**Dukes County Commissioners**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**4:00pm**

Dukes County Administration Building

9 Airport Road, Edgartown, MA

**Dukes County Commissioners Present:** Gretchen Tucker-Underwood—Chair, Tristan Israel—Vice Chair, Keith Chatinover, \*\*John Cahill (John C.), \*\*John Alley (John A.), Leon Brathwaite and Christine Todd

\*\*left the meeting early

**Other County Officials Present:** Martina Thornton—Dukes County Manager, Connie Andrade – Asst. to the County Manager, Chuck Cotnoir – Dukes County Emergency Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, Karen Tewhey – Assoc. Commissioner for Homeless Prevention,

**Others Present:** Joanie Ames—MVTV, Rich Saltzberg—MV Times, Landry Harlan – Vineyard Gazette, Chris West – Applicant for Dukes County Emergency Manager, Bob Fuller – Applicant for Martha’s Vineyard (MV) Airport Commission, R. Peter Wharton – MV Airport Commissioner, Dick Cohen – Applicant for Assoc. Commissioner for Disabled Affairs and Tain Leonard-Peck – Applicant for Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative

**Gretchen called the meeting to order at 4:00pm**

**Minutes:**

**John A./Tristan made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of 12-5-18 as amended. So voted. Leon yes, Tristan yes, John Alley yes, Gretchen yes, Christine abstains, Keith abstains and John Cahill abstains. Motion carries.**

**Tristan/John A. made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of 12-12-18 as presented. So voted. Leon yes, Tristan yes, John Alley yes and Gretchen yes, Christine yes, Keith abstains and John Cahill abstains. Motion carries.**

**Tristan/Christine made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of 1-2-19 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**2019 Chair Appointments:**

Richard Cohen gave the DCC a brief history of his qualifications to be Assoc. Commissioner for the Disabled. He said he is a lawyer and has worked on many cases regarding people with disabilities.

**Gretchen as Chair of the Dukes County Commissioners made the following appointments:**

**Associate Commissioner for the Disabled: Richard Cohen**

**Associate Commissioner for Homeless Prevention: Karen Tewhey**

**Associate Commissioner for Youth: Rebekah ElDeiry**

**2019 Dukes County Commissioners Appointments:**

* **Personnel Board**

**Tristan/Christine made a motion to appoint Brian Smith to the Dukes County Personnel Board for a three year term. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

* **Dukes County Health Council (See file for list of names):**

Tristan read the list of appointees.

**Tristan/John A. made a motion to appoint the list of candidates that were referred by the Dukes County Health Council, the list was approved as presented (see file). So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

* **Dukes County Regional Housing Authority – Chilmark and West Tisbury Representatives:**

West Tisbury recommended Michael Bellissimo to replace Kristen Zern and Chilmark recommended Ann Wallace to be reappointed.

**Tristan/John A. made a motion to appointment Michael Bellissimo as the West Tisbury representative and Ann Wallace as the Chilmark representative to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority board for a three year term. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

* **Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission:**

**Each DCC member was given a ballot to vote for two members:** The DCC held a discussion about the Airport Commission interviews from the previous meeting. The DCC voted as follows:

**Gretchen: Don Ogilvie and Kristin Zern**

**Keith: Don Ogilvie and Kristin Zern**

**Christine: Don Ogilvie and Kristin Zern**

**Tristan: Don Ogilvie and Beth Tessmer**

**John A.: Don Ogilvie and Bob Fuller**

**John C.: Bob Fuller and Don Ogilvie**

**Leon: Bob Fuller and Don Ogilvie**

**Final Tally: Don Ogilvie 7 votes**

**Bob Fuller and Kristin Zern 3 votes**

The DCC held a second vote because of a tie between Bob Fuller and Kristin Zern. Each DCC member can vote for one.

