**DRAFT**

**Dukes County Commissioners**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 19, 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

**\*\*Remote participation via telephone**

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

**Others Present:** 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, Bob Rosenbaum- MVAC, Richard W. Conrad- Commission candidate, Fred Fournier – candidate for Airport Commission, Bob Zeltzer – candidate for Airport Commission, Jack Ensor – candidate for Airport Commission.

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

**Appointments:**

**OPEB Trust:** John O’Hare gave the DCC a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. John is a retired banker with experience with investing and trusts. He said he would be willing to attend DCC meetings quarterly to give updates.

**John A./Christine made a motion to appoint John O’Hara to the OPEB Trust for a three-year term, effective March 1, 2020. So voted. John C- Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, John A.- Yes, Keith- Yes, Tristan- Yes. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Airport Commission Appointment- Interviews (continued):**

The format is that each candidate will have 3-5 minutes to introduce themselves. Each candidate will be asked the same three questions. Three candidates will be interviewed at this meeting.

**Jack Ensor:** Jack gave a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. He retired after 37 years within the telecommunication industry, primarily with AT&T. Mr. Ensor has a good understanding of technology from both the telecom space, the IT space and the energy space. His broad background includes sales, sales management, P&L (Profit and Loss) management, working with labor unions, business development and has good communication skills. Looking to the future, Mr. Ensor stated there is an opportunity to use more energy technology and become a self-sustaining micro grid. A solar field is a great first step but there is all this useable, south facing territory and more can be done to reduce expenditures. Mr. Ensor stated there are things that can be done to reduce the impact of global warming and pollution on the environment. The cost of setting up filling stations for water and charging stations could be leveraged with private companies that want to help and brand their name with the airport which would help with the expense. Mr. Ensor stated that he is all in and is ready for the time commitment needed.

**Fred Fournier:**  Fred gave the DCC a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. He is currently the president and founding member of the Martha’s Vineyard Business Park Tenants Association. Fred is the owner and President of Landscope. Fred formed a subcommittee to study the land lease rates. Fred believes the airport should be good stewards of the environment. Recycling, water usage and water disposal are big issues. Fred stated that making good policy and staying away from lawsuits will help with the financial security. Fred contacted the state ethics committee to make sure there was no conflict of interest with taking this position. Fred is a lease holder and that supersedes if he was to be appointed. He could recuse himself in some situations and there is also a disclaimer if needed. If appointed, Fred stated there is no conflict of interest. Fred will give copies of the paperwork he brought. Fred stated that he is currently in negotiations with the airport commission over the increase of rates. Fred stated that if your lease is expired or soon to expire in 2020 or 2021 there is a big increase in rates. The increase from year 21 to year 40, using his own company as an example, in the first five years, the rent would go up 227% and that rate increase is outrageous. Fred stated that someone as big and as powerful as the VTA, if in 5-10 years they can’t afford it and that is some of our state money, some of our federal money, then no one is going to be able to. Fred said regarding to any conflict of interest, if he needed to step down as president of the tenant’s association that he would do that.

**Bob Zeltzer:** Bob gave the DCC a brief history of his experience and time on the Island. Bob’s background and bachelor’s degree is in social psychology specializing in group interaction. Bob has a master’s degree in industrial labor relations. He has served on Martha’s Vineyard Commission. Bob thinks that the important thing for the airport is to remember that the airport is a critical economic element to the island. The environment is something that Bob is concerned about. Looking at the environment, Bob stated that electricity produced by wind power is a good thing to use and that solar power is important. Bob is an independent thinker. Bob stated that regarding the financial future of the airport, when you sit on a board, you can’t just look at the reports and numbers. Bob stated that you need to analyze where is the money coming from and where is it going. Transparency is important. There are some things you can’t control as the business is seasonal. Regarding the rents for the businesses at the airport business park, Bob stated that a lot of elements are at play. Bob wants to protect what they have and also work really hard to look at how they can expand the base.

Tristan thanked the Commissioners for their time, their good questions and their patience. There have been 18 interviews, and this is a long process. The interviews are all on MVTV. Tristan suggested that the Commissioners review the videos and the resumes. The votes will take place on March 4th, 2020. Christine said she felt compelled to encourage the public to watch the interviews on MVTV for the Steamship Authority position and the Airport Commissioner positions and to feel free to contact the DCC with their thoughts about the talent that came before them and who they think might best serve in that capacity. John Alley added that he has already heard from several people who have already watched the interviews on MVTV.

**Manager’s Report:**

**Administration Building:** County Advisory Board (CAB) meet yesterday and voted to allow the funds for repair of the middle section furnace unit as well as to replace the furnace at the end section with no heat. The CAB voted the full amount plus 10% to repair both for total of $33,000 that was quoted to replace the units with ducted heat pumps. Martina asked the DCC to do the same vote, so there is consistency. The CAB asked Martina to get a couple more proposals to make sure they are getting the best price.

**Christine/John A. made a motion to approve $33,000 to repair the two furnaces in the Dukes County Administration Building. So voted. John C.-Yes, Christine- Yes, Leon- Yes, John A.- Yes, Keith- Yes, Tristan- Yes. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Compensation Study:** Martina reported that there was a meeting of the County Personnel Board yesterday and they have been reviewing the results of the Compensation Study. The material from the consultant were not deemed sufficient to be presented to the County Commissioners. There will be an internal revision by the Personnel Board as several job descriptions were questioned by employees. There will be a revision of the whole study results before the Personnel Board will make final recommendations to the DCC. The results will, most likely, have an effect on the FY21 budget. Martina stated that there are two meetings scheduled in March to do this as expeditiously as possible. A discussion was held. Martina explained that due to delays it was negotiated that the consultant will not be seeking the final payment due ($1,000). The consultant was chosen through an RFP process, the full price of study was $5,000. This is the same consultant that the Town of West Tisbury used for their study. Leon stated that West Tisbury had to revise her work too.

**Town Meetings:** Martina stated that she went to the Tisbury Board of Selectmen (BOS); John C. accompanied her to the meeting. They tried to explain the County financial position and how there will be credits to the towns. Martina stated that progress was made, and she is encouraged by it. It is good to clarify what the County is mandated to do and what extra the County does for the benefit of the Island. The towns are getting money back every year from the County. A discussion was held. Tristan encouraged the Communication Committee to prepare something before the town meeting cycle. Martina said that there is a plan to roll out county social media campaign in March. She will be attending several Fin Com meetings as well. Tristan added that an Op-ed would be helpful too.

**Norton Point and the Trustees of the Reservation:** Martina said she met with Trustees director for the Island and they discussed the MOU and the needed work. They came to terms and it will be presented to the DCC with contract renewal for the next three years, on March 18, 2020.

**State beach**: Tristan attended a Joint Transportation Committee meeting where they talked about erosion on the inside of the Sengekontacket Pond by the big bridge. Martina said that this issue will be presented to Mass DOT to start talking about a long-term solution.

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

**The DCC meeting was adjourned at 5:39 pm.**

**Certified by:**

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

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