

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 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, February 16, 2022 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
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 **02-16-22 ITEM**

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

Janet Drew addressed the Board regarding the detox center that is being considered using ARPA funding and asked where will people go after that as housing is such an issue. She added that there are so many organizations that are running on nothing. They run on volunteers. We need to give more money to little organizations.

She stated that she hoped the canine program is geared to stop big drug flow into Maine.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a. Commissioners meeting of February 2, 2022

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

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

a. Warrants to be approved on February 2, 2022, in the amount of \$277,074.11

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the above-noted warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Warrants to be approved on February 9, 2022 in the amount of \$1,032,008.12

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the above-noted warrant. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark asked the County Manager to speak to why this warrant is so big. The County Manager responded that it reflected a debt service payment that is made twice a year.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

a. Commissioner Dutremble to report on MCCA meeting

Commissioner Dutremble commented that many items were discussed and he would like to emphasize three of those items. The State would like to change how the Probate system is run and appoint 8 full time probate judges. He reported that MCCA against this.

Commissioner Sicard replied that they keep bringing this up. They want to appoint Probate judges and pull them into the judicial branch but have the counties pay for everything else.

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the second item discussed was money in the State has in an account for jail funding supplementary funding. They now are going to distribute this to each county and MCCA is pushing to make sure each county gets their fair share.

Commissioner Ring asked if there will be a formula (for this distribution of funds)? County Manager Zinser replied that this is money that has accumulated in the corrections account for the last several years. \$3 million was appointed by the legislature and there is \$1.6 million in there now. It was set up as a reserve fund and various counties have asked for it when they had an unbudgeted item. The Manager's Association discussed and decided we should use up the funds. Each county submitted an "ask". Our medical contract was more than we budgeted for so we submitted a request for \$234,000.00. It was decided there would be a percentage deduction so all requests will be funded at 75% The County Manager stated that he believes those are the numbers MCCA is putting out in letters.

Commissioner Dutremble continued that the last item he wanted to mention was that of whether or not the counties are in favor of hosting a MCCA convention in September. They need to know to get vendors. The Commissioners decided they did wish to have the convention. Commissioner Dutremble will relay this to MCCA.

5 NEW BUSINESS

a. ARPA notice to municipalities

County Manager informed all that there is a provision in statute that we have to notify municipalities of these funds and asked for a motion of the Commissioners to do so.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve that the letter presented to the Commissioners by County Manager Zinser be sent out to all York County municipalities. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

b. Review and discussion of funding contract for Biddeford Housing Authority/My Place Teen Center

County Manager Zinser explained that Guy Gagnon from Biddeford Housing Authority and Donna Dwyer from My Place Teen Center (via ZOOM) are present at the meeting. He reminded all that the Board approved \$1.5 million in ARPA funds for renovation and construction of My Place Teen Center in Biddeford.

The contract has gone back and forth and is now ready. The recommendation is, stated the County Manager, that the Board authorize me to sign and get project going.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the My Place Teen Center contract and authorize the County Manager to sign the documents. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION-

Guy Gagnon, Biddeford Housing Authority addressed the Board and stated that lots of good communication has been going back and forth. There is lots of planning being done. Mr. Gagnon stated that they hope to be in (teen center) by summer of 2023. Most of the work is code-related, he explained, i.e. mechanical like sprinkler, alarm, heating.

Donna Dwyer, Executive Director of My Place Teen Center thanked the Commissioners. She assured all that they are already in York County helping young people even though they don't have their permanent home yet. We will have a grand opening that we hope will be in the fall of 2023, stated Mrs. Dwyer. Vote 5-0.

c. Recognize Lori Marks-2022 Corrections Officer of the Year-

Sheriff King approached the Board and informed all that the American Jail Association had unanimously selected Lori Marks as the National Corrections Officer of the year. He told all that Ms. Marks has been a corrections officer in York County for 15 years. She is a role model and mentor, a leader at the Sheriff's Office. As well, Officer Markes appeared on a local television show recruiting for York County Corrections Officers. Officer Marks was also a member of the York County Intelligence Task Force and the 2018 Officer of the Year in York County. Sheriff King continued that she has been elevated 2 times to Acting Lieutenant., she is enthusiastic and has a positive attitude.

d. Seek approval to reschedule April 20th Commissioners meeting to April 13
County Manager Zinser asked that the April 20th Commissioners meeting be moved to April 13.