**John A.: Bob Fuller**

**Gretchen: Kristin Zern**

**Tristan: Kristin Zern**

**Keith: Kristin Zern**

**Christine: Kristin Zern**

**John C.: Bob Fuller**

**Leon: Bob Fuller**

**Finally tally: Kristin Zern 4 votes**

**Bob Fuller 3 votes**

**The Dukes County Commissioners appointed Don Ogilvie and Kristin Zern to a three year term on the Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission as voted.**

* **Dukes County Emergency Manager:**

**Chuck Cotnoir:**  Chuck gave the DCC a brief history of his experience as the Dukes County Emergency Manager. He started his Emergency Management career while in the Airforce as a liaison to the Federal Emergency Director of Region 1 and later as liaison to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Through those two positions he gained experience in Emergency Management programs including nuclear, chemical and biological warfare. After leaving the Airforce in 1994, Chuck started as the Dukes County Emergency Manager Director. Chuck gave the DCC a description of all the training certificates and experience he has had during his career. He also gave the DCC a brief history of the planning for island emergency cooperation between towns. A discussion was held. John C. asked how Chuck broadcasts emergencies. Chuck said he sends out broadcast emergency bulletins. One of the major problems is communication among the emergency managers and the Boards of Health if the power and normal lines of communications are down. John C. asked if Chuck has a plan in place to reach the Island residents if an emergency happens through social media. Chuck said that the emergency notices are sent through the internet and Code Red prior to the emergency. He also said the primary emergency contact for each resident is their town’s emergency manager. Chuck said at the County level, we are not allowed to send those messages but he does what he can to notify people prior to emergencies. The County radio system can link each towns emergency managers and the boards of health through one radio system; the only one that’s still a problem is Aquinnah because of the terrain. He said he is working on that issue. Gretchen said she would like Chuck to come back and discuss some of these issues with the DCC.

**Chris West:** Chris gave the DCC a brief history of his experience and his qualifications. He said he has been on the West Tisbury Fire Department for 16 years and as a lieutenant for the last five years. He also was an EMT for about four years and currently is a 911 dispatcher for Sheriff and currently is the Asst. Emergency Manager for West Tisbury. He said the biggest issue is that the Island would have to sustain itself in an emergency because we cannot evacuate because there is nowhere else for residents to go. If there is an evacuation to the Cape it won't help because it’s basically like going to another island. He said he’d like to get all the emergency managers on the same page. Through the County, we would have the ability to pull all the town emergency managers together and give them a direction where we are headed. A discussion was held. Tristan asked if Chris had any suggestions as to how to strengthen the County position with the town emergency managers and the selectmen to show the County can be a valuable asset. Chris said the County should be doing more outreach and possibly use more social media. Since the County doesn’t do outreach, the towns have all been doing what they want to. There needs to be more focus on working together, encouraging more training would be beneficial to the Island.

**The DCC cast ballots for the following:**

**Gretchen: Chuck Cotnoir**

**Keith: Chuck Cotnoir**

**Christine: Chuck Cotnoir**

**Tristan: Chuck Cotnoir**

**John A.: Chuck Cotnoir**

**John C.: Chuck Cotnoir**

**Leon: Chuck Cotnoir**

**The DCC appointed Chuck Cotnoir as the Dukes County Emergency Manager for a term of one year as voted.**

Tristan said Chuck has put a lot of time and heart and soul into this position. The DCC decided they would like to explore getting an Asst. Emergency Manager with a small stipend and the possibility of grooming someone to replace Chuck when he retires to enable a smooth transition. Chris W. said he makes more money being the Asst. Emergency Manager in West Tisbury then the amount Chuck makes for the year so he’s not sure he’s willing to give that up. The DCC agreed to add a discussion regarding an Asst. Emergency Manager to the next DCC agenda.

