

1 **COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

2 **February 5, 2025**

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7 At a regular meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of York, begun and
8 holden at the York County Government Building in Alfred, within and for the County of York,
9 being held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

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12 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

13
14 Richard R. Dutremble
15 Richard Clark
16 Robert Andrews
17 Justin Chenette
18 Donna Ring
19

20 County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy County Manager Linda Corliss were present at the
21 meeting.
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23 **YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

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25 **02-05-2025 ITEM**

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27 **1 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

28 Janet Drew addressed the Board via Zoom and asked what the response of the
29 county will be as far as immigration issues and use of the jail. I hope we will
30 protect our neighbors and communities, she stated.
31

32 **2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:**

- 33 a. Commissioners' meeting of January 15, 2025
34 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes of January 15, 2025.
35 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-1 with Commissioner
36 Dutremble abstained as he was not present.
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38 **3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- 39 a. Warrants to be approved on January 15, 2025 in the amount of \$655,832.71
40 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
41 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
42 b. Warrants to be approved on January 22, 2025 in the amount of \$912,428.43
43 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews
44 seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
45 c. Warrants to be approved on January 29, 2025 in the amount of \$580,679.72
46 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner
47 Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
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4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Dutremble informed all that he received a call asking to put a certain person's name on the new building (1st Responders). He asked, if we thinking of making a Wall of Fame as more will ask?

County Manager Zinser replied that we are going to have plaques. We can talk about a memorial wall. The plaza was designed to be a memorial type of plaza for 1st Responders (including the bricks) but it is not on our radar. As far as naming the building, the County Manager stated that he has received some (requests) also. The Commissioners need some credit for the amount of money they put over there, he added. We will also hear from Rachel regarding sponsorships through the First County Foundation). We could maybe look at someone in the County, Manager Zinser commented for naming rights. Before we consider other names outside the county, we should look at the county first.

We as a Board need to be careful, he cautioned, but we should talk to the Foundation to find out their take on sponsorship, naming rights, etc.

Commissioner Dutremble asked if they should have some kind of directive.

County Manager Zinser asked if the Board would like to do that now?

Commissioner Chenette replied that he would like to hear from the Foundation first. He added that maybe a component of the memorial wall or something but, that this is not in our fund structure to set up something new. Families of individuals might want to support that. If anyone is reaching out to us, we are still early in the process.

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5 NEW BUSINESS

(a. Approve position and hiring of reserve Medical Director (pending)

County Manager Zinser explained that this (job description) is based off from our other medical director that we had in the county (vaccine center). It is a generically worded job description. We are proposing hiring a reserve person.

The Recovery Center is required to have a Medical Director, he explained.

There is a general desire of the county departments that are dealing with medical issues to sit back and look at how we deal with medical issues now. There is a desire to create our own medical division, stated the County Manager.

Therefore, we would possibly not have contracts. Every time you contract out something there is another layer of bureaucracy, explained County Manager Zinser. He continued that he is requesting that the Commissioners approve the job description. We have gone through the hiring process, and we will talk about that next.

Commissioner Chenette asked if this position will start out as a reserve (position) during the construction process and would we be treating it like a consultant position until the building is open and then move to full-time?

The County Manager explained that as we move forward, we look at the jail and services provided. We pay for a doctor, nurse practitioners and nurses now at the jail. If we have an MD on, we can look at ways to maximize our staff.

Commissioner Chenette clarified that the decision today is to approve the hiring of a reserve employee.

County Manager Zinser replied, yes.

97 Commissioner Ring commented that the jail did have their own medical
98 department many years ago. Once we decided to contract that out, the budget
99 went up. She added that she is very interested in this.
100 Commissioner Chenette motioned to approve the MD reserve position.
101 Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
102

103 Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss presented Jessika Morin in the
104 position of reserve Medical Director with a date of hire of February 10, 2025.
105 Commissioner Ring motioned to hire Jessika Morin in the position of reserve
106 Medical Director. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 5-0.
107 County Manager Zinser informed all that her rate of pay will be \$175 per hour.
108

109 b. Development Director Rachel Stansfield to give update

110 County Manager Zinser explained that Rachel has been getting the Foundation
111 going and getting grant monies for the County.

