

**Dukes County Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
5:00 – 6:55 PM
*REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY***

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Tristan Israel – Chairman, Christine Todd – Vice Chair, John Cahill, Keith Chatinover, Leon Brathwaite, and Donald Leopold (joint for budget discussion).

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

Others Present: Noreen Mavro-Flanders, R. Knabel, Rich Saltsburg.

Tristan Israel called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Letter to the Editor Explaining County Treasurer Ballot Question

The Communications Committee has drafted a Letter to the Editor explaining the ballot question on behalf of the County Commission. The letter in support of the legislative change to an appointed treasurer reads as follows: “On behalf of the undersigned County Commissioners, we are asking you to vote YES on Question 3, which would change our County Treasurer position from elected to appointed. We strongly believe this will lead to a more transparent selection process, allow for the most qualified individual to hold this critical job, and enable Dukes County to better serve its citizens. Here is a recap of why you should support Question 3: There has not been a contested race for County Treasurer in 30 years, meaning voters haven't actually been given a choice in their Treasurer since 1990. In other words, the choice of County Treasurer has been made for the voters, not the other way around. This change was recommended by the Department of Revenue in their 2010 Financial Management Audit of Dukes County. Allowing the County Commission to appoint a Treasurer would facilitate a formal selection and vetting process as well as an expanded candidate pool beyond those who are well known and prepared to run for office. An appointed Treasurer would be subject to standard performance reviews but would only be able to be removed for cause (misconduct, malfeasance, or neglect of duties). Should this question pass, it will not be in effect until the Treasurer duly elected in the upcoming election is done serving her term (January 2027) or sooner if they vacate their office. For the above reasons, we encourage you to vote YES on Question 3”.

Christine Todd made a motion to omit the sentence “In other words, the choice of County Treasurer has been made for the voters, not the other way around”. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite yes, Keith Chatinover no, Christine Todd yes, John Cahill yes, and Tristan Israel yes. Motion carries.

Christine Todd made a motion to approve the Letter to the Editor as amended with the aforementioned redaction. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite no, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. The County Commissioners who voted yes on the approval of the Letter to the Editor will be listed at the bottom of the letter.

Dukes County Fiscal Year 2020 Unaudited Financial Report

FY2020 ended with \$131,952 as net surplus. Revenue was adjusted for the unfunded reserve used to for the town payments of \$234,663.80. This adjustment brought the total revenue to \$1,887,282.17. Deeds Excise Tax leads the revenue to more than what was budget. County is frugal on spending and coming in at 94% of what was budgeted for expenditures.

September 2020 had a record-breaking month for Deed Excise Tax in the history of Dukes County in terms of quantity and price of sales. If there is a positive balance at the end of the year, all but 10% of it goes back proportionately to the towns in the form of a credit on their assessment. The remaining 10% of their assessment (~\$50,000) is left in the Unreserved Fund Balance. There was a discussion about having a monthly update of the pertinent funds that would determine surplus projections in order to accurately make determinations for the allocation of funds for community efforts.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to approve the budget as submitted. Christine Todd seconded the motion. Martina requested an additional \$800 for Associate Commissioners' Travel Expense Budget line item (301) Travel Inside State for money for the appointees of Cape Cod Municipal Health Group to travel off island to their meetings. In order to balance the budget, the Deeds Excise Tax revenue was increased by \$1,000, bringing it to \$201,000 and the surplus \$677.

Christine Todd made a motion to amend the budget to add \$800 to the Associate Commissioners' Travel Expense Budget. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

There was a discussion concerning the 2.5% increase in town assessment and fact that the county cannot ask for override. There was also discussion about county OPEB contributions. More information was requested for the next meeting.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion for a preliminary approval the amended budget, which will be finalized at the next meeting. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Allocation of Overhead

The possible amount of allocation of overhead from the Airport is \$125,000 but may be lower. This is to be determined as things come back from the Airport meeting. The County Treasurer and Airport Finance Committee will meet soon to finalize the budget spreadsheet before it goes to the Airport Commissioners and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for approval. From there it will be put in front of the County Commissioners for approval before going in front of the County Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB has until April 1, 2021 to approve the budget.

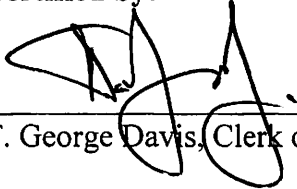
Adjournment

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, John Cahill aye, Keith

Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:54 PM.

The next Dukes County Commission meeting is on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

Documents Discussed

- Ballot Question 3 Letter to the Editor
- Dukes County Fiscal Year 2019 Audit
- Dukes County Fiscal Year 2020 Unaudited Financial Report – Budget v. Actual
- Dukes County Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Statement
- Dukes County Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Budget Summary