

Minutes for Budget Committee Meeting of May 7, 2022

Budget Committee Members present: Susan Wiswell, Jo-Ann Putnam, Jonathan Kinney, John Bell, Marc Lessard, David Durrell and Paul Philbrick

1. Introductions and Welcome: Jo-Ann Putnam, Chairperson of the Budget Committee welcomed all.

2. Election of Budget Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Marc Lessard nominated Jo-Ann Putnam as the Chairperson for 2023. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

John Bell nominated Marc Lessard as the Vice-Chairperson for 2023. Jo-Ann Putnam seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Jo-Ann Putnam nominated Kathy Dumont as the Secretary for 2023. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

3. Begin Review of FY'23 proposed budget

County Manager Greg Zinser thanked everyone for attending on Saturday. He explained that the only new member is Susan Wiswell but that she attends the Commissioners' meetings and has an understanding of the county.

He informed all that the budget reflects a 3.91% increase from last year's budget resulting in an in a tax rate increase of 2.97%. County Manager Zinser added that this budget is \$180,000 under LD1 so there is no need for an override.

The County Manager mentioned some jumps in valuation that some cities and towns saw. Biddeford had a massive one, he stated.

County Manager Zinser informed the Committee of the highlights of the budget are wage increases, new line items for software or increases in existing lines. He explained that in this budget the costs are captured for items that we've had for a past few years-cloud, interactive online software. Other highlights (of this budget) are requests for three new positions: H.R. Manager, Patrol deputy to supplement coverage and new facilities technician. Other parts of the budget that reflect changes, explained Mr. Zinser are the upgrading of the office manager to an administrative major in the Sheriff's Office. The D.A.'s office has requested increasing a part-time position to full-time.

The County Manager explained that the biggest issue is that of staffing now and into the future with the jail.

PROBATE- County Manager points out department statistics that Register of Probate Carol Lovejoy provided. Register of Probate Lovejoy explained to the Committee that the Increases in her department include office supplies and other equipment line for tablets, etc. and wages and benefits. She explained that the professional service line is for court appointed attorneys, guardian ad litem. Attorney's hours are limited and they receive \$80 an hour. The trial list has

decreased as Judge Houde requires a resolution meeting. We have seen a huge increase in Probate. We didn't ask for another person, but we could use one but have no room in our current space, explained Register of Probate Lovejoy. Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there was a backlog (of cases)? Probate Register Lovejoy replied, no. County Manager Zinser interjected that the Probate court uses some hybrid (zoom) hearings to help move things along. Jo-Ann Putnam asked Register Lovejoy which budget line would the iPads come out of? Register Lovejoy replied, other equipment and added that their tablets are getting older. Jo-Ann Putnam asked Register of Probate Lovejoy if she feels her budget is sufficient? Carol- Lovejoy replied, yes.

Marc Lessard stated that regarding the 2022 budget tracking today, the county is at 85% elapsed, and expended vs. budget at 84-85%. County Manager Zinser replied that we are in pretty good shape. He added that there is a great set of department leaders that know how to work within the budget. The County Manager explained there are a ton of covid expenditures in the current budget. Marc Lessard replied that if one takes a look at the aggregate of all departments, 74% towards budget. County Manager Zinser responded yes, but we do have vacancies that he continues to consider as an expense. We will be up there at 97 or 98% of the budget expended, explained County Manager Zinser. We are in a good position percentage wise as we move forward. The prior budget is where we set the use of reserves, he stated.

County Manager Zinser directed the Committee back to the summary page (of the 'FY23 draft budget). He explained that he is confident here that as shown in the general fund, we can give back \$200,000 from the reserves to buy the tax rate down. Our surplus right now is \$3 million, around 20%, a little higher if you factor in dedicated reserves.

And, in the jail fund, continued the County Manager, we are proposing to return to taxpayers, \$300,000. In aggregate, across the funds of the county, we are proposing to return a half a million dollars.

This year, continued County Manager Zinser, we also paid off all of our debt service. The Board concurred to take about \$300,000 out of jail's undesignated fund to pay off debt service. Going into this budget, we eliminated all of the debt service, explained the County Manager.

Marc Lessard stated going back to the original- 97% to 98% there will be the ability to drop the fund balance or drop the tax rate. The fund balance is somewhere about 20%. Then the expectation of \$500,000 relieving debt service from the jail. How long was the term of that debt and how long did you have left to pay? County Manager Zinser responded, one year.

