

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 21, 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 Thursday, December 21, 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 and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

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

12-21-22 ITEM

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

Janet Drew addressed the Board via ZOOM to discuss public health in Maine. She asked if there are County public health officers? Ms. Drew also asked if any ARPA money is going towards any public health entities.

Commission Chairperson Sicard replied that in addition to \$40 million received in ARPA funds there was an additional \$5 million spent by our EMA assisting first responders and assisting with running a vaccination center. Commissioner Sicard also explained that later in the meeting there is an agenda item in regard to trying to keep the lab open. Lastly, he stated that the Commissioners are also working on providing first responders with a training center utilizing ARPA money.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a. Commissioners' regular meeting of December 8, 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 December 7, 2022 in the amount of \$825,289.63

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

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

None

5 NEW BUSINESS

HEARD AFTER item b.

- a. To hear tax abatement denial appeal for Fallen v. Buxton- Commissioner Clark motioned to table until the party shows up. (Mr. Gingrass, tax assessor for the town of Buxton was present.) Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

The Commissioners moved to item 5 (b).

Back to tax abatement denial hearing after moving to item 5b.

Commissioner Clark motioned to take this item off the table and hear the abatement.

Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Robert Gingras, assessing agent from the town of Buxton addressed the Board and requested they deny the appeal based on the fact that the party (Fallen) bringing forth the appeal did not appear.

Commissioner Clark asked if the same party has owned this (property) for many years? Mr. Gingras replied, yes and explained that the documentation Commissioner Clark asked about were comparable properties in Buxton he had compiled.

Commissioner Clark asked Mr. Gingras if he knew if the function hall was still in use? Commissioner Gingras- replied, yes, to the best of his knowledge.

Commissioner Ring asked Mr. Gingras was it correct that in the packet (given to the Commissioners) they requested an abatement, and they were given some relief.

Mr. Gingras responded, yes and that they (Fallens) are only saying it is too high and not providing any other information (to the town).

Commissioner Ring added that she had noticed that the appraisal they provided was a few years old.

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

Appraiser Robert Gingras asked if it makes a difference about the party's ability to take this appeal to Superior Court since they did not appear at the Hearing before the Commissioners?

County Manager Zinser replied that he was not sure and that was a legal question. He added that the court may send it back to us.

- b. To review and seek approval of year end transfers- County Manager Zinser explained that the audit is not done and after this (transfers) is complete, we have to schedule the Federal audit. County Manager Zinser stated that he is hoping to find out in January and believes it will take about a week. He added that the Commissioners were given the auditor's worksheet. Commissioner Dutremble motioned to implement reserve transfers as presented by County Manager Zinser. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Commissioner Ring asked County Manager Zinser is it correct that he wants to take \$784,000 from the surplus and put into these accounts? County Manager Zinser replied, no but that he is asking that surplus funds be put into building reserves except for \$70,000 that has lapsed into the unrestricted fund.

Commissioner Ring asked where do all these surpluses come from-what departments?

County Manager Zinser explained that some departments had surpluses because they were down employees but that most comes from excess revenues.

Commissioner Ring stated that MUNIS generates reports on a regular basis. I am not comfortable putting all this money in reserves with a recession coming, stated Commissioner Ring. She continued that she would like expenditures from all departments for the year.

County Manager Zinser replied that would be in the final audit.

Commissioner Ring stated that the reports sent in July did not give her a bottom line and that she thinks it is pretty important to start looking at where we are spending and where we are not spending.

Commissioner Sicard commented that the Commissioners have always moved anything over 20%.

Commissioner Ring stated that she understands if we don't move it, we lose it. She asked are we taxing people too much? Commissioner Ring stated that she has a major concern as there have been very large surpluses over the past couple of years. I think we might be overestimating some other areas.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that most of the surplus comes from excess revenues. We established this about 16 years ago to make sure we have enough reserves to take care of projects without taxing the taxpayers, explained Commissioner Dutremble.

Commissioner Clark commented that the first year he was involved with county budget committee, the county had laid off 15 to 16 people and things were not good. It took a lot of work to fix this to make sure we don't have to go through this again. I believe we should continue to put money aside for the future, stated Commissioner Clark. He added that we need to think of the long term and that he is not at all uncomfortable assigning these reserves.

Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed. She stated that her opposition is mainly due to lack of information provided to her. (reserve transfers attached as record of this meeting)

- c. ARPA update-David Nalchajian, ARPA Financial Project Manager addressed the Board and gave an update on funds and expenditures. He explained that there has been consistent spending of the ARPA funds. Premium pay and project managers have had activity every week. Mr. Nalchajian continued that the majority of spending has been against the new projects that the Commissioners have appropriated for the new training center and recovery center and the dredge. We are earning interest. (simple interest and rates aren't that great). We discussed the possibility of looking for a short-term investment vehicle, explained ARPA Financial Project Manager Nalchajian.