Commissioner Clark motioned to move the April 20th meeting to April 13th. Commissioner Ring seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

6 OLD BUSINESS

a. Biddeford courthouse- discussion of District Attorney space

County Manager Greg Zinser informed all that the new courthouse is scheduled to come online in the spring of 2023. He continued that so far securing space in Biddeford has not come to fruition. Statute governs how we spend money. We can't build outside of Alfred without a county referendum, explained County Manager Zinser. We would have to go to voters to take on debt service. A couple of realtors are working with us. We recently re-opened the conversation with the judicial system about the current Biddeford courthouse. It has been turned over to the State Bureau of General Services. From our conversations, we learned there are particular statutes dealing getting rid of property. The State agencies get first choice and then the open market. We are pretty close to confirming that we would qualify as a State agency as the District Attorney is a State entity. That would put us on the same playing field as other state agencies. We are consulting with our attorney to work our way through of some of the statutory requirements. This

building is our best alternative right now as it is a seven- minute drive from the new courthouse. The building is 20,000 sq. ft. in size. The courthouse has only 500 sq. ft. in it designated to the District Attorney.

Commissioner Ring asked if any other county has had this type of issue. County Manager Zinser said he didn't think so as this is unique. The courthouse has been taken out of the shire town of the county.

Commissioner Clark suggested that the York County legislative delegation be contacted. He added that the State created this problem, they need to help us solve it. There will be significant costs in transporting prisoners.

Commissioner Sicard asked if video arraignments could be done instead. Sheriff King responded that they will have some video arraignment but sometimes they want the individual there.

The County Manager replied that we will draft up a letter to the York County delegation. One member is already working with us.

b. ARPA committee discussion with updates

County Manager Greg Zinser informed all that there are two committees- behavioral and substance abuse and regional training. each had 3 meetings. After the initial meeting of the regional training committee a sub-committee was formed with Chief Deputy Forbes, Major Thayer and Chief Fire and EMS Administrator Rod Hooper to develop a comprehensive plan of training programs. The committee is working with York County Community College. Chief Hooper sat down with our architect to discuss space needs. Initial figures for the building size is 25 to 26,000 sq. ft. These are rough diagrams and they will start to work on the refinement of this.

The Behavioral Health committee reviewed at their last meeting a continuum of care document prepared by York County Clinician Jennifer Ouellette. The committee also discussed the various types of recovery programs, including housing. Moving forward, the committee will now begin to put price tags on it. The County Manager stated that he is hopeful by June, there will be something to look at, including operational plans. He added that he thinks with what the county currently does with funding and with Maine Care funding too, we can pull it all together.

Commissioner Sicard asked if we were working with Sanford Housing? County Manager Zinser replied, yes. He added that we can start working on site plans but that sewer issue still has to be resolved. Commissioner Ring asked how many units we might be able to have? County Manager Zinser responded, 35 to 40 units and reminded all that these are just for one person, not families. He added that with the extended care program they will have to have a job.

Commissioner Clark informed all that an additional person has been added to the committee who was in recovery. This person brings a different perspective of what is needed.

Commissioner Sicard spoke about the dredge and informed all that it was presented in Wells last night and very well received. The Wells Selectmen voted to send a letter of support. Commissioner Sicard continued that Kittery and UNE also have been brought on board. He added that the Army Corps of Engineers dredged only the center of the river so the sides were left undone. This affects Hills Beach and the UNE beach. Scarborough is also drafting a letter of support according to Commissioner Sicard. He added that Saco is preparing their budget and is including half a million in operational money in their budget for year 1.

They are working on getting their ducks in a row and will be reporting back to us in April, commented Commissioner Sicard.

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) 405 6 (A)

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to §405 (6) (A). 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.

*****TAKEN BEFORE ITEM #7*****

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

Janet Drew thanked the Commissioners for the ARPA update. She added that she is happy for Donna Dwyer and Biddeford Housing.

9 ADJOURN

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