Marc Lessard replied that it would be interesting to see how much remaining interest incurred would have been. County Manager Zinser replied, it was \$12,000.

Marc Lessard responded there is the argument to say use of funds would have been better used to drop the fund balance.

County Manager Zinser replied that we opted by reducing it in the budget and it then reduced the expenditures going forward. There were different interest payments that had to be made.

Marc Lessard said that he is not a big supporter of big budgets but that doesn't mean it's right or wrong. Economic conditions in future years, I am a huge proponent of a higher fund balance. I think we will need it two to three years from now, commented Marc Lessard.

County Manager Zinser explained that the County's aggregate fund balance sits at \$10 million with undesignated at \$3 million, reserves at \$4 million, \$1.3 million for committed reserves and the jail is at \$1.6 million undesignated and \$1.3 million for committed reserves.

The County Manager reminded all that he is not using the fund balance. He explained to the Budget Committee that your issues at the local level, tend to hit us a year later. The numbers we are basing our numbers on are last year's numbers (for towns and cities). The County Manager continued to say that it will probably be a couple years down the road before we see the recession. Our average tax increase over the last 10-year period is 1.5%, stated County Manager Zinser. We did pull on the undesignated fund at the jail this year to draw down the \$3million, County Manager Zinser informed all. He added that we are also confident that we will be putting money back in. We are hoping to hire more (corrections) officers, but we may not get to that staffing level.

The County Manager added that we also receive a lot of Federal funding that helps us as we move forward. We have in the county a little more fluidity than cities and towns.

Marc Lessard asked if there were any individual departments that would not follow the budget and be grotesquely over? County Manager Zinser replied, no. He went on to explain that last year two or three departments were technically over budget last year. EMA was due to a covid-reimbursement issue, Sheriff's Office was over by \$120,000 due to a Union settlement. He continued that this year when you extract out all of the costs of EMA, none of the departments will be overbudgeted. There are overtime costs in other budgets, explained the County Manager. Some (employees) work overtime at the vaccine center but those overtime costs are reimbursed.

County Manager Zinser stated that at the end of the year insurance might be overbudget.

Marc Lessard asked if the expectation is that probate will come in at \$689,176?

The County Manager replied, yes, that is the expectation.

Marc Lessard asked why general wages were 7.01%?

County Manager explained that the average wage increase this year is anywhere between 7% and 20% this year (in all departments). He added that some departments have eliminated a position(deeds). We have given a 7% COLA, said County Manager Zinser. He also stated that we just agreed with FOP for 7% COLA.

Marc Lessard asked if all of the wages are tied to COLA.

County Manager Zinser explained that the folks on the lower end of the pay scale will be getting upwards of 20%. We used to be some of the highest payers around and that has changed. Over the next couple of years people will be looking for the stable jobs. Our janitorial staff makes \$17 an hour on average and a victim witness advocate makes \$17 to \$18 an hour.

Marc Lessard explained that you can't look at what they are making per hour singularly.

County Manager Zinser replied that we are talking about the singular wage issue. We have made an offer to drastically increase the pay scale B folks, but we had to "grandfather" the prior folks. Pay scale B hasn't kept up. In the district attorney's department legal secretaries are making more by going to private law firms.

Marc Lessard commented that this can all be driven by COLA that we can track. In 2025 the COLA will turn negative, but we won't have negative increases.

County Manager Zinser explained that until now, we have only been doing 1.5% to 2%. Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there is a minimum or max for COLA increases? County Manager Zinser replied, no.

County Manager Zinser stated that all of our contracts are numbered based; there are no more percentages. Jo-Ann Putnam commented that the wage thing is important and that she understands what Marc is saying. The increase seems pretty high, but the cost associated with turnover, hiring and training is also high, stated Jo-Ann Putnam.

County Manager Zinser explained that what is unsustainable is to continue to operate the way we were. A couple of years ago we gave our corrections officers a 15 to 20% raises. On the police side, everyone is stealing from each other. The County Manager continued that retaining individuals and costs of training particularly in law enforcement is huge.

Jo-Ann Putnam replied that there is a shift now and you are seeing retention bonuses. She added that the Recession is when the jail and sheriff's office is going to get busier.

County Manager Zinser stated that COVID made us busier. Tax increases have been nominal. The wage issue is in every department. In the jail, he explained, we are using ARPA money and half taxpayer money but next year all taxpayer money will be used.

