

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

April 1, 2020

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, April 1, 2020 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble-via conf. call
Michael J. Cote
Richard Clark
Robert Andrews
Allen Sicard

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

04-01-20 ITEM

Commissioner Chairman Cote informed all there were ten (10) individuals in the meeting room.

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

None

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a. Special Meeting of March 16, 2020

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner Dutremble abstaining as he was absent.

b. Regular Meeting of March 18, 2020-

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-1. Commissioner Dutremble abstained as he was absent.

c. Special Meeting of March 25, 2020-

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

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

a. Approve treasurer's warrant dated March 18, 2020 in the amount of \$196,073.41

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

b. Approve treasurer's warrant dated March 25, 2020 in the amount of \$603,860.91

Commissioner Cote motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

None

5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Provide update on COVID-19- The County Manager stated that not much has really changed since we last spoke concerning the county's response. We are already doing one week on, one week off with our employees. Today, we distributed letters to all stating they are essential. We are not aware of any potential court closures or slow downs. As long as the courts remain open, the D.A. will remain open.

The County Manager introduced EMA Director, Art Cleaves via conference call. Director Cleaves thanked the Commissioners for their support. He continued that the communities really need EMA's support and they have been able to do that. He has split the staff whereby half are at home and four in the office and added that they may modify that as time goes by to be sure that they can keep the EOC open. We have been able to put some part time people on. This situation is difficult, and we are appreciative of our towns, stated Director Cleaves. We've been able to help hospitals and first responders. We will get paid back by FEMA by 90% and perhaps 100%, Director Cleaves informed all. He went on to state that York County is the only agency that is doing the things we are doing in supplying personal protective equipment(PPEs).

Emergency Planning and Preparedness Manager, Megan Arsenault informed all that we currently have 344 cases in Maine. Statewide 80 have recovered and in York County 14 have recovered, with 1 death in the State. Testing is being done for the highest risk people. Ms. Arsenault stated that everyone should act as they have it and continue to practice social distancing. Megan gave a quick overview of EMA's day beginning with coordination, a morning huddle into ZOOM huddle. We then go into a full staff meeting and brief all local directors in 29 towns. York County CDC liaison, Adam Hartwig and UNE students currently assisting are present for these meetings. We have bi-weekly meetings for fire chiefs and directors. We are providing equipment to our towns as well as facilitating PPE requests from the towns through CDC and MEMA and out of our own stock we are filling the orders in the interim (3000 individual pieces of PPEs this month. We have a warehouse of sorts and are accepting donations.

Chief Hooper Y.C. Fire and EMS briefed the Board on tasks they have started such as FIT testing through our HAZMAT team for the N-95 masks. We have been going around the county to include Biddeford Fire, Saco P.D., Wells, Sheriff's Office and jail staff as well as York Hospital today. Dave Francoeur located a type of N-95 masks that the filters can be replaced in as well as this type of mask fits better in the event you must wear it 4 to 5 hours. In the EMS field these days, stated Chief Hooper, there are rapid changes to protocol and rapid changes to procedure. We have had a series of video calls where the Regional Medical Director of Southern Maine Health has been on as well as the State EMS Director to make sure Y.C. First Responders have the information they need. Incredibly effective calls. Many chiefs are concerned about staffing as the majority of their staff work on a per diem basis. If we lose one EMT or paramedic, it could affect more than one community. Our chiefs in this county are very resourceful and are coming up with plans. They are also spreading out their equipment. Many chiefs are moving their apparatus around in the event one station or ambulance gets contaminated, they have another. Most are well equipped with PPE's at the moment. The concern is if we have an uptick in EMS calls, we will burn through PPEs at a quick rate, so we are continuing to get stock through the CDC out of Augusta. The delivery time isn't until August, so this is not an immediate solution. Quarantine facility leads include UNE or the Monastery in Kennebunk. That way First Responders that need to

be quarantined have a place to go. Chief Hooper reminded all that day to day calls still haven't changed. There have been six two alarm fires in the past two days. He thanked the Commission and Manager for their support through this.

Director Cleaves added that we are working very long days and making plans for the what ifs.

Commissioner Sicard asked Art to thank all his folks for the work they are doing.

Commissioner Sicard asked Director Cleaves about the emails he has seen from the town Managers in that from the county reporting they want more specific municipal numbers so people know how many cases in their community, and they are saying NH is doing that. He asked is it because of privacy concerns?

Director Art Cleaves replied that he and MEMA and Chief Hooper and the Commissioner of Public Safety are trying to get the information down to the communities. There is an outcry across the board but there has been no movement from the Governor's office. He reminded all that during this pandemic, HIPPA violations are null and void now. Dr. Shah's advice is not well received at the first responder level in that he advises we treat every encounter as anyone they treat has the virus. Commissioner Sicard clarified that it is a State issue-not at the County level. Art Cleaves replied, yes, and that York Hospital has that information and dispatch does share when they get it.