**Lease for 2nd Floor 29 Breakdown Lane, Tisbury:**

Martina said with the DCC’s approval, she has gone to the Board of Selectmen for each town to amend the intermunicipal agreement so the County can entertain a lease proposal from the Island Health Care. All the towns agreed to amend the intermunicipal agreement to allow the County to lease the space at less than fair market value or at no compensation to a non-profit organization that will provide a public benefit to this island. A discussion was held. Leon asked if the sentence was in the lease regarding the Center for Living having the option to take over the upstairs if they need the space. Martina said it’s a three year lease and there is language that says it’s up to the Dukes County Commissioners whether to renew or extend the lease after three years. But she would add the “right of first refusal” to the lease. Tristan said he does not agree with adding that language, because another non-profit may want to lease it in the future. Martina said the Dukes County Advisory Board has the final decision to allow for the County to lease the extra space to Island Health Care. She said she will meet with the CAB on March 13, 2019.

**Tristan/John A. made a motion to authorize the County Manager to amend the intermunicipal agreement between Dukes County and the Center for Living. So voted. John A. yes, Christine yes, Tristan yes, John C. yes, Keith yes, Gretchen yes and Leon abstains. Motion carries.**

**Leon/Christine made a motion to amend the lease to add “prior to the acceptance of the lease the Dukes County Commission shall offer the Center for Living the first right of refusal. So voted. John A. yes, Christine no, Tristan no, John C. no, Keith no, Gretchen yes and Leon yes. Motion fails.**

**Tristan/Keith made a motion to allow the Dukes County Manager to enter into a three year lease term with the Island Health Care as presented starting April 1, 2019, pending approval of the Dukes County Advisory Board. So voted. John A. abstains, Christine yes, Tristan yes, John C. yes, Keith yes, Gretchen yes and Leon abstains. Motion carries.**

**Tristan/Keith made a motion to allow the Dukes County Manager to amend the lease agreement with the Center for Living to reflect the terms of this lease. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Appointment for Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative:**

* **Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative(CVEC):**

**Tain Leonard-Peck:** Tain said while he has not worked with a power plant in the past, he has done a lot of reading regarding CVEC. He sees the position as being a liaison between the power company and the Island to ensure the County has the best possible service and the best deals to ensure the quality of the service from the area power companies like Eversource. He said he has a passion for his community along with dedication, discipline and investigative competence. Tain said he is willing to stay up late to do any research necessary. A discussion was held. Gretchen said she spoke to Tain’s references and they said he is incredibly passionate about anything he puts his mind to. Tain said his first steps would be to talk to the other people in the cooperative and ask what they’ve been doing. He said he would like to get more dedicated technicians on the Island to help with blackouts and internets outages to resolve issues quicker. He also said he applied for four different Dukes County volunteer positions and of the four, the CVEC position was the most interesting.

**\*\*John C. left at 5:45pm**

**Tristan Israel:** Tristan said that since no one else was in the position but if there’s another person interested he is fine with not serving. If CVEC has an Alternate Member he would be interested. A discussion was held. Gretchen said the DCC should have ballots for all positions. Christine said she applauds Tristan for stepping up when needed. Tristan decided to withdraw his name from candidacy for the CVEC position.

**Keith/Tristan made a motion to appoint Tain Leonard-Peck as the Dukes County Representative to the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative for a three year term. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC) –Transportation Joint Committee (TIP):**

Tristan asked the DCC to make two separate appointments to the Martha’s Vineyard Commission. One will be the Dukes County representative to the MVC board and one for the Transportation Joint Committee.

**\*\*John A. left the meeting at 6:00pm.**

**Communications Committee – Update:**

Christine and Keith said they will give an update at the next DCC meeting.

**Manager’s Report:**

* **Center for Living:** Martina recommended cancelling the service contract as of June 30, 2019 and to negotiate the service contract with the new terms. The section she would like to change has to do with employee and organization contracts because there were previously two county employees that were working with the Center for Living. Those two employees do not work there anymore.

