

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 3, 2009

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Courthouse first floor courtroom in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Thursday, September 3, 2009 A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sallie V. Chandler
Daniel C. Cabral
David Bowles
Richard R. Dutremble

County Manager Richard Brown and Finance Director Vicki Ridlon were also present.

All present were invited to rise and salute the flag of the United States.

Commissioner Cabral motioned to enter into executive session. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to come out of executive session at 5:40. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. No action taken.

Item 1 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 5, 2009 AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' EXECUTIVE MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2009.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cabral. Vote 4-0.

Item 2 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dutremble mentioned an article he had recently read reference the jail bill. The State is paying \$19.25 a day to the county for the State prisoners it houses. Denise Lord admitted in the article that it costs \$120.00 per day to house and feed the prisoners. Commissioner Chandler responded that the Commissioners needed to ask the legislature to repeal LD 2080 as this is just one more example of how it does not work.

Commissioner Chandler informed the board that she had spoken with the Town of Limington reference the Christian Fellowship and Renewal and that the town will hold another tax denial abatement hearing.

Commissioner Bowles expressed his concern with the proposed increase in MCCA dues from the County. He questioned the value of the County

continuance as a member when the great majority of the issues discussed are about the jail. Commissioner Chair Chandler responded that the item will come up for a vote at the County Convention next week. Commissioner Bowles added that the dues may double or even triple and that the vote will also include whether or not to expand representation.

Item 3 HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

a. Financial Update- The Manager reported on the discussions with the bargaining units in regards to possible concessions to aid in the financial crisis. The Teamsters refused to be involved in any discussions. The M.S.E.A. met twice with the manager and while they were very cordial and agreed to perhaps meet again in the future, they did not agree to make any concessions. The M.S.E.A. representatives did also say they would be interested in talking with the budget committee. The County Patrol Association has also met twice with the Manager and the County's Attorney, Gene Libby. They did offer to concede the one hour a day differential for detective standby pay and the night shift differential and the one hour a day pay for the canine officer. These concessions amount to approximately \$35,000.00 in savings. Mr. Brown went on to say that the County Patrol Association asked what their share of the cuts were and were told between \$450,000 to \$550,000. While no future meetings are scheduled at this time, they did say that they would be interested in future talks.

Commissioner Cabral made the following motion: I move that the county commissioners direct the county manager to prepare the county budget for review by the county commissioners for the fiscal and calendar year 2010 and that the said budget reflect an overall reduction of \$1,300,000.

I further move that the commissioners direct the manager to begin to take whatever actions are necessary to begin the process of downsizing in order to be in the best possible position financially by the end of the calendar year. This authority should include all necessary workforce reductions taking into account accrued savings for the next budget year.

I further move that the commissioners direct and authorize the county manager to determine the distribution of said reductions and to proceed with them as soon as is practical.

Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Dutremble opposed. Commissioner Dutremble spoke to those present that he believed there are different options to reduce the budget while also reducing the number of layoffs necessary. Commissioner Bowles added the Commissioners have agonized over the decision and that he wanted to comment on the statement brought up by some employees that an increased assessment could be put on the communities. He has met with three of the towns' representatives in his district and they have made it clear they were not interested in receiving any increases for the running of County government.

b. Audit Review Date- The manager reported the auditors will meet with the Commissioners on October 7, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. in the Commissioners'/Managers' office to review and answer any questions regarding the 2008 audit. This meeting is open to the public.

c. Set date for M.S.E.A. grievance appeal- The Manager requested that this item be withdrawn from the agenda as an agreement has been reached between the District Attorney and the union members.

d. Energy Efficiency Grant awarded to York County- Manager Brown reported that the county had been awarded an energy grant from the Federal government in the amount of \$646,000.00 York County has partnered with Southern Maine Regional Planning Committee to complete the necessary grant documents. These monies are required to be used for energy efficiency projects in the county buildings. Mr. Brown stated that a portion of the monies will be made available to cities and towns in York County. Commissioner Bowles reiterated that these funds can only be used for energy efficiency and must be approved and monitored by the Federal Government

e. Maine Bond Bank-The Manager reported that the County applied to refinance \$8 million of its debt which would have resulted in approximately \$100,000 in savings of interest costs. Unfortunately, the County was notified by bond counsel that the County must obtain permission to refinance by the cities and towns in York County. Hopefully, the County can attempt to get approval to enable re-financing next year. Commissioner Dutremble asked if the Finance Director could look into the possibility of the County leasing a million dollars every year to save interest costs.

f. Health Insurance- County Manager Brown reported that he was recently notified that the county's health insurance premium will increase by 15.9% which results in approximately a \$350,000 increase.

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

Marvin Anson voiced his concerns about the agenda not being followed as written and allowing attendees to be left waiting a long time for the public portion of the meeting and his belief that the community based programs could be done away with to save money for the County.

Diane Lariviere, an employee of the York County Deeds department, asked when the layoffs would occur. Commissioner Bowles responded that the Manager would decide with direction from the Finance Director. Commissioner Bowles continued to explain that there is a certain amount of time before the County starts to achieve any savings from the layoffs as there are benefits to be paid out also.

An unidentified man addressed the board and asked how the layoffs would occur and hoped that they would happen all at once. He further stated that he felt the process was backwards by instituting layoffs before the 2010 budget is completed. He went on that he does not feel this is fair as the audit has not even been made public yet.

ITEM 6 NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7 OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bowles mentioned that he had asked the Sheriff at the last meeting to give the Board an update at their next meeting on traffic accidents on Route 111. Chief Mat Baker told the Commissioner that the Sheriff has been on vacation.

ITEM 8 ADJOURN

Commissioner Cabral motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:10.

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

SIGNED: _____

Kathryn A. Dumont

ATTEST: _____

Sallie V. Chandler, Chair