**DRAFT**

**Dukes County Commissioners**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

**4:00 PM**

Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) Building

11 A Street, Edgartown, MA

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

**Other County Officials Present:** Martina Thornton – County Manager, Ann Metcalf - County Treasurer

**Others Present:** Joan Ames-MVTV, Louisa Hufstader- Vineyard Gazette, Bob Johnson-Vineyard Futureworks, Mark Lovewell- Vineyard Gazette, Kristin Zern-MVAC, R. Peter Wharton- MVAC, Richard W. Conrad- candidate, Jim Malkin – candidate, Don Ogilvee – Airport Commissioner.

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

Leon Brathwaite recused himself.

**Steamship Authority Appointment- vote:**

A candidate will need three votes minimum and if they don’t get three votes then another vote will be taken**.** Ballots with all the candidates’ names were distributed to the County Commissioners for vote.

The DCC expressed appreciation to all the candidates for applying. The DCC held a discussion regarding the candidates and their qualifications. The DCC would like to thank Marc Hanover for his 15 years of service and countless hours that he has devoted to the Island community. Tristan stated that Marc was very good about coming in regularly and giving reports to the group which he thinks is also important for any person that they choose as a representative. The Commissioners took a vote and the results were as follows:

**Tristan – Jim Malkin**

**Christine – Jim Malkin**

**Keith – Jim Malkin**

**John C. – Jim Malkin**

**John A. – Jim Malkin**

Martina stated that it is a unanimous vote for Jim Malkin. The DCC congratulated Mr. Malkin.

Keith stated that he would like to review the vote taking process when voting for multiple candidates by the DCC in the future.

**Airport Commissioners-vote:**

Leon Brathwaite rejoined the DCC meeting.

Tristan thanked the applicants on behalf of the DCC. Christine encouraged the people not selected to apply next year. Tristan said he recognizes the autonomy of the airport to conduct their business once airport commissioners are appointed, but they need to improve when issues overlap. There are issues that may impact the County but County is not part of the decision making process. The Commissioners were asked to vote for up to 3 candidates and sign their name on the ballot. The people with the top three votes will be appointed.

Martina tabulated the votes. The top three people who got the most votes are:

Fred Fournier- 6

Jeff Wheeler- 6

Jack Ensor- 3

Bob Zeltzer – 2

Richard Wharton- 1

Richard Conrad – 0

Christine wanted to thank Peter Wharton for his three years of service. Keith stated that this is a long-term plan, but someone just got on the Airport Commission without a majority vote and he doesn’t think that should happen again**,** hence his prior comment about the vote procedures. John A. said he was disappointed that the chairman of the Airport Commission appeared to go out of his way to influence the appointment process; first by talking to a candidate and then with a letter that the DCC received from the Airport legal counsel, which he thinks was inappropriate. He asked the only Airport Commissioner in the room Don Ogilvie if this letter sent to the DCC was authorized by the full Airport Commission. Don said “not that I’m aware of”. John A. said it was inappropriate to expend funds and use the airport seal. Keith disagreed, he had no issue with the Airport Commission Chair calling the DCC members to give them recommendations. Tristan said the issue is the expenditure of legal funds without a vote of the board. John A. said it has to do with ethics. The letter was aimed at one specific candidate the letter deemed not appropriate. It had nothing to do with Airport policy, policy about appropriateness of candidates is up to the appointing board. Christine said she supports the concern that what was presented to DCC could have easily been construed as coming from the entire Airport Commission and not from an individual of the Airport Commission, which seams inappropriate.

**Dukes County Health Council Appointments- vote:**

Martina said the nominee list has been vetted by the nominating committee of the Dukes County Health Council and has been voted by the full Health Council to be recommended to the DCC. She read the names into the record (see file).

**Christine/Leon made a motion to appoint to the Dukes County Health Council in the Consumer category for a two-year term: Mary Jane Williams, Michael Joyce, Sheila Shapiro, Cindy Doyle, Ellie Beth, Myra Stark, Louise Clough, Paddy Moore. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**John A./Christine made a motion to appoint the following to the Dukes County Health Council for a two-year term in the category of Public Officials: Alan Ganapol, Kathleen Perrotta, Omar Johnson and Christine Todd. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**John C./Leon made a motion to appoint to the Dukes County Health Council for a two-year term in the category of Health Organizations: Megan Panek, Thomas Hallahan, Leslie Clapp, Sue Sanford, Marie Zada, Vani Cortez, Julie Fay, Joyce Stiles-Tucker, Betsy Edge, Katrina Delgadillo and Maris Keating. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Leon/Christine made a motion to appoint to the Dukes County Health Council for a two-year term in the category of Practitioners/Professional: Katie Jones, Lila Fischer, Dan Pesch, Michael Bellissimo, Bruce Golden and Robert Laskowski. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Christine wanted to thank all individuals who are being reappointed and welcomed and thanked those who are joining the Dukes County Health Council for the first time.

