday and was impressed to hear 30 organizations that got together to talk about the ARPA funding and what they do on a shoe-string. She added that a lot of these little organizations don't have grant writers. The people who have the least responses but the most impact from COVID need help away from the jail, stated Ms. Drew. She commented that she sees a lot of new hires on the agenda and asked if they will be funded through ARPA funds or part of the County budget? Ms. Drew also asked if there are any multi county meetings where you are talking to other officials about things that need to be done in their counties.

County Manager Greg Zinser answered that the positions that are on the agenda for hiring approval are currently budgeted positions from a couple of years ago. Fire instructors and corrections officers are all general funding. County Manager Zinser stated that he met with other counties Monday at 1:00 to see what other counties are up to. Maine County Commissioners Association and other county groups are also having conversations.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

- a. Workshop of September 15, 2021- Commissioner Sicard motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Clark seconded the minutes. Vote 5-0.
- b. Regular meeting of September 15,2021 – 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 September 22, 2021 in the amount of \$232,537.92 Commissioner Clark. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Warrants to be approve on September 29, 2021 in the amount of \$556,803.28 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Clark informed all that he attended by ZOOM, the Coastal Counties Workforce Inc. annual meeting. He explained that this organization works with folks who have difficulty with employment issues. Commissioner Clark added that it is impressive the number of people they have helped. He also mentioned that Commissioner Ring, County Manager Zinser and he visited the Teen Center in Westbrook a couple of weeks ago. He reminded all that they are requesting ARPA funds to build a similar center in Biddeford. Commissioner Clark stated that he was extremely impressed and that the Center was of a level that he did not expect.

Commissioner Ring agreed and stated that the center far exceeded her expectations. Commissioner Dutremble stated that he and Commissioner Sicard had visited the Center previously and both were also impressed.

Commissioner Andrews added that he had also visited and witnessed children doing their homework and being taught to play instruments. He continued that children were also being fed and that the place was immaculate.

5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

No formal reports

6 NEW BUSINESS

- a. H.R. Director Linda Corliss to request the hiring of the following persons:
 - i. hiring of Joan Fox in the position of part time legal secretary in the D.A.’s office with a start date of October 12, 2021- H.R. Director Corliss explained that this position was vacated by a resignation.
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Joan Fox.
Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - ii. hiring of Robert Martin in the position of Fire Instructor I-EMA Reserve with a start date of October 6, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Robert Martin.
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - iii. hiring of Ray Legendre in the position of Fire Instructor I-EMA Reserve with a start date of October 6, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Ray Legendre.
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
 - iv. hiring of Dave Hamel in the position of Fire Instructor II-EMA-Reserve with

- a start date of October 6, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Dave Hamel.
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- v. hiring of Joshua Perry in the position of Fire Instructor II-EMA-Reserve with a start date of October 6, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Joshua Perry.
Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- vi. hiring of Pat Sarto in the position of Fire Instructor II-EMA Reserve with a start date of October 6, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Pat Sarto in the position of Fire Instructor II-EMA Reserve. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- vii. hiring of Aaron Leary in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a start date of November 1, 2021-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Aaron Leary in the position of full-time corrections officer. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- viii. hiring of Natalia Morneau in the position of reserve Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office-
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Natalie Morneau in the position of reserve Corrections Officer. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- b. Major Paul Mitchell to request award of bid for six vehicle purchases-
Commissioner Ring asked if the vehicles are all for patrol? Major Mitchell stated, yes, they are part of the every 4 year rotation and were last replaced in 2016 and 2017. Commissioner Ring asked if any are going to contract towns? Major Mitchell replied, no, the towns buy their own cars. Commissioner Ring asked how many patrol positions there were to which Major Mitchell replied, 27 patrol positions.
Commissioner Sicard commented that Arundel Ford is a York County business even though they are a bit more. He added that he tries to shop in York County whenever we can as they are a tax payer.
Commissioner Ring agreed.
Commissioner Sicard motioned to accept Arundel Ford's auto bid of (6) vehicles at a cost of \$33,069.00 each.
Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- c. Seek Commissioner approval on changes to County's purchasing policy-
The County Manager explained to the Commissioners that they received in their meeting packet information with a draft policy, correspondence from our attorney and documents from Sourcewell that is a cooperative purchasing arrangement. Commissioner Ring asked will we be ruling out some of our smaller vendors in York County being allowed to bid? County Manager Zinser stated it is national and it can be local. He asked Facilities Manager, Rick deRochemont if he had any information to add. Facilities Manager deRochemont explained that with the Sourcewell program, anyone can bid. They do the bidding for us. He added that Corey Jensen from Sourcewell is on the line if we have questions.
Commissioner Ring clarified by asking if this policy is specifically for Sourcewell?

