

**Dukes County Commissioners
Minutes
Wednesday, October 30, 2019
4:00pm
Dukes County Administration Building
9 Airport Road, Edgartown, MA**

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Gretchen Tucker Underwood – Chair, Tristan Israel – Vice Chair, Christine Todd, Leon Brathwaite and Keith Chatinover

Other County Officials Present: Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, Martina Thornton – County Manager, Cindi Martin – Martha's Vineyard Airport Director, Richard Knabel – MV Airport Commission, Bob Rosenbaum – Chair MV Airport Commission, Chuck Cotnoir – Emergency Manager

Others Present: Joanie Ames – MVTV

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 4:00pm

Minutes:

Tristan/Christine made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of September 4, 2019 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Tristan/Christine made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of October 2, 2019 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Christine/Tristan made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of October 8, 2019 as amended. So voted. Gretchen yes, Tristan yes, John C. yes, Leon yes, Christine abstains, and Keith abstains. Motion carries.

Tristan/Christine made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of October 16, 2019 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Airport – Grant Approval:

Martina said she emailed and reviewed the information with the DCC for the proposal grant. A discussion was held. Cindi said explained the grant and said this is a Companion Grant for the ARFF truck for \$36,413.56. She said the Airport requested a FAN to cover their share of the cost of the truck earlier this summer in anticipation of the grant.

Leon/Christine made a motion to approve the Martha's Vineyard Airport request to borrow under a Companion Grant for \$36,413.56. The funds will be used for the ARFF truck. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMGH) – Update Conflict of Interest Forms:

Noreen said one of the CCMGH board members had an issue because she gets her health insurance thru the County Retirement and is on the CCMGH board. The problem is if a person is a voting member on the board on is voting on a rate increase for health insurance, they need to bring a disclosure to their appointing authority. A discussion was held. Martina said the current board

members are Noreen Mavro Flanders, Bob Whitenour and Cathy Logue. Adam Wilson was an alternate, but he resigned. All three disclosures state the same thing. The DCC held a discussion regarding what the CCMGH does and what benefits are offered.

Leon/Tristan made a motion to accept the disclosure forms as the appointing authority for Cape Cod Municipal Group Health. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Gretchen signed the disclosures.

OPEB Trust – Need for Alternate Appointee:

Noreen said she has always been a trustee and its always good to have two in the system. Currently, there is no alternate to the OPEB Trust. A discussion was held. The DCC agreed to advertise this position in December. Leon suggested asking the retirement board if anyone is interested in volunteering as an alternate.

FY2020 Budget Amendment:

Martina said reviewed the proposed amendments with the DCC.

- OPEB Trust: the invoice was for \$2,528.59. The budget had \$2,000.00 which leaves a shortage of \$528.59 needed in Dept. 1800 Line 54900.

Martina said there are a few things happening this year. The \$200k is an increase from \$192k for an increase of retiree's health costs. For the last six months of this fiscal year, it will cost approx. \$8k more and the Airport should reimburse the County approx. \$6k. That leaves \$2,300 for the county to cover. She also said \$19,717.00 is coming from \$13k expense from MASSDOT revenue from the Cape and Island License plates because they calculated incorrectly the portion that was supposed to come to the County. They gave \$2.00 too much for each license plate since 2014. When they calculated the cost of the mistake it was \$6,716.50. She said the County has not received the final bill yet. If these charges are added together, there is a deficit of \$2,384.00. At the last DCC meeting, the DCC agreed to transfer \$18k from surplus to go to the homeless coordinator and the County should review what we can afford. These costs are not something she has any control over. A discussion was held. Gretchen said she would ~~not~~ like to rethink the \$18k for homelessness coordinator and would rather the DCC find another way to cover the shortage. Martina said she has reached out to the hospital's community benefit money to help with the homelessness prevention. Tristan recommended cutting costs within the departments instead of the \$18k allocated for homelessness prevention. Martina said the County cannot do programs that we are not mandated to do. If the Towns recognize the benefit, they will fund the program. Martina asked to fund the \$528.59 from the Unreserved Fund balance and that would balance it out and if there are left over funds from the towns and she will use that to cover the shortage on the Cape and Islands license plate money.

Leon/Tristan made a motion to transfer \$528.50 from the Unreserved Fund balance to cover the shortage in OPEB and \$6,716.50 will be taken from the Cape and Island License Plate revenue. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

FY2021 Budget – Vote:

Martina said there is approx. a \$20k deficit in the proposed FY2021 budget. She noted the following changes:

- She decreased the Assoc. Commissioners expense to \$1,500.00 for travel and supplies and removed \$5k that was used to help fund Karen's position. She will meet with Julian Cyr to see if the County can get some funds earmarked from the State for homelessness prevention.

- She has a \$7k placeholder for implementation of the comp study. This number will change depending on the study.
- The Treasurer's office requested additional hours to have an Asst. Treasurer available. That will be an increase in that department.