**Associate Commissioner for Youth (chair appointment):**

**Rebekah (Beka) ElDeiry:** Becca thanked the DCC for allowing her to serve as an advocate for youth on Martha’s Vineyard for the last three years. Beka gave the DCC a brief history of her experience as the Associate Commissioner for Youth and the various committees in which she is active. She stated the following goals for the upcoming year:

* Create a Dukes County Youth Commission, using Barnstable County as a model.
* Get an Associate Co-Commissioner for Youth (preferably a male with experience)
* Offer internships for high school kids in need

Commissioners thanked Becca for her service. Martina stated that Randall Fautaux is another candidate and but was unable to attend the meeting. Beka discuss the co-commissioner possibility with him. Martina said that his background and strengths are in line with what Beka is trying to accomplish. A discussion was held. Leon asked if the Assoc. Commissioner for Youth must be a parent? Martina said no. Commissioners asked Beka to put an outline together with recommendations in writing and send it to Martina so she can forward to the DCC for review.

**Tristan reappointed Rebekah (Beka) ElDeiry as the Associate Commissioner for Youth for a one-year term.**

**Associate Commissioner for Disabled (chair appointment):**

**Tristan reappointed Richard Cohen as the Associate Commissioner for the Disabled for a one-year term.** The DCC would like Richard to attend a meeting in the near future to give an update.

**Cape Cod Municipal Health Group:**

**Christine/John A. made a motion to appoint Noreen Mavro Flanders and Robert Whitenour to the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group for a three-year term. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

Tristan stated that they need an alternate for the position. If anyone is interested, feel free to put your name in.

**Manager’s Report:**

* **Municipal Public Health Shared Services Program:** Martina was approached by the Boards of Health who have decided to apply for this grant to help get funding for a program that the County already runs; this would now be a state-funded program. This is primarily for a biologist who would deal with tick born illness and the mosquito surveillance. The Boards have been paying for it in the past, now they are collectively applying for a grant. A discussion was held. Martina said it is somewhere around $57,000 for 14 months. The implementation would start in May 2020. Martina stated that the person would be hired as a grant employee and their employment would be guaranteed for the term of the grant. If this model proves to be working, then there is a big likelihood that there will be another grant to continue to support this effort futher. Martina explained the programs and how they are run currently.
* **Coronavirus Update**: Martina drafted a very simple policy that she wanted the DCC to review. Martina would like to implement this policy to prevent potential exposure of county employees. She has attended a lot of meetings and discussions regarding the upcoming public health concern. She would like the County to act as a resource thru the Dukescounty.org website. The most important message to everybody is prevention. The next step would be to revise the sick leave policy and perhaps what could be the work from home measures. This includes the continuation of operations if there is a major outbreak. Martina will update everyone at the next meeting.
* **Cleaning of the Bathrooms at the Admin. Building:** The DCC agreed to address this issue at a future meeting. A discussion was held. Leon wants to know if they can talk to the airport and see if they have a custodian that could help. Martina replied that county would have to pay the Airport for it. Martina said she will review the budget to see if the funds are available to clean an extra time each week. Martina wanted to state the policy is if the bathrooms are really bad, then the Manager’s office should be notified the bathroom put out of use until janitor has a time to come clean it.

**New Business:**

John C. would like to invite Marc to a DCC meeting in April to show DCC appreciation for his years of hard work on the SSA board. A discussion was held. Leon asked if they wanted to do something like a reception at the PA Club. Tristan has named John C. as the coordinator and welcomed Leon to assist if necessary.

Tristan thanked the DCC members for all the work they did on the appointments.

**Calendar:**

Dukes County Commissioners Meeting 3-18-2020 at 4 PM

**John A./Leon moved to adjourn. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.**

**The DCC meeting was adjourned at 5:09 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