**Christine/Keith made a motion to terminate and renegotiate the Center for Living service contract as of June 30, 2019. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

* **Umbrella Contract for All Health and Human Services:** Martina said there has been a lot of discussion this year from the Towns at budget hearings and finance committees regarding this issue. There should be one agreement between the County and the Towns on how to conduct the business when it comes to procuring for these services and have accountability and fiscal management the same for all the programs. She said she will bring the DCC a draft copy before moving forward.
* **2020 Proposed Budget Hearing:** The public hearing will be March 13th at 1:00pm at the Dukes County building. She is calculating a small decrease in health insurance. The DCC asked that Martina email the amended version to them.
* **Audit:** The auditors are finalizing their numbers this week. She is hoping to have a draft budget audit to give to the County Advisory Board on March 13th. The exit conference will be scheduled for the April 3, 2019 meeting if possible.
* **State Beach:** The sand has been dredged by the little bridge and sand has been moved to the areas of the dunes that needed nourishment. Beach grass will be planted on Saturday, March 23rd.
* **Recovery Coach Training:** Will take place in collaboration with Island Health Care will be March 13th to the 16th; it is basically all day training. The DCC would like an update at an upcoming meeting as to how successful the recovery coaches have been.
* **County Treasurer:** Martina said she sent the DCC the steps needed to change the County Treasurer position from elected to an appointed position. A discussion was held. Tristan said he asked for what physical steps needs to be done and would like to have the subcommittee (Tristan, Christine and Leon) schedule a meeting to discuss this issue. Christine said she would like to know the timeline for making the change.
* **Legislation:** Martina said she sent the DCC a memo regarding improving the funding for the Counties and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC’s). At this point, the Assoc. of Counties has hired a lobbyist and they have asked for our opinion if the lobbyist needs to stay on past this summer, would the County contribute financially to further their work. The DCC agreed they would discuss this issue at the next DCC meeting. The DCC agreed to have Martina draft a letter of support without offering financial support.
* **Martha’s Vineyard Airport:** Martina said she spoke to Rep. Dylan Fernandes about how the legislation for the Airport financing is moving thru the Statehouse. Dylan said they had to refile it as a separate bill and would like to attach it to the State’s budget which would assure that as the budget passes the legislation moves along; if we are lucky we are looking at June.
* **Personnel Board:** Martina said they will be doing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new compensation and classification study for all positions at the County.
* **Courthouse:** Martina said the County has been able to get two new water fountains for free however; the quote for installing them from the plumber and also at the same time removing the existing three old water fountains because they are not being used was $7,000.00. She will be working within the budget to get them installed at the best price. Martina said the water main at the Courthouse needs to be fixed too.

**Martina Thornton’s Evaluation:** Tristan said he received the evaluations both in emails and hard copy. The grades are 1 to 5 and Martina received all 4’s and 5’s with positive comments about what an asset she is to the County. It was a very good review. There was nothing lower than a 3 on all the numerical scores and he does not want to dwell on what those were as far as comments but one was a concern on the County Manager’s hours. Someone also complained about the evaluation form used. Those were the only two negatives he received regarding the evaluation. Her review was excellent. Gretchen said she was disappointed that more people did not respond to do Martina’s review since the way you keep good people is to acknowledge when someone does good work, so she’s a little disappointed in the apathy in those who did not respond. She also said the way you tell someone who is doing good work for you is to write a good review.

**The executive session was called to order at 6:30pm.**

**Gretchen/Tristan made a motion to go into executive session according to Chapter 30A21a Section 2 (to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel) and the Chair so declares to not reconvene in open session and to invite the County Manager, Martina Thornton to remain. The notice of executive session was announced 48 hours prior to the executive session. So voted. Isreal yes, Chatinover yes, Brathwaite yes, Todd yes and Gretchen yes.**

**Leon/John made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**The DCC meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.**

**Certified by:**

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T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

**Documents presented at the meeting and part of the official record:**

* Agenda
* Minutes 12-5-18, 12-12-18 and 1-2-19
* List of 2019 Appointment Interviews
* 2019 Airport Commission Ballots
* 2019 Emergency Manager Ballots
* Application and Letter of Support for Chuck Cotnoir
* Application for Emergency Manager Director from Chris West
* Emergency Manager Mission Statement
* Application from Michael Bellissimo for West Tisbury Rep on DCRHA
* Manager Report