**Dukes County Commissioners**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**

**4:00pm**

Dukes County Administration Building

9 Airport Road, Edgartown, MA

**Dukes County Commissioners Present:** Tristan Israel – Vice Chair, John Cahill (John C.), Christine Todd, Leon Brathwaite, \*John Alley and \*\*Keith Chatinover

**\*Left the meeting early**

**\*\*Remote participation via telephone- Keith arrived at 4:15 PM**

**Other County Officials Present:**  Martina Thornton – County Manager

**Others Present:** Jacqueline Noel-SSA Board Candidate, Joan Ames-MVTV, Richard Knabel-MVAC , Norman Werthwein- MV Airport, Louisa Hufstader- Vineyard Gazette, Bob Johnson-Vineyard Futureworks, Mark Lovewell- Vineyard Gazette, Kristin Zern-MVAC, R. Peter Wharton- MVAC, Richard W. Conrad- Airport Commission candidate, Bob Rosenbaum – Chair of Airport Commission.

**Tristan called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.**

**MINUTES:**

**Christine/John A. made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2020 as presented. So voted. Tristan- Yes, John C- Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, John A- Yes. Motion carries.**

Leon Brathwaite exited the room for the following interview.

**Steamship Authority Appointment Interview:**

**Jacqueline Noel:** Jacqueline gave a brief history of her experience and life on the Island. Jacqueline has a resume with a long history of transportation experience. She said she has helped transit systems through transitions into alternative fuels. Jacqueline envisions a modernization of fleet in keeping up with the demands of global warming. Jacqueline addressed the debt in the terminal project and stated that it is not unusual for a public authority, a quasi-government agency to incur debt. Jacqueline stated that the hybrid is where she sees the SSA going. She also said she would rather get her preventative maintenance plan solidified first and put money into that before considering a fast ferry. Jacqueline has a consulting firm and has worked with MARTA; Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities and has experience working with all the transit authorities in Massachusetts.

Leon Brathwaite rejoined the DCC for the Airport Commission Interviews.

**Airport Commission Interviews:** The format is that each candidate will have time 3-5 minutes to introduce themselves. Each candidate will be asked the same three questions.

**Richard (Peter) Wharton:** Peter is interested in being re-appointed to the Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission. He gave a brief history of his experience and time on the Island including his background in the military and finance. Peter explained the reasoning behind changing from cash basis on revenue to changing to full accrual accounting. Peter is also on the land use committee and gave an update on the airport business park leases. Peter stated that the business park has additional land, hopefully seven acres, that is about to be released from the FAA. The MVAC wants to keep the business park viable with fair rents. Peter said going forward there is a need to make sure the capacity of the building matches what the capacity and demand and the TSA screening side and the post check side also need work. The airport sits on one of the largest aquifers on the island and recognizes the environmental challenges for the Airport. Peter stated that trust is important between the DCC and MVAC.

**Richard Conrad**: Richard He gave a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. Richard went to business school and studied finance. Richard started his own business in 1991 where he traded airplanes with worldwide customers. Richard said that the airport is an integral part of the economy of the Island. Richard stated that the airport business park is a great way to generate revenue and smart use of the land can keep car traffic out of the surrounding towns in the summer. Richard stated that further development and moving more people into the business park is a great way for the airport to make money. Richard stated that for businesses at the airport business park, when expenses exceed their income and if you squeeze people with too much rent then that’s a good way to stop getting rent.Richard stated that at his hangar at the airport, they use the 3% CPI (consumer price index) and everyone gets a rent increase according to the CPI. Richard believes this is a fair way to address rent increases. Richard stated that he promotes communication between the airport, the tenants and the tenant’s association at the business park.

**Geoffrey (Geoff) Wheeler**: Geoff gave a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. Geoff has experience dealing with airport boards, airport CFOs, airport directors, municipal bankers, bond councils, P3 organizations, aviation specialty lawyers and the FAA. Geoff stated that listening to the tenants is important too and keep lines of communication open. The FAA recognizes the situation at the MV Airport, but the FAA is afraid of making a decision anywhere, particularly in writing, that would set precedence anywhere else. Geoffrey stated that the airport’s role with responding to climate change and environmental challenges is to look at new construction as well as solar panels and lighting. Trying to lower Nitrogen Oxide emissions is important too. The FAA has a VALE program which stands for Voluntary Airport Low Emission. It provides grant money for electric vehicles like trucks and vehicles on the ramp.

The DCC went over the format for voting for the Airport and Steamship appointments.

Tristan called for a vote for the Airport appointments and the length of their terms.

**Christine/John C. made a motion to table this until the next meeting. So voted. John C- Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon-No, John A.- No, Keith- Yes, Tristan- No. A tie vote. Motion fails.**

The discussion continued.