COLA for the police union is going to be 7% to 12% stated the County Manager. MSEA is proposed now at 6% but they have a scale that compounds yearly.

Marc Lessard stated that the biggest question that we have in the budget is going to be general wages and positions. He added that he realizes they are needed. If there isn't support by the committee members to be able to change and reduce the general wages, then it eliminates a lot of conversation when we vote.

In prior years, there was not really support from the committee to do that. If there isn't that want, it eliminates 70% of the conversation.

County Manager Zinser said that Marc Lessard was spot on. If you want to cut something, pick a line and cut it. We are not asking for anything we don't need.

He continued that your target is to get the tax rate where you want it to be. I suspect that even if you cut the wages, the Commissioners will give the wages back and direct the department leaders to make it work within their budgets, stated County Manager Zinser.

Paul Philbrick thanked the County Manager for his explanation as he was trying to determine how he came up with the range. He added that his town, Lebanon was going through turnover right now because they can't compete.

Marc Lessard added that all this jumping around has caused labor productivity to drop.

Jo-Ann Putnam asked if they get your proposed raises, where in the scale does it put York County?

The County Manager replied for Patrol, the higher end of average to top. For MSEA, two or three people in Probate will get substantial raises. This will make the clerical side of employment in the county competitive.

Jo-Ann Putnam asked if the (steps) are increasing also? The County Manager replied, no.

Jo-Ann Putnam asked how are non-union raises figured? County Manager Zinser replied that they are subject to what he puts into the budget. For Non- union and non-union hourly, we don't put in compounded (raises), stated County Manager Zinser. Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there was anything extreme? The County Manager replied that he does not believe so.

Paul Philbrick stated that he is a little hesitant on spending reserves right now. Having that little reserve is hopefully going to save us later on.

County Manager Zinser clarified that it is the use of designated reserves not the "rainy day" account.

Dave Durrell stated that he found the budget increase to be relieving in that it wasn't larger than it was. He added that he doesn't have a whole lot of reservations and he feels overall it is a responsible budget.

Marc Lessard explained that is why he wanted to set a context of how we get here. How do we look at fiscal year 22; a trajectory of what it looks like. Does the county have to borrow or pay money back? None of the departments were grossly overbudget last year so we don't need to look at a trend. He continued that the committee also wants to think about if there is a department 10% underbudget but 5% next year so that's a big swing and to be cautious of.

Marc Lessard stated the only place to reduce is the 7% to 20% labor line items. Having said that, with the first quarter productivity decline of 7.5%, this is not a time to be able to do it. We need people to stay in jobs and stay more efficient. My focus was on the fund balance. Wages are 76% of our budget, commented Mr. Lessard. Otherwise, most of this is rubber stamped.

Jo-Ann Putnam asked County Manager Zinser if department heads been told they have to hold expense lines to help with wages? The County Manager responded, yes, there have been directives.

Jo-Ann Putnam commented that you have to keep employees fresh, too and up to date. They need to have time with their peers. They didn't have to dump their other expense lines to keep these wages; did they, she asked?

County Manager Zinser explained that there is a reserve account with training money.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the probate budget in the amount of \$728,207. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0 to approve Probate budget as presented.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE- County Manager Greg Zinser explained the increases in the Sheriff's Office budget in the telephones and vehicle budget lines. Jo-Ann Putnam stated is it correct that the new requests are not in the summary. The County Manager explained that one is a nominal increase of the office administrator becoming a major position resulting in an increase of about \$20,000. The new hire of a deputy in January, explained the County Manager, would be a separate motion for new positions.

Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes explained that the new deputy position is needed as we pick up towns at night. He continued that the department has two detectives, and they should have three or four. Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there were still contract deputies? The County Manager replied, yes, it was mutually agreed upon for one town's contract deputy to be deleted.

Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes explained that they have three openings right now. Jon Kinney asked about the fuel budget line that is only going up 6.25% in fuel. Is that enough, he asked?

Jo-Ann Putnam stated that the Sheriff's Office is over on heat in their budget.

County Manager Zinser explained that the conversation was from a (volatile time) pure taxation perspective, we would fully load the budget with all of our expenses and next year set up fuel reserve.

Chief Deputy Forbes responded that deputies have been told to turn cruisers off when they not running.

