

COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 21, 2009

YORK,ss

At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and holden at the York County Courthouse lower level meeting room in Alfred, within and for the County of York, being held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 A. D. at 4:30 P.M.

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

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.

Item 1 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 7, 2009

Commissioner Bowles motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 with Commissioner Sinden abstaining.

Item 2 HEAR ANY REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

None

Item 3 TO HEAR A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

The County Manager reported he had received an extension agreement from Runyan Kersteen Ouellette (the County's current auditing company) for an additional year and asked the Commissioners' for authorization to extend the contract for one year. County Manager Brown continued to state that most municipalities change auditors every five to six years.

Commissioner Bowles asked if a separate contract with the auditors exists for the jail. Finance Director Vicki Ridlon responded one did not exist but the jail audit is charged to the jail's budget.

2010 Budget- The Manager presented the 2010 budget and explained that it was the same budget presented to them last year. He further stated there are significant decreases in county revenues; adding that deeds revenue is estimated to go down \$275,000 due to the MacImage issue. Mr. Brown stated another issue is the jail revenue of \$900,000 that isn't allowed to be paid to the County any longer.

Manager Brown went on to state that while this might be a backward way for the Commissioners to present the budget, they cannot raise revenue and the only way to raise money is to obtain the funds from the cities and towns. This is a function of the Budget Committee. If the Budget Committee approves the budget as it stands, Mr. Brown stated that many, many jobs would come back but he stressed that not all jobs would be reinstated. He stated to the audience that the Commissioners are attempting to make a statement to the Budget Committee that the County cannot be run with so few people and reminded all that they need to realize the Budget Committee will be making the decisions.

Commissioner Cabral approved the budget as presented and directed it be forwarded to the Budget Committee. Commissioner Bowles seconded the motion. Commissioner Dutremble expressed that he would not vote in favor of the motion as normally all department heads are asked questions reference their budgets. He also stated he had not been given enough time to review the budget. Chairwoman Sallie Chandler stated that she understood one can still review the budget and make comments once it has gone to the Budget Committee.

Motion passes with a 3-1 vote (Commissioner Dutremble opposed) Commissioner Sinden abstained.

The County Manager referred to an opinion from the County Attorney which states that according to State statute, the County Budget Committee has to act on the budget within sixty (60) days of receipt. He reminded the Commissioners that the County can only spend 80% of their prior years' budget until the current budget is approved. Mr. Brown stated that it was critical for the Commissioners to get the budget to the budget committee and that it does not mean you cannot go back and talk about the items.

Lt. Col. Vitiello presented a proposal to install a system at the jail to heat domestic hot water to reduce energy costs. He estimates a payback time of three to five years. Michael Vitiello explained that while this is a jail function, the County will be entering into the agreement with the bank for financing. Lt. Col. Vitiello reported that the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$150,000.

Commissioner Dutremble motioned to approve Lt. Col. Vitiello and Sheriff Ouellette moving forward on this project to seek financing. Commissioner Sinden seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.

Item 4 HEAR A REPORT FROM THE FINANCE DIRECTOR

Finance Director Vicki Ridlon presented the year to date financial reports to the Commissioners. She reported that she had to cut back some of the budgets in July but currently, all departments are on track. Finance Director Ridlon stressed that all expenditures will be closely monitored for the last three months of the year.

Commissioner Dutremble reminded all that overages had to come before the board to vote on.

ITEM 5 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)

Commissioner Dutremble motioned the establishment of rules for public comments. He recommended that every one have a chance to speak for five minutes. Commissioner Bowles added that comments should be limited to citizens of York County. **Commissioner Dutremble withdrew his motion. After further discussion, Commissioner Bowles motioned that Commissioners Cabral and Sinden form a sub-committee to look at the policies of other towns and establish comprehensive rules. Commissioner Cabral seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.**

Marvin Anson from Alfred recommended that public comment should come after old business.

ITEM 6 NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 7 OLD BUSINESS

Sheriff Ouellette reported on the accident history on Route 111. He informed the board of the accident rates, fatalities and injuries from 2005 to 2008.

**ITEM 8 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL ISSUES
PURSUANT TO M.R.S.A. § 405(6) (A).**

**Commissioner Bowles motioned to enter into executive session at 5:40
Commissioner Dutremble seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.**

**Commissioner Bowles motioned to come out of executive session.
Commissioner Cabral seconded. Vote 5-0. No action taken.**

ITEM 9 ADJOURN

**Commissioner Cabral motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bowles
seconded the motion. Vote 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:20.**

Minutes taken by Executive Administrative Assistant

**SIGNED: _____
Kathryn A. Dumont**

**ATTEST: _____
Sallie V. Chandler, Chair**