**Christine/Keith made a motion that this be for three positions serving 3-year terms each. So voted. John C.-Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- No, John A.-No, Keith-Yes, Tristan- Yes. Motion carries.**

The discussion continued about how they wanted to proceed with the votes. A ballot with all the names on it will be given to the members. Each member votes for three people. The three people with the most votes will be given the positions. It is a majority vote for the top three candidates. If there is a tie, there will be another vote.

**Christine/John A. made a motion that a majority vote will be taken for the top three candidates for the Airport. So voted. John C.- Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, John A.- Yes, Keith- Yes, Tristan- Yes. All in favor. Motion carries.**

The DCC discussed the Steamship vote. Mr. Brathwaite went and sat in the audience. Leon abstained and will not vote.

**Christine/John C. made a motion to vote for one candidate for the Steamship appointment and the person who receives the majority of votes will be appointed. It also must be the majority of the DCC. So voted. John C.- Yes, Christine-Yes, John A.-Yes, Leon – Yes Tristan- Yes, Keith-No. Motion carries**

**Manager’s Report:**

* **Administration Building:** Martina explained that one side of the Dukes County Administration building still has no heat. Martina has a proposal to fix both furnaces. There is money that the County Advisory Board (CAB) has appropriated for originally repairing the middle section and the AC unit. Since there is no heat right now, Martina would like to use the money that was allocated for the first unit to replace the non-working unit so there is heat for the rest of the winter. The AC will be advocated for and repaired in the future. The amount is $13,750.00 that is already approved and there will be a future need for $ 15,637.00 to do the rest. The result would be two new units both with air pumps. Martina is waiting to hear back from the contractor to see if he would be willing to take on this repair of the broken one first. It would be far more expensive to have only one unit in the building because there is a wall in the basement that prevents a one-unit system from being easily installed. The current duct work will be used.

**John A./Christine made a motion to approve the money originally allocated by the CAB for the first unit to be used for the repair of the broken second unit. So voted. John C.-Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, John A.- Yes, Tristan- Yes, Keith-Yes. All in favor. Motion carries.**

* **Norton Point:** Martina went to Norton Point with the Trustees to look at the over wash that was mentioned in their proposal in their notice of intent. There is some work that needs to be done to relocate the whole access road. Before the next season, snow fencing can be set up and over the next year maybe some sand and beach grass can be added. Otherwise, right now it is over washing into the Katama Bay and if nothing is done, there will be a breach. That would eliminate access to Norton Point and eliminate any revenue. Martina has a meeting planned with the director next week over the MOU. Martina met with a Woods Hole group engineer to discuss different scenarios.
* **State Beach:** The State Beach Little Bridge Channell has been dredged by Oak Bluffs. Martina is waiting for a sand analysis. If it is compatible, sand will be moved to help build up the dune up to the second groin where there are areas of need. Beach grass planting is planned for the 3rd week in March.
* **Town of Edgartown:** Martina thanked the Town of Edgartown for repairs of the bluff by the Big Bridge channel because there was some erosion undermining the bike path on the Edgartown Pond side. The Edgartown Conservation Commission approved an emergency permit and worked with the dredge to put some sand there to build up the dune and to stabilize the area. Martina is looking into putting snow fence to prevent anyone from walking down on the dune. The beach grass is already there. Long term, Martina is working to put together a presentation to Mass DOT to establish a plan of action. On the other side of bridge on pond side there is erosion as well. There needs to be a long-term solution. Putting sand there will last only a year.
* **Compensation Study:** the compensation study has been delayed for months. The Personal Board is meeting next Tuesday to go over it. This will not be a quick process as many employees requestd additional review of the proposed job descriptions.

**John Alley left at 6:51 PM.**

**New Business:**

Martina said the Health Imperatives, which is a partner of the DCC in substance use prevention, will be holding an open house on March 11th, 2020 at 9AM. They are in Vineyard Haven behind Tashmoo Insurance. The Aids Alliance of Cape Cod is also located there. They operate the needle exchange through the DPH and provide free Narcan there. Anyone who wants Narcan can just walk in the door and take some off the shelve no questions asked. Martina encouraged everyone to take advantage of all the services they offer.

Christine said the Red House Recovery Support Center, is now open. It is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM. It is located on the Hospital campus, to the left of the main entrance. There is parking.

**Leon/Christine moved to adjourn. So voted. John C.- Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, Keith- Yes, Tristan- Yes. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**The DCC meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.**

**Certified by:**

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

* Agenda
* Resume: Jacqueline Noel
* Resumes: Peter Wharton, Geoffrey Wheeler, Fred Fournier, Jack Ensor, Richard Conrad, Robert Zeltzer