Jo-Ann Putnam questioned why uniforms and safety equipment are over budget. Chief Deputy Forbes responded that Class A uniforms were purchased. Also, the department had to buy new firearms.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the Sheriff's Office budget in the amount of \$3,413,872 and John Bell seconded. Vote 7-0.

Communications- The County Manager explained this is a contract with Sanford dispatch.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the Communications budget in the amount of \$735,175. Susan Wiswall seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Jail-County Manager Greg Zinser explained this is a separate fund within the County. He added that this budget shows an increase of 4.3%

Jail Administrator Major Nathan Thayer explained to the Committee that they were able to save some money in that line last year due to COVID but now specialized training has resumed. The increase in uniforms and clothing are due to turnover. He continued that they try to re-issue uniforms when in good shape. Software budget line is up due to several reasons such as: all staff needs to have e-mail for which there is a monthly fee for each, increased some other software for tracking.

Major Thayer explained that they switched medical providers to CPS (Boston-based company). Before the county paid individually medical supplies and prescriptions. CPS encompassed all of this. That allows for the increase of \$775,000 but decreases on prescriptions, etc. He explained there is still a bit of an increase (\$230,000) but the renewal of the old contract would've had an increase, also. Major Thayer continued that they are doing some other cost savings things with this company. We are using a new pharmacy that will save us money. What we can do with Maine Care is also being looked at.

Jo-Ann- Putnam commented that the health insurance budget line went down \$124,000. She asked if this is realized through all the budgets?

County Manager Zinser replied that in prior years he carried (the full expense) but this year we won't be hiring people twelve corrections officers.

Jail Administrator Thayer explained that York County has an agreement with Cumberland County for boarding. They are taking our female population and protective custody inmates and we take their general population. Before we had to pay the boarding fee.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the jail budget in the amount of \$9,332,391. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

5-minute break.

EMA-Deputy EMA Director Megan Arsenault presented the budget and explained what EMA has done last year. She added that EMA has had a flat budget since 2017. We did have an additional position last year, she explained. Deputy Director Arsenault added that EMA had 41 training sessions, 7 training exercises and that they have increased their volunteers to several hundred. They have received over \$3million in reimbursement for COVID 19 and Biddeford disaster declaration. Our budget remains largely unchanged from last year except from wages and software, continued Deputy EMA Director Arsenault. We have received reimbursement up to \$262,000 for wages, as well as numerous grants. The Vaccine clinic is still active and we continue to get reimbursements.

Jo-Ann Putnam questioned the cost of rental buildings in the amount of \$35,000 and asked if EMA rents any other buildings? EMA Deputy Director Megan Arsenault replied, no.

Suan Wiswell asked how much of this is being reimbursed? Deputy Director Arsenault responded, up to \$3 million. She explained that it is pieced together in different line items related to covid.

Susan Wiswell asked about the hazmat vehicle in Chief Hooper's document and stated that she didn't see this in the budget. County Manager Ziner explained it is in the capital reserve. He added that account has almost \$200,000 in it and is how we would buy that.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the EMA budget in the amount of \$753,175. Susan Wiswell seconded the budget. Vote 7-0.

DEEDS- County Manager Zinser informed all that covid created a lot of opportunities for accomplishments. There is a small increase only as one position was eliminated.

Register of Deeds Nancy Hammond explained to the Committee that covid did affect her department's method of operating. Now, online records are available for all of York County. The real estate market was very flush so our revenues reflect that. Register Hammond stated that her staff is set up very efficiently, all in one room. We have increased the usage of available technology.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the deeds budget in the amount of \$664,859. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Facilities- Facilities Manager, Rick deRochemont explained that the following line items in his budget increased-fuel, travel, professional services (contracts). County Manager Zinser added that he is also asking for a new position in this department.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the facilities budget in the amount of \$621,407. John Bell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

District Attorney's Office-County Manager Zinser explained that D.A. Kathy Slattery has asked for one part time person to be moved to full time. He added that her budget also contains a large software increase.

D.A. Kathy Slattery explained to all that the courts have been functioning since May 2020. They are now working against an enormous backlog. New software needed includes Microsoft 265 and adobe (electronic redacting). D.A. Slattery stated that two employees left and sadly, one passed away. Right now her two office managers are working in legal secretary positions.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the District Attorney's office budget in the amount of \$1,698,347. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Layman Way Recovery Center- County Manager Zinser informed all that we don't know what if any the increase there will be so we put the same request of \$100,000 in. There is \$100,000 in the account if needed to cover any contractual increase.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the Layman Way Recovery Center budget in the amount of \$957,800. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

COMMISSIONERS- County Manager Zinser informed all that this budget reflects a 10.09% increase.

