

## COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 27, 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 27, 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

#### 10-27-2021 ITEM

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

Janet Drew stated that she has reviewed the agendas and seen lots of approvals for shiny things instead of funds for the jail. She added that she would like to see the use of ARPA funds for things other than shiny new gadgets.

#### 2 NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hiring of Victoria Raneses as a full -time emergency preparedness coordinator with a hiring date of 11/29/21

H.R. Director Corliss gave a background on Ms. Raneses' former positions. Commissioner Ring asked if this is a full- time position to which Director Corliss replied it was. Commissioner Ring asked if this meant this person would receive 41 days of paid time off up front. H.R. Director replied that was correct.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Victoria Raneses in the position of full time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in EMA with a hire date of November 29, 2021.

Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed. Commissioner Ring explained that it was not the individual but the policy in which the individual receives 41 days of paid time off upon employment.

b. Discussion and to seek approval of CPS medical contract

County Manager Zinser explained that this contract was reviewed and approved by the county's legal counsel. Commissioner Ring asked the amount of the contract. County Manager Zinser replied that it was \$1,878,756.00 for the first year. He explained that it will be looked at again next year and the amount will depend on the population and the staff needed. Commissioner Ring asked what the increase is from the current contract. County Manager Zinser replied it is \$1.6 million now so there is a budget increase of about \$200,000.00. This puts the jail over budget about \$140,000.00. This will need to be budgeted for next year.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the contract. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark moved to authorize the County Manager to sign the contract.

Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. Discussion and to seek approval of purchase of Body Scanner

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that they were questioning the cost of the scanner at their last meeting. The cost of this body scanner is \$159,000.00. The County Manager stated that he is recommending the Commissioners approve this purchase.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the purchase of the body scanner in the amount of \$159,000.00. Commissioner Andrews motioned to second the motion. Vote 5-0. Commissioner Ring added that this motion includes that these funds are ARPA funds.

d. Discussion and to seek approval of TruNarc-narcotics analyzer for Jail/SO

County Manager Zinser explained that the cost of this item is a little over \$30,000.00 but that Chief Deputy Forbes has secured an \$8,000.00 grant. The remaining cost will be split between the Sheriff's Office and the Jail. Chief Deputy Forbes explained that this device is used for finding drugs. He continued that it is very dangerous for officers to field test drugs such as fentanyl. This device scans the drug and tells us what it is. He added that the Jail Investigator can use this device and charge a person immediately rather than having to send the substance to the lab which can take as long as six months.

Commissioner Ring stated that she did not realize that this item was going to be put on the agenda tonight and recommended it be put on the next meeting agenda. She asked what the officers do now if they suspect there is fentanyl on someone?

Chief Deputy Forbes responded that it would depend on the situation. Powder can look like a lot of different things. He explained that the company will train twelve personnel to use the device. He added that the substance still has to go to the lab. Commissioner Ring asked if it still would be \$250 per test at the lab? Chief Deputy Forbes replied, yes, but that officer safety is the main reason to purchase this device.

Commissioner Sicard asked about the cost of each test. Chief Deputy Forbes replied that he is waiting for an answer on this matter.

Commissioner Clark asked if he understood correctly that if someone is stopped and they are 15-20 minutes from the jail, they would wait on the side of the road until someone came with the device? Chief Deputy Forbes replied, perhaps or they could be charged at the jail.

Commissioner Ring asked if it was stated that State Police Troop A has this device and no one else (in this area)? Chief Deputy Forbes responded that he believes Maine DEA also has this. Commissioner Ring asked if this device can be shared with other law enforcement agencies in York County? Chief Deputy Forbes

replied, yes, that it will be made available to all York County Police Departments. Commissioner Ring asked will there be someone available to use this device 24/7? Chief Deputy Forbes replied that someone authorized to use it will be on each shift. Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the purchase of the Tru-Narc narcotics analyzer in the amount of \$30,000.00, using the \$8,000.00 grant secured by the Sheriff's Office with the remainder to be split between the Sheriff's Office and the Jail. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Sicard requested the cost of the testing materials be given to the Commissioners.

Vote 5-0.

e. Discussion to seek approval of dispatch terminals

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that this purchase is eligible under the ARPA funds. The three terminals cost \$479,555.00 and the specialized furniture costs \$45,273.02 for a total of \$524,728.02.

Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the purchase of the dispatch terminals in the amount of \$479,555.00 and the furniture in the amount of \$45,273.02 for a total of \$524,728.02 from the ARPA funds. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

f. Discussion and to seek approval of G&H block renovation

County Manager Zinser explained that the bid process has occurred and the bid as recommended by our architect is presented to the Commissioners. \$75,000.00 was added to repair the roof over G&H block as this section of the roof was not repaired when other portions of the roof were, explained the County Manager. This brings the total bid to \$1,170,024.00 minus the FEMA grant in the amount of \$400,000.00 with the remainder of \$770,024.00 coming out of ARPA funds. Commissioner Clark asked how many bids were received. County Manager Zinser responded that there were multiple bids and that the architectural company reviews them and gives us the bid they feel is best.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the renovation of G&H blocks and expend up to \$1,170,024.00 with the expectation of receiving \$400,000.00 of grant money from Maine Emergency Management Agency with the remaining \$770,000.00 coming from ARPA funds.

Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

g. Approve promotion of Kyle Kassa to the position of sergeant in the Patrol division

Commissioner Ring commented that she did not know this (item) would be on the agenda. Commissioner Dutremble pointed out that this item was on the agenda. Commissioner Ring stated that she wished she had more information. She stated to Sheriff King that this is not the procedure used in the past. Sheriff King responded that the collective bargaining agreement was followed for this process. Three names were sent to him. Commissioner Ring asked the Sheriff why he only chose one when there are three vacant positions?

Sheriff King replied that he will next ask the County Manager for three more names. Commissioner Ring again stated that this is not how the process has been done in the past. Sheriff King replied that they have never had multiple Sergeant vacancies in the past. Commissioner Ring asked the Sheriff why he wouldn't put forth all three names at the same time. Sheriff King replied that he chose not to do so. Commissioner Ring stated does that not give people who might not be in

the running, two or three chances to be in the running? Sheriff King responded that he is not prepared to answer and that he is trying to follow the contract.

Commissioner Ring commented that this is not the normal procedure and that she takes exception to seeing something four days before it is going to be approved when the process is different than it has been done over the past 30 years.

Sheriff King again stated that he has never had more than one opening before (for Sgt.)

Commissioner Ring stated that she would like to see the entire process and asked if it is available to her.

County Manager Zinser stated that the contract is being followed. The top three candidates were given to the Sheriff. The contract does not require that all three get hired. Commissioner Ring asked when did you change the process? She continued that she wondered if the Fraternal Order of Police is aware of this and if they have any issues.

Commissioner Ring asked Sheriff King if he only needed one Sergeant. He replied that he is only asking for one. County Manager Zinser added that the collective bargaining agreement requires that the top three (names) be given to the Sheriff for his consideration. Kyle Kassa will be removed and then the next three (names) will be given to the Sheriff. Commissioner Ring responded that with this method, someone at the lower end will get two or three more times.

County Manager Zinser replied that he did seek a legal opinion and that it says we are doing this correctly.

Commissioner Clark asked is it not correct that the hiring (of Sergeant) consists of more than just a written test? Sheriff King replied, yes. Commissioner Clark stated that he is not interested in micro-managing how the Sheriff makes his promotions.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the promotion of Kyle Kassa to Sergeant effective November 1, 2021. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 (with Commissioner Ring voting against the hiring due to the process not the individual).

h. Any ARPA discussions, if needed

County Manager Zinser asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments for discussion regarding the ARPA funding. Commissioner Ring asked if any new information had been received and County Manager Zinser replied, no. Commissioner Sicard commented that he would like to look at the (expenditures) sheet at the second meeting in November. County Manager Zinser replied that he does have an e-mail with the sheet that he will forward on to the Commissioners next week.

**\*\*PUBLIC COMMENTS HEAR PRIOR TO ITEM 3\*\***

**3 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. Commissioner Andrews 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.

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

Susan Wiswell asked if the homeland security funds obtained for the training center will offset what the county is spending with ARPA funds. County Manager Zinser explained that Chief Hooper submitted an earmark request and that \$850,000.00 was granted towards the training center. He added that it is now up to the Commissioners on what they want to do. Susan Wiswell asked if the county has this money now? County Manager Zinser replied that it has to go through Congress.

Janet Drew stated as a follow up to Susan's comments, this money received will offset some of the costs to free up some money as there still is not a total picture of what is being spent and you are not trying anything different.

County Manager Zinser replied that the County does have a treatment and recovery facility and that we are pursuing detox beds as well as expanding the treatment and recovery program.

He added that currently, the County spends \$2 million on treatment and recovery.

The County is also looking into hiring a Clinical Director.

County Manager Zinser invited Janet Drew to come and take a tour of the county Facilities to look at what we do to rehabilitate people.

Commissioner Sicard stated that he received his booster shot at the county's vaccination center and wanted to thank Art Cleaves and his entire crew for the work they are doing.

**5 ADJOURN**

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