

## COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 2, 2024

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, October 2, 2024, A. D. at 4:30 P. M.

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Richard R. Dutremble  
Richard Clark  
Robert Andrews  
Justin Chenette (excused)  
Donna Ring

County Manager Greg Zinser and Deputy Manager Linda Corliss were present at the meeting.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO RISE AND SALUTE THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

**10-02-2024**      **ITEM**

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

Susan Wiswell questioned the EMA request to purchase a vehicle under the New Business portion of the agenda.

County Manager Zinser replied that it will be discussed shortly.

Kevin Roche from Save our Shores thanked the Commissioners for the dredge and offered support if any help is needed.

Mr. Roche continued that other money will be available to pursue. NOAA grants available total \$69 million, he stated.

He added that Biddeford is making progress to sign an MOA agreement with the County. There are some issues with the Kennebunks, but they might be signing on. Saco is ready, stated Kevin Roche.

David Plavid, VP of Save our Shores also thanked Art and Megan. He also stated they will help in any way they can.

County Manager Zinser explained that we are in the process of creating an interlocal agreement that should give us horsepower to get supplemental funding. He added that we are getting calls and some do not understand that dredging season opens in November but goes until April. We are hopeful to get it going (some of the work) in January, stated the County Manager.

Janet Drew (via Zoom) stated that she was at the Northeast Rotary encompassing a good portion of Maine and the seacoast of NH discussing Substance Abuse disorder She added that Sheriff King spoke and people were also there from the York County Jail.

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

- a. Commissioners' meeting of September 18, 2024  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. 4-0.

**3 TO APPROVE TREASURER'S WARRANTS**

- a. Warrants to be approved on September 18, 2024 in the amount of \$820,370.08  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the warrant. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

**4 TO HEAR ANY REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Dutremble mentioned that the Maine County Commissioners Association held a convention last week and York County was represented with the most people present.

**5 NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 5 e. heard first\*\*\***

- e. To approve vehicle purchase for EMA- Deputy EMA Director Megan Arsenault addressed the Board and explained that EMA has the opportunity to expand their fleet.

She continued that while EMA does have two vehicles already, they are looking to provide more services to York County. She explained the vehicles they currently have. There have been several occasions when they've had competing priorities of where to place the vehicles. This is a more specialized vehicle primarily for communications. She asked if there were questions. Commissioner Ring asked if there is a cost involved in setting it up? EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault replied that they will use Homeland Security grant money.

Commissioner Ring asked where is the funding coming from to purchase this vehicle?

Deputy EMA Director Megan Arsenault replied, vehicle reserve and outfitting from Homeland Security

County Manager Zinser recommended approving up to \$28,000.

Commissioner Clark asked what is the cost of shipping the vehicle?

County Manager Zinser explained that originally the vehicle was from Texas, but we now have a line on one from N.H. and it is also a little bit cheaper.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve up to \$28,000 for acquisition of a vehicle for EMA to come out of their vehicle reserve account.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

- a. To hear 3 NCEU grievances (may be in executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), personnel matter)

Commissioner Clark motioned to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (A), personnel matter) Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to come out of executive session.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Griev # 4-29-2024

Commissioner Clark motioned to deny grievance #4-20-2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-1.

Commissioner Clark motioned to deny grievance # O614224-1005946.

Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

Commissioner Clark motioned to deny grievance #2023-06. Commissioner Andrews seconded the grievance. Vote 4-0.

- b. Deputy County Manager/H.R. Director Corliss to present the following new hires and/or transfers:
  - i. Curtis Huff in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of October 7, 2024  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Curtis Huff in the position of full-time Corrections Officer in the Sheriff's Office with a date of hire of October 7, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
  - ii. Travis Lebel in the position of full-time Maintenance Tech I in the Facilities Department with a date of hire of October 7, 2024 –  
Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the hiring of Travis Lebel in the position of full-time Maintenance Tech I in the Facilities Department with a date of hire of October 7, 2024. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.
- c. To schedule tax abatement denial appeal (recommended date of November 6, 2024) –  
The Commissioners are okay with holding the Hearing on this date.
- d. To approve eight vehicle purchases for Sheriff's office  
County Manager Zinser explained that the request from Major Mitchell is to purchase the vehicles from Arundel Ford. He added that the request is going to be for seven cruisers.  
Sheriff King addressed the Board and explained that this is the rotation that we have had for several years, and it works very well. Originally, we asked for eight vehicles as one was totaled but the money isn't in our budget.  
Commissioner Ring stated that it is still over what is budgeted.  
She added that Sheriff King overspent his capital account last year. He has vehicles not even set up yet, she added.  
Commissioner Ring continued that the equipment from the old cruisers will not fit into these (new) vehicles so that will be very costly to set up.  
Sheriff King responded that if we wait until we need them, we will never get these vehicles. He agreed that they have had some issues transferring equipment from one vehicle to the next.  
Commissioner Ring stated (to the Sheriff) that you are going to put your budget in the red as these vehicles are going to cost you at least \$10,000 each to set up. She said that she cannot support this.

Sheriff King replied that he understands Commissioner Ring's concerns. Our mechanic has been out for a very long time so that delays things. We have had to outsource maintenance. Your concerns are well noted.

Commissioner Dutremble commented that maybe you should have two mechanics as the County has just under 70 vehicles.

Commissioner Dutremble stated that he thinks we better start thinking about having another mechanic in the budget.

County Manager Zinser cautioned that we need to understand what mechanics do and what is farmed out to other repair shops. He continued that his initial concern is it may help right now but it depends on qualifications and what type of mechanic we might be able to attract. I would be concerned that there might not be enough work for 2 mechanics.

Commissioner Dutremble replied that he disagrees.

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the amount of \$322,980,000 to purchase seven vehicles from Arundel Ford. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 3-1 with Commissioner Ring opposed. She clarified that her opposition is due to her belief that we could have purchased fewer vehicles to stay within our budget.

## **6 OLD BUSINESS**

- a. To review and approve Findings of Fact for tax abatement denial appeal Hearing (heard at September 18, 2024 meeting)

Commissioner Clark motioned to approve the Findings of Fact. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Vote 4-0.

## **7 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)**

None

## **8 PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY ITEM(S)**

Janet Drew commented that she would like an explanation regarding the department having 17 vehicles and now replacing seven.

County Manager Zinser explained that we have 27 vehicles that are in rotation and replaced every 4 years.

Janet wondered if the County would consider going to five years.

## **9 ADJOURN**

Commissioner Clark motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.