Commissioner Cote asked EMA Director Cleaves if he has everything, he needs other than PPEs? Art Cleaves replied, yes, absolutely we are in good shape.

County Manager Greg Zinser stated to Art, great job kudos to you and your crew. We recognize you are pulling long days.

Sheriff King addressed the Board and stated that they did have a scare at the jail. CDC came back and said we handled everything correctly, stated the Sheriff. He added that the test came back negative. He continued to inform the Board that they have filled up one unit for all new inductees. All that have been there longer than 14 days are in a different pod. Director Cleaves was instrumental in getting that test back quickly (24 hours). People are compliant. Sheriff King continued that area police departments are cooperating with us as far as not bringing in unnecessary arrests.

H.R. Director Linda Corliss provided the Commissioners with a brief, current employee perspective. She circulated a timeline of steps that have been taken since early March to include remote working for some employees, closing of the fitness center, civil deputies, sanitizing and circulating mail.

Ms. Corliss continued that 15 employees to date have been affected in one way or another.

She added that the Families First Act went into effect April 1st. Exempt from the Act are law enforcement, corrections and EMA staff. We have forms and Department Leaders have been trained on the Act.

Commissioner Sicard stated that Greg mentioned forehead thermometers have been shipped. As the County Manager stated, the Department Leaders will be trained to take staff's temperatures as they come in. With good weather coming, seasonal allergies will exhibit some of the same symptoms. H.R. Director Linda Corliss replied that one employee has already asked about that. She explained that they will be asked to go to their PCP anyway. There have been cases in households where family members were diagnosed and the employee was put out per protocol even though they don't have any symptoms.

The County Manager stated there have been no cases whatsoever of COVID-19 that have been reported to us as an employer. We follow all CDC guidance and medical advice

from their doctor. That is how we come to our conclusions.

6 NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduce Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello to seek approval of the MAT contract- Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello requested Commissioner approval to Correctional Healthcare Partners for up to \$148,862 providing State funding from the Office of Substance Abuse is received. The Lt. Col. explained that the County's obligations to the vendor are subject to receiving the funding from the State. Because of the delays, they have not hired someone yet but he stated that he can tell the Board that it will most likely be less than that amount.

Commissioner Cote asked if this was a 12-month contract? Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello Replied that it was for 18 months.

Commissioner Clark asked if the prisoners that we are boarding at the Cumberland County jail have access to similar treatment. Lt. Col. Vitiello replied that it is his understanding that they have a program that they are going to be starting. Our inmates that we are boarding have the availability of medical and other programs that are available in Cumberland County. He stated that he can find out and bring back an answer at the next meeting.

Commissioner Sicard asked if Correctional Health Partners was the current vendor. Lt. Col. Michael Vitiello replied that they are the current vendor of medical services so it's a lot easier for them to expand the scope.

Commissioner Clark moved to approve MAT contract as presented not to exceed \$148,862.00 contingent on State Funding. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote- 5-0.

b. Introduce Sheriff King to request appointment of special deputy Ray Demers with an effective hire date of April 2, 2020

Sheriff King approached the Board to request the hiring of Ray Demers in the position of special deputy. Commissioner Clark asked if this was an existing position? Sheriff King replied no to which Commissioner Clark asked where is the money coming from. The Sheriff replied, civil process.

Commissioner Cote asked if he would serve papers. Sheriff King responded that he is hiring him as a special deputy and he will be performing a lot of the other things but that he does want that latitude to have him as a civil process deputy.

Commissioner Cote replied that the Sheriff can request that after the State of Emergency.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Ray Demers in the position of a Special Deputy with a start date of April 2, 2020. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. Review letter from Col. Cote re: rural patrol (postponed from 3-18-2020 mtg.)

County Manager Zinser reminded the Commissioners that several meetings ago, we had discussed a conversation with the Sheriff about police coverage in our 14 towns that don't have police departments. We knew the State police were thinking about how they do rural patrol, continued the County Manager. The letter back from Col. Cote left us in a state of quandary. We have given you a proposed letter that the Sheriff and I have created, continued Mr. Zinser. Sheriff King approached and stated that while we all understand that COVID-19 has everyone focused on it, we do need to plan as people in Hollis think it is going to be business as normal and it is not. We want the State Police

to be clearer.

Commissioner Clark asked the Sheriff if he has an MOU that lays out what they (State Police) do in these towns. And, if so, are they going to continue to comply with this MOU? Sheriff King replied that they sent him a new MOU that showed us patrolling Hollis.