County Manager Zinser replied that it allows us to use other entities that engage in cooperative purchasing.

Commissioner Ring asked if there is a maximum or minimum amount before they would bid for us?

County Manager Zinser replied, no.

Commissioner Ring asked when do we determine when we would use this?

County Manager Zinser replied that there can be a conversation to decide.

Commissioner Clark stated that he can support this but that he wants to be sure we continue to advertise locally so local vendors can be aware of county needs as opposed to have to go to a bulletin board online. He continued that he understands the advantage of national exposure and understands that it might not be York County companies who get the job but that he doesn't want to cut local folks out of the process.

County Manager Zinser responded that can be incorporated. He added that this policy was reviewed by our legal counsel and prepared with counsel's suggestions.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the changes to allow for cooperative purchasing but that he wants the County Manager to bring back some kind of language (work with our legal counsel) that assures that any bid also be posted within the county as well. Commissioner Andrews seconded the vote. Vote 5-0.

- d. Discussion on hiring practices-County Manager Zinser asked for a motion to table this item.
Commissioner Ring motioned to table this item. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
- e. County's annual Spirit of America award ceremony-
Commissioner Clark stated that it would be his preference to do it in person but that is not possible so he would suggest ZOOM or something similar.
County Manager Zinser suggested this be held during the second meeting in November.
Commissioner Clark suggested this event be held at 3:00.
Commissioner Dutremble stated that we need to notify all the towns so they can be on ZOOM.
- f. Seek Commissioner approval of MSEA contract-
County Manager Zinser stated that there have been no changes in the contract since he informed the Commissioners about it near the end of August.
The County Manager reviewed the changes to the new contract.
Commissioner Ring asked if the position descriptions were in the contract?
County Manager Zinser replied that he didn't know.
Commissioner Clark moved to approve the MSEA contract. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed.
County Manager Zinser informed all that the retro active pay will take some time to complete. He added that it could take 2- 3 weeks.
- g. Any ARPA related discussions/decisions-
County Manager Zinser stated that he had two things to talk about with the Board. At a prior meeting, he explained that he informed the Board that he

was working with the sewer district in regards to a feasibility study and other engineering and planning and therefore is requesting that the Board authorize \$400,000 so we can begin to move forward with other projects.

Commissioner Clark motioned to appropriate \$400,000 for further studies.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

The next item is the Clinical Director for which the County Manager has a draft solicitation for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ring asked if this (position) will be part time and also, confirmed that this is an RFP, not a hiring. The County Manager replied, correct.

Commissioner Clark moved to authorize the County Manager to post the RFP to solicit proposals. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark stated that he is impressed enough by the proposal of My Place Teen Center and seeing the Westbrook facility that he is ready to go forward to grant their request with the understanding we need to work out how the funds are dispersed in the amount of up to \$1.5 million of ARPA funds.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Ring stated that this organization has brought forth a detailed budget and that she looks forward to seeing that red door in Biddeford ME.

Commissioner Clark asked that My Place also submit an audit.

Commissioner Sicard added that the Commissioners also have a seat on the Board. Commissioner Sicard suggested that we work with our attorney on how to disburse funds.

Commissioner Dutremble added that we also consult with our counsel to make sure that this (project) qualifies for the ARPA money.

County Manager Zinser replied that he does think this project will qualify but one of the things that is technically missing is how it meets certain provisions of the ARP money. This approval is subject to a legal review and any and all contract provisions.

Commissioner Clark amended his motion to approve up to \$1.5 million be approved for My Place Teen Center with the understanding that our people will work with their people. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Sicard stated that the Commissioners received today a request from the Center for Grieving Children that is way pass the deadline. He motioned that the Commissioners direct the County Manager to send them a letter to let them know they have missed the deadline. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Clark stated that while he understands that they are late with their request, he wouldn't refuse it on that basis. He continued that his attitude was that he considered our deadline as a soft one.