Overall the County is in a deficit for the proposed budget. Martina reviewed a document from DOR that states the County cannot use a proposition 2.5 override, but the County can increase the costs and charges for administration fees, or we can justify our costs went up. The proposed budget is not ready but will be closer once she gets final numbers. The County needs to balance the budget without using reserves. A discussion was held. The DCC would like to present a budget to the CAB of what the County needs without constraints. Tristan said there's been some discussion about the Airport doing their own thing. If they are anticipating this for FY2021 the County needs to know. Christine clarified that the DCC is only interested in the Airport's budget as it affects the County. Martina has sent an email to Cindi about a month ago and never heard back from her and this issue needs to be addressed quickly. Bob R. said the Airport FinCom will be discussing this at their next meeting on Nov. 7th.

- The FY2021 Regional budgets will be ready on November 13th.
- Registry of Deeds (ROD) increase in Deeds excise allocation, which would increase the ROD's revenue by 10% to 15%.

Tristan/Christine made a motion to send a letter of support for the new Registry of Deeds bill that would increase the excise allocation for the County. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Keith would like to have it on record regarding asking the CAB to decide which programs to cut. Gretchen said the County should provide the best programs that we can for the best cost. She also asked the Airport to review funding of the Dukes County Emergency Manager's stipend. Leon suggested the DCC should look at the FY2021 COLA's and the possibility of not giving them to the employees and he'd rather see the homeless funding back in the budget than the COLA's. Martina told him that if she gets the revenue to fund the homeless position she will. She recommended not funding OPEB for \$24k.

Tristan/Leon made a motion to not fund OPEB for \$24,000.00 for the FY2021 budget and to increase the annual assessments by 2.5% to balance the budget. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Noreen said several years ago she recommended some of the Unreserved Fund balance go into a stabilization fund and there's a new section of Chapter 35 that the treasurer of Plymouth County put forward so the money could stay with the County and have a stabilization fund to be used for times when anticipated revenue did not come in when you expected and that's very important.

Administrative Code Changes - Review:

Since John Alley and John Cahill were not present, the DCC decided to table this discussion until the next meeting. Gretchen said she reviewed some of the proposed changes and she would like to meet with the sub-committee before presenting them to the rest of the DCC for a full review. Keith said the committee only made close to ten changes and none of them were controversial. Martina told the DCC they need to have a public meeting to make the agreed upon changes.

Tristan/Christine made a motion to discuss the exact recommendation that the sub-committee is recommending for the Dukes County Administrative Code at the next regularly scheduled DCC meeting with copies provided to the DCC members. So voted. All in favor.

Friends of Sengenkontacket (FOS): Gretchen said the DCC should send a letter to FOS to thank them for their hard work and their concerns. They have some great ideas for fund raising; the DCC should invite them to a meeting.

State House Meeting – Update:

Martina, Christine, Leon, Tristan, Ann and Noreen went to the Statehouse to support special legislation:

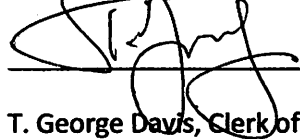
- Regarding bringing authorization for bonding to the local level
- Changing the Treasurer position from elected to appointed

A discussion was held regarding changing the legislation that the DCC had agreed to present on the Airport borrowing authorization. Keith was concerned that Leon changed the wording on the Statehouse floor without prior approval from the DCC. Leon said he as an individual of the State has a right to amend a motion. Christine said the way the change was presented, it appeared to be from the whole DCC and not as Leon as an individual of the State. Leon said he asked the Chair of the Committee and they gave him the language he could use. Tristan too said the changes were discussed but they never endorsed any language change. Leon can have his opinion and not the opinion of the full DCC board. Leon told the DCC he discussed the changes with Martina, and she told him where to place the wording. Martina told the DCC, Leon gave his opinion, and everyone has that right and there's nothing wrong with having a policy for investing. The DCC agreed that if the DCC does not approve something, a DCC member should not change what was voted on. Tristan said until the State Committee is done with the legislation, you never know what language will end up in there. Leon agreed that in the future, if he recommends changes, he will do it as an individual and not as a representative of the DCC. Martina said the legislation does not give blanket authority to bond, there are things that would still need to go to the Statehouse for a vote. One thing is you can't bond for equipment such as what would be needed for the new Wastewater facility at the Airport. The DCC decided not to send a letter to the State with concerns about Leon changing the wording as it would make them look unorganized and may cause more harm than good. (Keith did not agree with not sending a letter.) Christine recommended talking to our State Representatives to see if it would jeopardize our ability to bond. If their advice is to leave it, then the wording should remain intact.

Christine/Tristan moved to adjourn. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

The DCC meeting was adjourned at 6:17pm.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Agenda
- FY2021 Proposed Budget
- FY2020 Proposed Budget Amendments
- Proposed Modifications to the Administration Code
- CCMGH Proposed Disclosures