The County Manager commented that this really put the county in a predicament giving us a new MOU with Hollis. The reality is that the State Police needs to be clear with us and the public about what their intent is.

Commissioner Sicard commented that they can't have it both ways. The Selectmen will think they have our Sheriff's Office and State Police covering them. County Manager Zinser replied that we want to have it clear that this needs to be stated. This is not voluntary on our behalf. They were proposing that we had this great discussion. They need to be clear of their intent, stated Mr. Zinser.

Sheriff King added that he did ask for the stats. Hollis had over 1300 calls last year and that is a lot and added that he would like them to say they are not going to be responding to Hollis, if that is their intent.

Commissioner Cote commented that the problem is if you sign that Agreement then you've agreed to it. Sheriff King clarified that he did not sign (the MOU with the State Police.)

Commissioner Cote replied that's what they wanted you to do. He continued that he believes there is a hidden agenda (by State Police) to do other things. It is not good for anyone for Sheriff's to have extra duties.

Commissioner Cote added that the State Police are still putting in for funding for rural patrol and they're (potentially) not doing rural patrol.

Sheriff King stated that he would like to get this letter sent. If not, another alternative, stated the Sheriff, he can ask the Governor as he doesn't have the staffing.

Commissioner Cote added that we may all want to sign on to a letter that says we don't have the funding for this and perhaps send a copy to our legislative delegation.

Commissioner Sicard stated that he thinks we need to use the phrase "elimination of rural patrol in Hollis". We need to dig our heels in as there are four other towns that we are involved with.

Commissioner Clark asked if there are other counties in which the State Police provide rural patrol? Sheriff King replied, yes, they do but the State Police in York County took on five towns so that we have consistency, so they know the people, the hot spots.

Sheriff King stated that in Washington County there are five troopers and five deputies and they divide coverage up every day. So, they do not have the community policing model like we have.

Commissioner Sicard stated that he would like the phrase, "elimination of rural patrol in Hollis" so we have that in the contract. Commissioner Clark added we need to know the dates that the State Police wish for this action to occur as we have budgeting that needs to be done so they need to help us out as to when they are going to pull the trigger. County Manager Greg Zinser replied that they've been clear that they want to cease effective January 1, 2021.

Commissioner Cote confirmed that the consensus of the Commissioners is to modify the letter and have it mailed out.

d. Seek Commissioner approval to increase EMA's credit card limit-

Commissioner Sicard asked if this is a temporary measure.

The County Manager replied that it can be. The Resolution will go to the bank and we can revisit this.

Commissioner Clark responded that he had the same concern as Commissioner Sicard.

Commissioner Clark motioned that we approve the request to increase the credit card

limits on the credit cards for Art Cleaves and David Francoeur to \$50,000 each through the extent of the declared civil emergency. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

e. Commissioner Cote stated that he felt it was time for the Commissioners to look at how we are meeting and suggested the use of a zoom conference, telephone meeting or that the Commissioners continue (to meet) like they are now. Commissioner Cote stated that social distancing recommendations are becoming a little tighter with the Governor's directive trying to break up as many people for the right reasons. Commissioner Clark stated that he is comfortable with what the Commissioners are doing now as any one of us can call in.

Commissioner Sicard stated that Zoom will allow the Board to interact. He added that his only concern would be the public's ability to call in.

County Manager Zinser replied that an interact process can be provided.

Commissioner Andrews stated that he thinks we should keep the course of what we are doing now.

Commissioner Dutremble added that he should be able to attend the rest of the meetings.

County Manager Zinser Greg stated that one of the things we need to talk about is the budget process and how we handle that. We are a little bit behind but added that he should be able to get the budget to the Commissioners by the end of the week. He continued that he will be speaking with one of the budget committee members tomorrow and that he is not sure how the caucus process will occur.

The County Manager asked the Commissioners if the budget process could occur with the Commissioners in one day in order to get it out there as soon as possible as he is predicting some issues with the budget committee and how they are going to meet. He suggested the date of April 15th, starting at 9:00 a.m. and finish by 4:00 p.m. Some may want to call in and not be here. We need to choose some type of a platform. He will talk with Commissioner Cote and come up with the best approach, stated Mr. Zinser.

The Commissioners agreed that they can attend.

County Manager Zinser stated that the budget he has prepared reflects a 3% increase due to Layman Way and wages.

7 OLD BUSINESS

None

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)

a. Executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A) may be necessary.

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session per the above-noted statute.

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)

*** ITEM HEARD PRIOR TO ITEM #8***

10 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 (Commissioner Dutremble left the call prior to this motion). Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.