Jon Kinney stated that he realizes they are elected and they got a raise last year but he thinks it exceeds what we are paying our legislators.

The County Manager responded that we look at it in terms of the work the Commissioners put in. Some of the commissioners were uncomfortable with the raise as well. I don't know what direction ultimately the Board will go in. They may not take that and say no for them. They chose not to remove it from the budget so we could get it done. From a perspective perception I'm not sure they will take it, stated County Manager Zinser.

Jo-Ann Putnam asked if there is a mechanism for them not to take it?

County Manager Zinser replied they can say no to the increase. I think that at the end of the day there will be three votes for that.

Susan Wiswell asked is there an increase in their workload or because of COLA?

County Manager Zinser responded that we do have some very active Commissioners who are on Boards and Committees. Work will continue to grow with (ARPA stuff).

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the Commissioner' budget in the amount of \$78,297. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

New Requests- County Manager Zinser explained the request for an H.R. Manager position stating that we currently have a temporary employee to help with the workload. We are already spending the money. We also have a part-time worker now. We don't want them doing anymore as they are good with what they are doing.

Susan Wiswell asked would the deputy manager position become full time? County Manager Zinser replied yes, he would move Linda. He is looking to hire someone who can have general oversight over the Human Resources department.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept the new requests in the amount of \$197,571.42. John Bell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Susan Wiswell asked what is the effect on the summary of approving the new requests? County Manager Zinser responded that they are already included in it.

Marc Lessard motioned to reallocate \$197,571.42 to the appropriate departments. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Administration- Marc Lessard motioned to accept the administration budget in the amount of \$1,181,287. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Treasurer- Jo-Ann Putnam asked if this was an elected position. County Manager Zinser replied, yes.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the Treasurer's budget in the amount of \$626. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Juvenile Fire- County Manager informed all that Matt Leach and Molly Cunningham run this program that is unlike any other in the State. It is a great program to help kids. There is lots of talk about (from other counties) modeling this. Jon Kinney stated that he couldn't agree with the County Manager more. This program was recently utilized in Limington.

Susan Wiswell spoke about the current staffing information and that it was mentioned (at the Commissioners' meeting) that more staff is needed. The County Manager replied that there may be other ways to accomplish this as the program is within EMA. If we have to find a part-time person, there might be one within EMA. Matt is a firefighter in Biddeford and Molly is a social worker. The money would come out of EMA budget. We have enough reserve employees, explained the County Manager.

Marc Lessard motion to accept the Juvenile Fire budget in the amount of \$39,663 . Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Retirement Benefits- Marc Lessard motioned to accept the retirement benefits budget in the amount of \$592,951. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Medical/dental- County Manager Zinser explained that this account has an increase of \$100,000.

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the medical/dental budget in the amount of \$1,071,010. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

Debt Service- this budget line is zero.

Public Agencies- County Manager Zinser explained that the York County Extension program is looking for more money. Our obligation is to provide that presence for them in York County. Jon Bell asked if there was any chance ARPA money could be used to build a new facility so they wouldn't have to pay rent? County Manager Zinser replied not for this but when the new courthouse goes online, there may be some room tied into ARPA in general.

Marc Lessard motioned to accept public agencies budget in the amount of \$133,925. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

4. Vote on Budget

Marc Lessard motioned to approve the FY'23 general fund budget for York County in the amount of \$22,200,482. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Vote 7-0.

- 5. ARPA DISCUSSION-** County Manager Zinser informed all that some of the issues are what are we going to do with the D.A.'s office? We have been given 500 square feet in the new courthouse. All employees will be recalled to Alfred. We do have an option on a building right now in Biddeford. I have been asked to not talk about it. It will need work and it is not within walking distance. It is a six-figure purchase, stated the County Manager. It will come down to how we make the funding work. To build (a new facility for the District Attorney's office) we would have to go to referendum, explained County Manager Zinser. He continued that the building being looked at is a 13,000 to 14,000 square foot building. We would have half.

Marc Lessard asked if the building could be purchased with ARPA funds? County Manager Zinser replied, not outright.