112 Development Director Rachel Stansfield addressed the Board and stated that
113 lots of progress has been made in the last 18 months. She continued that
114 successes include merging two Boards into one. The First County Foundation
115 was established and materials were put together for tax exemption. Another
116 team effort was the groundbreaking ceremony with about 100 people in
117 attendance.

118 Another success is the Case for Support that was given to you. Director
119 Stansfield explained that she is working with a consultant to get this together.
120 She added that currently this is a one-person foundation with a Board of five
121 people. She expressed to the Commissioners that she welcomes their feedback.
122 This document is a building block of launching a more comprehensive
123 campaign for the next two to three years. Rachel explained that the County
124 Manager's big push is to outfit the buildings.

125 Director Stansfield also encouraged the Commissioners to check out the
126 website. She added that constructive criticism is welcome. Also, you will see a
127 donate button. This all migrates with our donor database.

128 Development Director Stansfield informed all the grants that we've gotten to
129 date: \$300,000 from Maine Recovery Council and \$36,000 from Firehouse Subs
130 to outfit AEDS in all of the cruisers. She continued that she has an LOI into
131 Maine Health Access for a one-year grant and then a 2-year grant that would
132 line up with the opening of the facilities.
133

134 Director Stansfield continued that she is working with her Board on
135 development. She has a recruitment plan to bring on more members as we can
136 have up to twelve in our bylaws. She explained that they are looking for
137 corporate partners; people who can help us get to that multi-million-dollar goal.
138 County Manager Zinser commented that he is learning about the nuances of
139 raising money and campaigning. He added that it is a big learning curve for me.
140 He thanked Rachel.

141 Commission Chair Richard Dutremble stated that he had looked at the website.
142 He thanked Rachel for her work on it and added that it is very informative. We
143 don't thank you enough, commented Commissioner Dutremble.

144 Director Stansfield replied that the site is just coming together now.

145 She added that there are actual videos of site work on there.

146 Commissioner Clark echoed Commissioner Dutremble's remarks. You did an
147 excellent job. The materials provided are first rate.

148 Commissioner Chenette thanked Rachel also. Is it accurate that as we are
149 planning our campaign, we haven't really engaged anyone with this packet yet?
150 Development Director Stansfield replied that this packet is not external. She
151 encouraged the Commissioners to circulate this document among your peers
152 and colleagues and gather their feedback. Then we will build a live campaign.
153 County Manager Zinser said that one of the things we do need is your help to
154 get people's feedback. We also need help finding community-oriented people
155 to be on the Board. We don't necessarily need people in recovery or public
156 safety just Community minded people that believe in these projects.
157 The County Manager asked the Commissioners to communicate these names to
158 Rachel.
159 Commissioner Chenette commented that \$1 million can be a little scary but so
160 many aspects have been presented here. This is very exciting and we appreciate
161 all the work you have done.
162 Commissioner Ring stated that no matter where she goes people are talking
163 about this. The doctor's offices are very interested. Thank you for everything
164 you have been doing. Commissioner Ring added that she is very proud of the
165 way this is going. People are amazed at the speed we are going.
166 Development Director Rachel Stansfield replied that this is good for me to
167 know, too. She added that she can come up with one-pagers to distribute when
168 you are out.
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171 c. To schedule tax abatement denial appeal (recommended date of
172 March 19, 2025)
173 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the date of March 19, 2025 to hear
174 the tax abatement denial appeal request. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
175 motion. Vote 5-0.
176
177 d. Review and approve bid for VR simulators
178 County Manager Zinser reported that Chief Fire Administrator Rod Hooper
179 and a group of building committee members include Corporal Anthony Ciampi
180 from Biddeford P.D., Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes, Captain Kevin Chabot
181 from Wells P.D., Chief Jack Clements from Saco P.D. and Chief Fire
182 Administrator Rod Hooper reviewed the RFP's. The company chosen by the
183 team is Axon. They also provide body cameras to the Sheriff's Office. The
184 CDS monies cover the first five years and in year six there will be a licensing
185 fee.
186 Chief Fire Administrator Rod Hooper added that this is a good system to start
187 out with. Technology will change in five years, he added.
188 Commissioner Chenette asked if this is for the training center, why are we
189 purchasing it now?
190 The County Manager replied due to the grant performance period. The grant is
191 about two years old. The building will be enclosed probably by March. We can
192 perhaps be in there by December of this year. By the time the equipment is
193 ordered we won't get it until May. We can use it here and in EMA and at the
194 Sheriff's Office.
195 Commissioner Chenette stated that he was curious how much money is left and
196 do we have a full outline of all the equipment you will need?
197 Chief Fire Administrator Rod Hooper responded that the Draeger burn tower is
198 coming out of the same fund. Another RFP will be going out for mechanical

