

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair, R. Peter Wharton, Keith Chatinover, Tristan Israel, Leon Brathwaite, John Cahill

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer, Bruce Montrose – Dukes County Veterans Services Officer, Randy Dull – newly hired Veterans Services Officer, Geoff Freeman – Airport Manager

Others Present: Aidan Pollard – MV Gazette, Bob Johnston – Vineyard Futureworks, Bob Rosenbaum – MV Airport Commission Chair

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Minutes - Suggestions were made to the 1-12-2022 DCC minutes and will be voted at the next meeting.

Veterans Services Officer – updates

Bruce gave an update on recertification of veterans' benefits that happens at the beginning of each calendar year. Randy Dull introduced himself. He started working and training with Bruce couple days ago and so far, it is going well. There are about 400 veterans on island that the office knows off and they are in contact with about 200 of them who are interested to receive various supports and benefits they are entitled to. The office helps to also connect them with other supports like food cards, fuel assistance etc. through the Dukes County Social Services and other agencies that offer support on MV. Randy is a younger veteran hoping to engage the younger veterans on the island.

Airport Grant Assurances for grants for trailer mounted asphalt crack sealing machine

Airport presented the request for approving the grant assurance as presented (Request and Grant Assurance documents are on file). This is a Mass DOT grant for \$51,680; \$12,900 will be Airport share of the cost of the equipment (20%). Leon asked about establishing policy about not receiving any documents later than 48 hours before the meeting if DCC is expected to vote on it. Christine did not want to have to take it up next week and keep that meeting strictly to ARPA.

John/Tristan moved to approve the request as presented. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Keith Chatinover - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

COVID vaccination policy update – Martina introduced the amended policy including definition of fully vaccinated and allowing employee to present vaccination proof for review and not have to present a copy (proposed amended policy is on file).

Peter/Keith moved to approve the updated vaccination policy as proposed. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Keith Chatinover - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding - updates

Martina said that the County Advisory Board (CAB) asked for a legal opinion if CAB has any say in distributing the ARPA funds. Discussion followed. Christine will reach out to the chair of CAB to discuss and will give an update to DCC. The legal counsel is working with Plymouth County to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding of use of the documents prepared for the Plymouth County to assure proper administration of ARPA. Our legal counsel was asking why we want to pay for documents that are readily available on-line. DCC wants an update with the cost.

Manager's Report (on file)

Martina updated Commissioners on steps taken due to leaks and mold remediation in the Administration Building. There were more leaks than we thought, and it took longer than originally anticipated resulting in higher bill from ServePro. We had a post-remediation inspection done yesterday and additional leaks taking care off and re-piping done today. We should have results of the inspection back in 5 business days. Then we can start looking at next steps and how to rebuild the bathroom and the basement room back.

Legislative Changes - Tristan

Tristan sent an e-mail with suggested legislative changes that eh Commissioners can think about on filing before this year's election and put it on ballot. One was about making County whole relative to paying for former Sheriff's employees health insurance, and another was about changing term of county commissioner to four-year term. Tristan will prepare bullet point of benefits of changing the legislation. Another suggestion was to increase the percentage of what the County can keep in unreserved fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

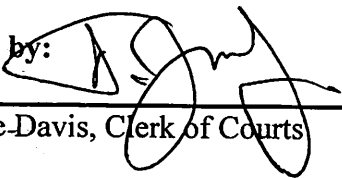
New business –

Tristan asked if we could find out if the Steamship Authority board received a report on future electrification and energy use related to Steamship operations and fi they can share it with us.

Leon/Keith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:05PM.

The next special ARPA DCC meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4:00PM.

Certified by:



T. George-Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Amended Meeting Agenda
- Amended Vaccination Policy
- Manager's Report