Commissioner Clark asked have we actually allocated everything at this point? Manager Nalchajian replied, no.

Commissioner Clark stated that he recommended that at the next meeting we talk about allocating these funds. He added that he thought the Commissioners

really need to do that before someone thinks there's a ton of money floating around that no one has asked for.

County Manager Zinser replied that he and Dave (Nalchajian) would put something together to let us know an estimate of what's there.

BACK TO TAX ABATEMENT DENIAL APPEAL

d. H.R. Director Corliss to seek hiring/transfer approval for:

i. Jonathan R. Hernandez in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of December 14, 2022-

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Jonathan R. Hernandez in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of December 14, 2022. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Dutremble asked H.R. Director Corliss if we have to pay for his attendance at the academy? H.R. Director Corliss replied, no, that is only applicable in law enforcement. Vote 5-0.

ii. Aleta E. Mackenzie in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of December 14, 2022-

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Aleta Mackenzie in the position of full-time corrections officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of December 14, 2022. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

iii. William B. McWhirk in the position of full-time maintenance technician in the Facilities department with a date of hire of January 9, 2023-

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of William McWhirk in the position of full-time maintenance technician in the Facilities Department with a hire date of January 9, 2023. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

iv. Transfer of the following employees from temporary DAR positions to permanent reserve Disaster Assistant Responder III positions with a pay rate of \$18.00-hour effective January 2, 2023: H.R. Director Corliss reminded the Commissioners that during the COVID pandemic they approved the hiring of the temporary DAR positions and that all of these positions will go away at the end of year. To continue lab work and be adequately prepared in the event of another pandemic, we are seeking approval to hire them into reserves.

The names are:

Marguerite Belanger, Darcie Binette, Jean Binette, Patricia Boston, Bruce Brokaw, Claire Curtis, Kathy Fraser, Rebecca Gaillard, Rachel Gaudreau, Larry Hammond, Elizabeth Hillman-Garriepy, Savanna James, Elizabeth Kelly, Charissa Kerr, Bonnie Lamie, Elizabeth Martin, Anne Malkasian, Katie Moore, Katrina Randall, Patricia Ross, Bette Smith and Sylvia Sutton.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the transfer of the following employees (reads all names listed above). Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

H.R. Director Corliss explained that in order to move the lab from the vaccine center to here, the Lab Director and Medical Director need to come here. Using the job descriptions that you originally approved, I need to have them approved also, she stated. Marc Dube is the Lab Director and Dr. Michael Schmitz is the Medical Director. The pay rate is \$125 per hour for each of them.

Commissioner Clark motioned to transfer Michael Schmitz as the permanent reserve medical director as of 1-2-2023. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to transfer Marc Dube to the position of permanent reserve lab director as of 1-2-2023. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

- e. Reorganization of the Fire Instructor and Hazmat teams- H.R. Director Corliss explained that she and Fire Administrator Rod Hooper were looking at positions to condense down to four. She went on to state that they are simply reclassifying positions-not adding or subtracting any employees. The rates of pay will stay the same, explained H.R. Director Corliss. As far as the Hazmat team, we have consolidated the job description and this makes it a little more flexible and allows supervision, when necessary, explained H.R. Director Corliss. She added that these positions are all reserves with no set schedule. Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the reorganization of Hazmat and Fire instructor positions. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

6 OLD BUSINESS

None

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)

None

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

Janet Drew asked if the medical person would have a job description that would involve more public health as there is more that happens than just an emergency response. You lost your housing site in Alfred, but do you have a new site, asked Ms. Drew? You said you were committed to getting land somewhere.

County Manager Zinser replied that we are working diligently with Sanford Housing. He added that he is being asked to not publicly disclose the properties right now.

County Manager Zinser explained that public health is owned by Maine DHHS and Maine CDC. He added that a few counties have a public health person.

Commissioner Clark stated that it is the winter solstice and that he would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Clark stated that this was the last meeting with Al Sicard as the chairperson. He thanked Al (Commissioner Sicard) for the work he has put in for this county and added that he deserves our respect and appreciation.

Commissioner Sicard replied that it was a quick four years with the pandemic right in the middle. Commissioner Sicard stated that he was proud of 250+ employees we have here in York County. He said that he will miss everyone and feels that the county is better than it was four years ago and is in capable hands.

9 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.