199 type equipment for law enforcement (room configurations). CDS funding is
200 taking care of that list.
201 He continued that at the next meeting he will have a proposal from a vendor
202 for EMS training equipment. We have a FEMA grant for the generator,
203 kitchen- logistic side of operations.
204 County Manager Zinser added that they can send out the lists to the Board so
205 that they will have a general awareness.
206 Commissioner Chenette stated that he asked in case there is a gap that we need
207 to be on the lookout for.
208 County Manager Zinser replied that there are a lot of the gaps that come from
209 shutting down current Layman Way Recovery Center and opening the new
210 building. We do have these costs identified. It will cost \$3 million to outfit
211 these buildings. We will share that information with you.
212 Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the bid for the virtual reality training
213 system from Axon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$96,651.00.
214 Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion adding payment will be through
215 monies in the CDS grant. Vote 5-0.
216

- 217 e. Review and approve recommended bid for audio/video equipment in the
218 Probate courtroom
219 County Manager Zinser explained that he has had several conversations with
220 Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy regarding this. It is needed. Connectivity
221 Point is who they have requested. It is the middle of the road bidder and the
222 same company as we have here.
223 County Manager Zinser explained that the money is in Probate's budget.
224 Things came up so she is using the money allotted for high density storage and
225 will ask for this in the 2026 budget as the audio/video system is more of a
226 need.
227 Commissioner Ring motioned to approve the purchase of the new audio/video
228 system from Connectivity Point in the Probate courtroom in the amount of
229 \$47,948.86. Commissioner Chenette seconded the motion. Vote 5-0
230 Commissioner Clark asked about the delivery date.
231 Register of Probate Lovejoy replied that she hasn't talked to them about it yet
232 but we will have to close courtroom for installation.
233 Commissioner Chenette commented to Register of Probate Lovejoy that he
234 appreciated her bringing this forward and finding a solution as it is critical that
235 all can hear in court.
236

237 **6 OLD BUSINESS**

- 238 a. Review and approve Findings of Fact (Hockney) –
239 Commissioner Clark motioned to approve signing the Findings of Fact for
240 Map/Lot 017-017.
241 Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4- 1 with 1 abstention.
242 (Commissioner Dutremble abstained as he was not here.)
243
244 Coutu Manager Zinser informed the Commissioners that he has looked at the
245 first draft of the 2026 budget and it reflects a 10% increase without factoring in
246 any commodities.
247
248 9% is wages and benefits. He continued that we are starting to bargain with

249 MSEA next Wednesday and FOP next Thursday. FOP conversation will also
250 include whether they will have one union or two.
251 The County Manager explained that the budget hasn't gone to the Department
252 Heads yet to add what they need. He told the Commissioners that he is toying
253 with the idea of getting them the wages and benefits budget sooner. Maybe you
254 have some thoughts and ideas.