The County Manager explained some of the first phase- of utilization of the ARPA funds on internal projects, i.e. enlarging Commissioners' meeting room. He continued that at the ARPA public hearings, we heard a lot about housing and training and this is what we are looking to do in general. Two committees- have been formed with one being a regional training committee and the other, a regional substance abuse and recovery committee.

Our approach is these are one-time funds. Commissioners are contemplating a rather heavy investment in substance abuse and recovery, explained County Manager Zinser.

County Manager Zinser continued to explain that a lot of the police departments are hiring social workers and liaisons to help people but you have no place to send these individuals. Short term recovery, midterm recovery, long term recovery and supportive housing and outpatient services are needed. The building is in the process of being designed to create a new center. The diversionary approach from the District Attorney's office will be the jail and law enforcement. This is a \$10 million building. We have a great committee.

Jo-Ann Putnam stated that there is such a need right now. The County Manager stated that they hover around 20 people at Layman Way.

The other committee is working on a Regional Training Facility that would train police, fire and EMS. A lot of programs are going on at York County Community College. We are trying to work with them as a workforce development tool. Our hope is to create Southern Maine Police Academy. County Manager Zinser stated that there is a lot of high-level interest in this program that is another \$10 million investment.

Site work and sewer could be up to \$30 million on that land. This project will have regional significance, stated County Manager Zinser. We are working with Sanford Housing Authority for supportive housing that will be primarily for people on the road to recovery.

Jo-Ann Putnam stated that it will save towns and cities money in the long run.

Susan Wiswell asked more about the Southern Maine Police Academy asking don't new recruits have to go to Vasselboro? County Manager Zinser stated they do now but that would be our hope to try and change that. But, it is a Maine Criminal justice academy issue.

Dave Durrell asked if the expectation down the road is that this program would be self-financing?

The County Manager stated that the Commissioners have said one-time funding, but we do have to look at the role of the county in the future of taking on a regional approach. There will be a cost to the cities and towns. We are not profit motivated. Fire Chiefs have said they would support some type of subscription program.

County Manager Zinser asked the Budget Committee if this is something they would have a consensus on this (ARPA)?

Marc Lessard asked what is the pulse of dredging machine?

Susan Wiswell responded that is out for bid right now.

County Manager Zinser stated that there are a whole host of things that need to be worked out including the new ruling on ownership to water. Would we be replenishing the private shoreline? The Commissioners authorized an RFP process. Whether or not it is ultimately chosen, I don't know yet, stated County Manager Zinser. There are some issues that are going to have to be worked through.

Marc Lessard agreed and said like where will it be housed and who is going to manage it? Does purchasing the dredge impact receipt of Federal funds?

County Manager Zinser Barnstable county in Cape Cod successfully operates a dredge but it is unanimous. I don't know if there is this unanimous approach here. Ultimately, it will come back to the Commissioners asking what they want to do.

Jo-Ann Putnam referenced Section 3 (ARPA report given to committee attached as part of meeting record) shows the towers all of the towns have PSAPS/ backups.

County Manager Zinser explained this is an actual backup that will be put in for the County.

Susan Wiswell asked what the status of purchasing the land to replace a tower (Blueberry Hill)?

County Manager Zinser replied that is still in process.

Jon Kinney commented that it would be nice if the county could stay out of the dredging business.

County Manager Zinser replied that the direction of the Board (of Commissioners) will set his direction.

Jon Kinney stated that if the Army Corps of Engineers could do this, it would be a lot cheaper or free. I know one town got their dredging done by stating that foreign freighters were coming in. The Federal Government went in and did all their dredging for them.

County Manager Zinser stated that in prior conversations at the Board level the tone has been "we are not interested in running this".

Jo-Ann Putnam motioned to approve York County's ARPA projects to date. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION- Fire EMS training is important and great for recruitment and retention, stated Susan Wiswell.

Vote 5-2 (Marc Lessard and Jon Bell opposed)

Jon Bell stated that these are large projects that were dropped on this morning. They should be discussed with local officials.

Jo-Ann Putnam said that she is familiar with most of the projects.

5. Set Public Hearing Date and Time

It was agreed upon to hold the Public Hearing for the FY'23 York County budget on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the York County Government Building.

6. Public Comment

Commissioner Clark thanked the Budget Committee members.

7. Adjournment

Marc Lessard motioned to adjourn. Susan Wiswell seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 11:46. a.m.