Commissioner Sicard replied that he strongly disagreed and that we will have a dozen more agencies come forward. We are months into this, continued Commissioner Sicard. We advertised our public hearings.

Vote 3-2 with Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Dutremble opposed.

County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners if they want him to do anything on transit? Commissioner Dutremble replied that they are coming back with more information.

County Manager Zinser asked about Fairtide to which Commissioner Dutremble replied that she is supposed to get back to the Board with more information.

The County Manager asked the Commissioners how they would like to proceed with the next round of meetings? He asked if they'd like to hear from someone about the dredge, York Hospital Recovery and Choose to Be Healthy. Commissioner Clark responded that he is more interested for the proposal for behavioral health but that he wanted to hear about both.

Commissioner Sicard added that the host communities are talking about the dredging. Mayor Doyle is on the ZOOM call.

Commissioner Clark asked that they each have 25 minutes (to present their requests). Commissioner Sicard stated that he feels it is appropriate to talk to legal counsel whether it (the dredge) falls under the ARP in categories such as infrastructure, tourism and/or working waterfront.

The County Manager replied that he hasn't given that heavy consideration. It's not an actual proposal so he stated that he thinks we need to ask them for a proposal and let the Board have a conversation about it. Commissioner Dutremble added that the Board needs not only a proposal but a photo of what they want to buy.

Commissioner Ring commented that it would be nice to stick to a category. There are four more affordable housing proposals. County Manager Zinser responded that it comes down to the priority of the Board. The Board might want to have some type of discussion about priorities as he thinks there are many requests that can quickly dispensed of. He added that they are worthy projects but we can probably go through and eliminate quite a few of them. Commissioner Dutremble stated that there are some (requests for funding) that aren't going to meet the Board's approval and they should get a letter.

Commissioner Sicard suggested the Commissioners continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays to focus on ARP items as he would like to have a good handle on the projects by the end of the year. Commissioner Sicard reminded all that they also need to go back over the County's requests.

Commissioner Clark suggested that they meet next Wednesday at 3:00 and review the remaining request and see who else we want to invite.

Commissioner Clark motioned to meet next Wednesday at 3:00 for another workshop to work our way through the (ARP requests) book. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

h. Discussion and possible approval of remote meeting policy-

County Manager explained that this draft policy was created at the request of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the remote meeting policy as presented (attached as record of these minutes). Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

Discussion: Commissioner Clark stated that he will be voting against this. He continued that the Commissioners met in person during COVID and that is to their credit. Commissioner Clark continued that he has participated in ZOOM meetings and he doesn't find it useful. It is second rate. If you can't make the meeting, that's that. Commissioner Clark went on to say that he

doesn't think participation from home works. It messes up the flow of the meeting. Missing a meeting happens.

Commissioner Ring responded that she thinks that in today's world, ZOOM isn't always perfect, but there are many decisions that are made remotely. Situations happen, continued Commissioner Ring. This policy isn't for us to stay home. It's for emergencies. We should have that ability. It happens more frequently in today's world. I see nothing wrong with this policy, stated Commissioner Ring. Vote 2-3 (Commissioners Dutremble, Sicard and Clark opposed). MOTION FAILS

- i. Discussion of Declaration of limited State of Emergency for hiring reservists- County Manager Zinser explained that Commissioner Dutremble signed (the limited State of Emergency) last week. We are staffing the vaccine center and now purchasing a testing machine. The recommendation, stated the County Manager, is that the Board reimplements a state of emergency in York County. EMA Director Art Cleaves addressed the Board and recommended the reinstatement of the State of Emergency. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays the vaccination center is open, explained Director Cleaves. Tomorrow we have some of our people going to Thornton Academy to give 70 shots. County Manager Zinser explained that the management and oversight of 60 people is a huge undertaking. Commissioner Clark commented that he would like to commend EMA Director Cleaves and the folks that work under him for the services they provide. Commissioner Clark motioned to declare a civil emergency for the next 90 days and reconsider when we meet in late December and early January to see where we are. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring asked does that apply just for EMA or all departments in county government? County Manager Zinser replied, just EMA. Vote 5-0.

7 OLD BUSINESS

None

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 1 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 taken.

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

County Manager Zinser clarified that the State of Emergency is for EMA purposes and has nothing to do with the Sheriff's Office and operations of the jail.

10 ADJOURN

Commissioner Sicard motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.