255
256 Commissioner Chenette asked that along those lines, is there a way for us to
257 get us an updated budget committee sheet? Kathy will get a copy out to the
258 Commissioners.

259
260 Commissioner Chenette commented on the lack of involvement with the
261 Budget Committee. He stated that he finds that a lot of folks do not know that
262 they have a role to play in the county government. There is a severe shortage of
263 individuals that participate in this committee. The clear line of power over the
264 budget process is deeply concerning to me.

265 We should be taking more of a leadership role in letting folks know about the
266 process.

267 Commissioner Chenette continued that he does not believe that the budget
268 committee really has a platform to get the word out. We need to encourage that
269 participation. Sharing on our social media feed is absolutely all right to do so.
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273 **7 TO CONDUCT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PERSONNEL**
274 **ISSUES PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), ACQUISITION OF**
275 **REAL PROPERTY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT**
276 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C), LABOR NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT**
277 **TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (D) AND CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL**
278 **COUNSEL PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (E), REVIEW OF**
279 **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS PURSUANT TO 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (F)**
280 None

281
282 **8 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**
283 Susan Wiswell, a member of the Budget Committee, commented that she totally
284 agrees with Commissioner Chenette regarding getting people involved in the
285 budget committee process.

286
287 County Manager Zinser stated that we have encountered a lot of confusion. Folks
288 do call us. The budget committee is made up of mostly elected officials. The public
289 want to get on, but elected officials have more seats.

290 Janet Drew asked (via Zoom) what happens if somebody is brought to the jail with
291 an immigration issue what is the county's stand?

292 She also asked where does the housing part of ARPA stand?

293 County Manager Zinser replied that half a million for housing was funded
294 with ARPA money.

295 The county of York will comply with all lawful orders that are received. We are
296 commanded to hold (an inmate) if an order is received.

297 The County Manager further explained that the Sheriff's Office is not going out on
298 immigration raids. We don't enforce immigration laws but will act on ICE

299 detainers that are properly executed. However, added County Manager Zinser, we
300 would respond to any call for assistance as we always do.
301 Commissioner Clark added to the housing issue comment that we supplied
302 \$750,000 to Mainspring in Kittery who opened six units.
303

304 Chris (?) via Zoom, spoke about property concerns on private roads. He stated that
305 from researching this it seems to be more of a county commissioner role. If this
306 committee recommends ending easements, etc. do you know what this does to
307 budgets and emergency services, etc.?

308 County Manager Zinser explained that function was removed from the counties in
309 the 70's. Perhaps, he continued, it still exists in unincorporated plantations but in
310 York County, we do not have a road commissioner. There are no budgetary
311 impacts for us here in the county. We do get calls from surveyors and lawyers
312 looking for information regarding abandoned roads. We have invested a lot of time
313 and money in going through our records to understand what we have. We have
314 helped several people to find documents. We can certainly help you with that.
315 York County Registry of Deeds is wonderful, stated the County Manager.
316

317 **9 ADJOURN**

318 Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the
319 motion. Vote 5-0.
320 Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

The MAINE BEACHES

2023 Economic Impact and Visitor Tracking Report

Economic Impact

Visitor Spending Generated

Over

\$3.9 Billion

throughout the region

Direct Spending

Visitors to the region spent

More Than

\$2.6 Billion

on accommodations, transportation,
groceries, dining, shopping, entertainment,
and other expenses

Visitors

The Maine Beaches Region attracted

Nearly 3.8 Million

visitors in 2023



RELAX. EXPLORE. REPEAT.

The

MAINE BEACHES

2023 Economic Impact and Visitor Tracking Report

Jobs Supported

Visitors supported the creation of

34,300 Jobs

throughout the region

Wages Generated

Visitors to the region spent

Over \$1.4 Billion

in wages paid to employees

Visitors & Jobs

Every

111 Visitors

supports one job in the
region

Household Savings

Visitors to the Region saved
local household

\$4,140

in state and local taxes



For More Information, go to TheMaineBeaches.com

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