

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 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, May 20, 2020 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble
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

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

None

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:

a. Regular Meeting of April 15, 2020 (tabled from last meeting)

Commissioner Sicard motioned to take the item off the table. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

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

b. Regular Meeting of May 6, 2020

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

3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS

a. Approve treasurer's warrant dated May 6, 2020 in the amount of \$370,740.81

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

b. Approve treasurer's warrant dated May 13, 2020 in the amount of \$336,165.91

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 Cote informed all that he participated in a ZOOM meeting for MCCA last Wednesday. He added that the group will continue to meet via ZOOM the second Wednesday of every month. The nominating committee has been charged to look for a President and possibly a VP by May 27th. Commissioner Sicard asked if the convention was cancelled? Commissioner Cote replied, yes, a vote was

taken. He thought that as an alternative late July/early August perhaps MCCA holds a one day event for training and have various meetings somewhere central in the State. Commissioner Cote went on to say that Charlie Pray is all done the end of May. We have talked about a lobbyist and also Lauren's position or maybe going another director. More information will be coming out.

5 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Provide update on COVID-19-

County Manager Greg Zinser updated the Board and stated that the planning phase (for re-opening) is done and notices are being issued to employees that they will be back to work on May 26th and re-opening to the public by June 1st. The County Manager added that he is still waiting to hear back from the court. They are aware of the myriad of issues that are going on with this county. Individuals will have to wear a face mask where they cannot socially distance. There is also going to be doing a daily screening process in that all employees will be required to take their temperature and complete a form to give to their department head verifying this action. Mr. Zinser continued that they went through a multitude of scenarios and this is the best procedure they came up with. There are also a whole host of rearrangements in the offices. The District Attorney's offices will be essentially locked down. Exposure areas will have plexiglass. As of June 1st, traffic will flow one way on stairs. But, explained the County Manager, we are waiting for what the State is going to do so we will need the Marshalls' help. Per the Governor's Order, we can only have 50 people in the building. We do anticipate lots of people wanting to use the Registry of Deeds. We have made it clear that there will be restrictions.

Commissioner Clark asked if the public will have to wear masks? County Manager Zinser replied they will and that the Supreme Court has issued an Order that anyone entering a courthouse has to wear a mask.

The County Manager showed the Board disinfecting units recently purchased and informed them that the large unit is scheduled to arrive by the end of the week. County Manager Zinser continued that he has been discussing with EMA and on his weekly meetings with the town managers, the possibility of the HAZMAT teams offering a program to sanitize the town halls after hours. We may have to charge them a nominal fee for the cost of the cleaning mixture (about \$40). Commissioner Sicard asked about sanitizing Layman Way and the Jail before we start cleaning towns? County Manager Zinser replied, yes. He added that we have two so why not go out and help the towns and cities.

6 NEW BUSINESS

a. Introduce H.R. Director, Linda Corliss to request the transfer of Miranda Bernhardt from the position of Corrections Officer to the position of Deputy with an effective date of June 1, 2020-

H.R. Director Linda Corliss addressed the Board and requested a transfer. She clarified however, that the employee currently resides in Scarborough and in accordance with Maine statute, we need to get a residency waiver for her. Director Corliss added that the Sheriff has requested that Ms. Bernhardt be given until January 2021 to find a residence in York County.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hire and transfer of Miranda Bernhardt from a corrections officer to a deputy with the understanding that she is a York County resident by January 31, 2021. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Cote stated that we do take this seriously about people living in York County. He commented that hopefully this won't be something we have to follow up with down the road.

Commissioner Dutremble asked about her having a vehicle? Sheriff King replied that she will have to attend the academy first. The Sheriff added that she is looking now to move back to York County. He informed the Board that York County has a spot reserved for the next Police Academy. Commissioner Cote asked in the interim what will she do?

Sheriff King explained that she will be learning rules and regulations, a little police work as well as familiarization with the D.A.'s office.

VOTE- 5-0.

b. Introduce H.R. Director, Linda Corliss to request Commissioner approval on York County Government joining MMA's Workers' Compensation Safety Incentive Program-

H.R. Director Linda Corliss explained the voluntary program to the Commissioners. She added that the County receives a discount on our rate if we meet all of their requirements. We already have a lot in place (policies). Director Corliss explained that she is looking for Commissioner support of the program.

Commissioner Clark moved that the Board sign the Resolve Form (supporting the Program). Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

c. Introduce Sheriff King to request the Commissioners proclaim May Mental Health Month-

Sheriff King read the e-mail he received. (attached as record). Commissioner Cote thanked Sheriff King and stated that he felt this to be an important cause.

Commissioner Clark motioned that the Commissioners sign the Mental Health month Proclamation.

Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Cote asked the Sheriff to elaborate or comment on the situation with the Governor as far as requesting the Sheriff hold all State inmates in County jails.

Sheriff King explained that the Governor's executive Order gives the Commissioner of Corrections exclusive authority as to where he puts State incarcerated individuals.

Sheriff King stated that he questions this authority. We are holding inmates that are court mandated to go to a State facility. We have three of these inmates- one that is housed in Cumberland County. One of them can get sick or hurt, who will pay for that, questioned the Sheriff? He added that the Maine Sheriff's Association is talking.

Commissioner of Corrections, Randy Liberty wants to have a conversation with us Friday. Sheriff King stated that he thinks the conversation should be with the Governor as she put the Order out. He added that he will keep the Commissioners updated as York County may want to take some action at some point.

Commissioner Cote replied that he realized that the Commissioner of Corrections can put State inmates in a county jail if he chooses to do so but costs and other valid issues need to be brought up. As temporary President of MCCA, he stated that he is willing to pursue it and would be willing to work with folks to come up with a solution.

Commissioner Clark asked if this is only in place as long as the civil emergency exists? Sheriff King responded, correct, June 11th.

Commissioner Clark stated that he is not trying to diminish the problem but it's only four weeks out. It could be a mute question by the time we get rolling on it.

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that the Commissioners went through this when we went to the State House to tell them to take care of their own prisoners and they did

not. He asked the Sheriff will the State inmates go back when the State of Emergency is over? Sheriff King replied they should go back.

Sheriff King commented that this is troubling. The State has given officers \$5 more an hour for hazard pay. Now, our officers here are taking people from the street and now the State has a closed system and this hurts morale. Commissioner Cote stated that one of the remedies is to talk about that (compensation for that type of situation).

Commissioner Sicard added that he feels the June date is just a rolling thing. He commented that he doesn't really believe that June 15th will be the date.

Sheriff King presented the Board with a heart of it all flag that shows their concern for front line workers. Chairman Cote asked the Board if they are okay with flying it. The consensus is yes.

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)

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A), personnel issues. Commissioner Sicard seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session. Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to grant the request for an employee leave of absence as presented on May 20, 2020 beginning May 25, 2020 through July 26, 2020. Vote 5-0.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)- Heard before exec. Session.

None

10 ADJOURN

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.