

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

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

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer

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

John Cahill called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Minutes

Tristan/Keith moved to approve minutes from 12-20-2021. So voted. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes. Motion carries.

Chair and Vice-Chair election

Discussion on process will follow in a future meeting.

Don/Peter nominated Christine Todd as Chair for the Dukes County Commission. No other nominations were presented. Discussion. Tristan would like to have limits on being continuously a chair. Vote to appoint Christine Todd as chair. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Leon Brathwaite - abstained. Motion carries.

Don/Tristan nominated John Cahill as Vice Chair for the Dukes County Commission. No other nominations were presented. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.

Dukes County Regional Housing Authority – appointment of Aquinnah representative – Rudy Sanfilippo

Tristan/Leon moved to appoint Rudy Sanfilippo as Aquinnah representative to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (until February 28, 2024). So voted. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.

Don suggested to make sure that we look at again at how we do appointments and where it is based on others recommendation or nomination versus where we need to be more thoughtful

about how we do selection. Keith said that he and Manager are planning to revise the Administrative Code in the near future.

FY2022 Budget Amendments

Martina presented budget amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee (see on file).

Tristan/Leon moved to approve \$6,618.05 from unreserved fund balance to Veterans Services Department. Discussion: Peter suggested creating an accrual line in the budget where for accrued benefits that we might need to pay out if employee leaves so there is always money in the budget for this purpose. Martina suggested for Peter to talk to the Treasurer to see if that is feasible and how it would work. **So voted. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.**

Tristan/ Leon moved to approve \$4,000 to be added to the Registry of Deeds budget for OPEB contribution in FY2022. So voted. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.

Personnel Bylaws proposed changes (on file)

Discussion followed about if we are storing all documents electronically. Martina said that she is moving towards electronic storage as much as possible. Peter offered amendment to include in Section 3.2.b. “or stored electronically in an encrypted and secured way”.

Peter/ Tristan moved to approve the proposed changes of the Personnel Bylaws with the suggested addition. So voted. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover - yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) discussion – Finance Committee was unable to meet with treasurer to give DCC recommendations. Commissioners will schedule a special meeting next week to talk specifically about ARPA administration and so FinCom needs to meet prior to that. Don made a presentation about what the County Commissioners need to look at as part of the process before looking at individual applications. See presentation on file. Don was to send the slides out to DCC so they can think about the questions prior to next week’s meeting. Discussion followed about the details of the steps.

Manager’s Report – Martina presenter her report (see on file)

Community Ambassador Partnership requested for the County to act as a fiscal agent for a grant to bring the vaccination bus to the island several times over the course of the next three months. **Tristan/ Peter moved to support the request and agree to be fiscal agent of the grant as presented.** Discussion: Leah Palmer answered several specific questions related to the proposal. They are finalizing the budget, the total not to exceed \$50K which will include 5% administrative fee for the County, \$4,500 for the bus and crew to come each time, plus Steamship costs, vaccines will hopefully be provided from MV Hospital, interpreters,

coordination of the event, etc. If grant proposal is accepted we could start using the funds in February. **Vote: Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover -yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.**

Martina updated the Commissioners on various project at the county buildings.

County will be able to receive some free rapid COVID test kits for county use. Manager will prepare a policy of use – it will be just for county employees, if there is a positive the person would be required to register with the local board of health's dedicated website so they can follow up on the contact tracing.

County Vaccination Policy


County Commissioners clarified that their policy should be applied as all staff shall be fully vaccinated as defined by the Mass Department of Public Health (this might include busters etc.) Manager will revise the policy and bring back to the board if it needs to be revised with this in mind. Also, it was clarified that as proof of vaccination it is sufficient for the employees to have County Manager visually inspect the vaccination documentation and note the information needed (vaccine type, dates etc.)

Leon/Tristan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes. Motion carries.

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 4:00PM. County Commissioners will have a special meeting on Wednesday January 12, 2022 at 4:00PM to discuss ARPA funding.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
 - Manager's Report
 - Don Leopold slides
 - FY2022 Budget amendments
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