

DRAFT
Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

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

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

Others Present: Sandra “Sandy” Pimentel, Patricia “Pat” Washington, R. Peter Wharton, Geoff Freeman – Airport Commission Director, Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette, Lucas Thors – Martha’s Vineyard Times, and Jennelle Gadowski.

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

Minutes

Christine Todd requested that there be an additional note of the Martha’s Vineyard Airport’s OPEB contribution to the meeting minutes from Wednesday, November 4, 2020. It was decided that the Wednesday, November 4, 2020 minutes will be revisited and voted on at the next meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Martha’s Vineyard Diversity Coalition (MVDC) Presentation

Sandra Pimentel and Patricia Washington gave a presentation on Martha’s Vineyard Diversity Coalition. They explained that the organization was founded in 2018 by 6 individuals (3 Black men, 2 white women, and 1 white man) approximately 2.5 years ago. Thirty people attended their first event at Howe’s House on February 22, 2020. Sandy said that “in order to understand implicit bias, we must first understand ourselves”. She recognizes that history has shaped us all and an understanding of history will allow us to move forward and pursue the organization’s mission of “laying the groundwork to eradicate racism”. They hope to develop a model on Martha’s Vineyard that can be used in the rest of the country. Pat added that their strategic plan consists of foundation of trust, individual actions, institutional actions, and collaborative partnership. The Coalition is founded on personal relationships of individuals strongly committed to diversity and inclusion. They provide education through workshops, school-based curriculum, and the website and do not compete, but collaborate and partner with other organizations. The MVDC Charter that all of the over 160 members agree to adhere to is an anchor of common ethics, map of what individuals must do to move forward, and a commitment to action, rather than just words. There are several committees for members that each assist in tackling systemic racism – Action Committee, Criminal Justice, Economic Equity, Education/Creative Arts, Healthcare Disparities, and Interfaith/Faith-Based. Initiatives and projects the organization is currently working on include 2-day police conscious/unconscious bias training for all Martha’s Vineyard Police Departments (60 officers will attend); Martha’s Vineyard school curriculum; Los Angeles’ Oakwood School partnership and promoting racial

literacy; Blue Cross Foundation healthcare disparities listening session to allocate grants and research studies; and Sacred Ground (10-week educational program in collaboration with local churches). They clarified that they are not a 501(c)(3) but are now a Massachusetts Charitable Trust that is fiscally sponsored by the Martha's Vineyard Permanent Endowment Fund. The Executive Board of Trustees is comprised of 6 people (2 Black women, and 2 Black men, 1 white woman, and 1 white man), three of which are founding members. For those that want to help the Coalition they are encouraged to spread the word; offer up ideas or suggestions for initiatives and partnerships; support the MV Diversity Coalition Fund; and become a member or volunteer. Interested parties are encouraged to visit their website at www.mvdiversitycoalition.org and email them at info@mvdiversitycoalition.org to learn more information and complete a brief membership questionnaire. Christine Todd inquired about the organization's involvement in literature and local school curriculum. Donald Leopold suggested they reach out to AceMV and offered to initiate networking. Christine Todd inquired about their thoughts of how the community can increase the diversity of government board that are in positions of policy making. Pat noted that the organization is willing to help diversify Boards and will continue to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table. Even though Dukes County Commission are the first government agency that they have presented to, they hope to continue to spread their message at other agencies and towns. They have an upcoming presentation with the Steamship Authority and a nonprofit organization. John Cahill asked if they could be a source for Dukes County hiring contractors. Pat said that while they do not currently have a list, they can have a conversation to see what the County is looking for. Leon Brathwaite suggested MVDC be a conduit for minority businesses, be a reservoir for volunteers, and add a listing on their website. All of the Commissioners thanked Sandy and Pat for their presentation and said that they will stay in touch.

OPEB Funding Policy

The Subcommittee met on Monday, November 16, 2020 to draft a policy that was distributed to all commissioners for review. Donald Leopold shared the objectives that will be brought to the CAB: by adopting a policy it will give the County an opportunity to improve it's discount rate from approximately 2.2% to 7%, which will mirror West Tisbury's policy. West Tisbury has the same number of employees as the County and are funding their OPEB based on their policy of putting about \$200,000 a year towards OPEB with a discount rate of 7%.

John Cahill made a motion to approve \$500 to fund the actuary analysis. Donald Leopold seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, Donald Leopold aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to adopt the policy as presented. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Guidelines for Borrowing Process

Donald Leopold and Leon Brathwaite asked Ann Metcalf at their Subcommittee meeting to reach out to Nantucket and Barnstable, look at their borrowing process, and prepare the County's accordingly. Ann Metcalf said that she is awaiting information from the two towns, but that she

will follow up with them. More information to follow at the next Dukes County Commission meeting.

Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)

Tristan Israel suggested that this JTC appointment be taken up every year at the same time as the Martha's Vineyard Commission appointment.

Leon Brathwaite nominated John Cahill to the Joint Transportation Committee. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Donald Leopold aye, Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. John Cahill gave a very brief acceptance speech.

Christine Todd made a motion to have the annual JTC appointment be at the same time as the Martha's Vineyard Commission appointment. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, Donald Leopold aye, Leon Brathwaite no, Keith Chatinover aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. Leon Brathwaite commented that he does not want to disrupt the continuity of progress and give the person the opportunity to step down at their own discretion.

Manager's Report

- Martina Thornton said that Norton Point Beach is closed due to erosion of the access point. It is currently unsafe to travel over the dunes. Updates on the Trustees closures, openings, and more are available on their [Facebook page](#). Christine Todd requested that the local newspapers reach out to the Trustees and inform the public of this closure. Tristan Israel requested that The Trustees be invited to the next Dukes County Commission meeting for an update.
- There are two prior year past due bills, payment of which requires both boards (DCC and CAB) to approve amending the current year's budget to cover the bills. One bill was for R.M. Packer for \$27.58 for heating services where payment was not applied correctly in the Spring. The other outstanding bill was from June 29th electrical work where there was a Capital Project of installing a mini split and replacing a light for \$2,268.34. Of that total, \$1,741.56 should be paid from the Capital Improvement Fund and \$526.78 should be paid from the Courthouse Budget's Repair Line. These costs were budgeted in the prior year. **Christine Todd made a motion to approve budget changes needed to pay the bills. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Donald Leopold aye, Leon Brathwaite no, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**
- The Homeless Shelter will be opening up after Thanksgiving at the Whaling Church. There will be 2 paid staff members and will be able to house a maximum of 13 guests. They are still looking to fill a few staff positions but are hoping to be able to use volunteers and paid staff to do so. Christine Todd added that she has contacted Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to see if they will offer supplies and resources to the shelter to offset costs and be able to channel remaining funds to other needed services. She is awaiting a callback. She also urged all Commissioners to attend the County Advisory Board (CAB) meeting on Thursday,

November 19, 2020 at 2:30 PM and advocate for a position for a Homeless Needs Coordinator with Harbor Homes via a service contract with the County and other pressing issues. Christine further urged Commissioners to attend the Dukes County Health Council meeting on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:30 AM, which will be discussing the need for this position and advocate for necessary community services. A majority of the Commissioners expressed concern with nonprofit organizations, such as Harbor Homes, bypassing the Dukes County Commission and going directly to the CAB and the precedent that it sets.

Christine Todd made a motion to support the funding request of Harbor Homes for hiring a fulltime Housing Insecurity/Homelessness Prevention Coordinator. Donald Leopold seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. The Commissioners wish to remind the CAB that if another proposal comes along to have it get approved by the Commissioners first.

Old Business

No update from the Allocation of Overhead Plan at this time.

New Business

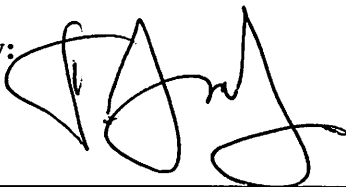
Keith Chatinover mentioned that as COVID-19 cases spike there is a need for leadership and is concerned that there has not been any thus far. It was suggested that the All-Island Board of Selectmen meeting be revisited, especially since they have not met since November 2019. He suggested the need for coordination. Christine brought up the issue with the Oak Bluff Board of Selectmen and they said that they are willing to do something about the issue. She suggested everyone continue to apply pressure. Keith said that since it is Oak Bluffs' turns to host the All-Island Board of Selectmen meeting that they must be the ones to call it. Christine suggested bringing this matter up at the CAB meeting. Leon Brathwaite and Tristan Israel reminded everyone that all Commissioners are members of the All-Island Selectmen meeting. Leon Brathwaite offered for the Commissioners to host the meeting and invite the Board of Selectmen, as the request is still pending with the Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting agenda
- Meeting minutes for Wednesday, November 4th, 2020
- Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition presentation
- Proposed OPEB funding policy
- Note from The Trustees – Martha's Vineyard on Norton Point Beach
- Email regarding past due bills
- Regional programs FY22 proposed budgets with explanations