

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 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: Richard Peter Wharton, Geoff Freeman – Airport Director, David Rhoderick, Sr., Rich Saltzberg – Martha’s Vineyard Times, Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette, and Jennelle Gadowski.

Tristan Israel called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Minutes

Minutes for December 2nd, 2020 will be voted on at the next meeting.

Appointments

Dukes County appointment applications are due January 31st, 2021. Towns make recommendations and Dukes County Commissioners appoint people to each position. The available positions are Associate Commissioner for Disabled (1-year term), Associate Commissioner for Youth (1-year term), Alternative Member of Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (3-year term), Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (2-year term), Dukes County Health Council (2-year term), Dukes County Personnel Board (3-year term), Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (3-year term for an Oak Bluffs resident), and Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission (3-year term). When asked the Commissioners were told that they will know about any incumbents/reappointments by January 2021. So far, the only known person reapplying is Kathy Logue.

The Commissioners thanked Keith Chatinover for his efforts of drafting an editorial piece of appointments for the local newspapers. This will go out again in January and is especially important since the local newspapers are now paid subscriptions for all instead of being accessible online or via mailboxes. In order to bridge any gaps in communication it was further suggested that there be a promotion of the positions by posting them on the County website and social media, creating advertisements, writing Letters to the Editor, creating MVTV community notices, and sharing content on Commissioner’s personal social media pages. This was agreed to by all. PDF documents with all of the available positions will be created by Keith Chatinover and Leon Brathwaite to help with this. Furthermore, it was discussed that the County be branded more – use of the official seal and contact information be put on all correspondence, releases, letters, etc. **Leon Brathwaite made a motion to send the letter to the Editor. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, Donald Leopold aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**

Letter of Intent – Photovoltaic (PV) System Installation with Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC)

Martina Thornton explained that CVEC is soliciting projects for their Round 6 PV installation. She is looking into PV installations for the County buildings as part of it. She would like the Commissioners to formally agree to the letter of intent. All County buildings will be reviewed in detail, so far majority of the other buildings seem like good potential fits. Health Care Access in Oak Bluffs will not be selected as it has too many trees in the way and the roof is too small. There is an agreement to share the cost of selecting one developer for all Round 6 projects. The letter of intent does not obligate nor require any money. **Keith Chatinover made a motion to approve. Christine Todd 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.** Martina Thornton was authorized as a representative.

Grants Initiative Discussion

Martina Thornton reported that the County has the ability to accept donations. There is nothing prohibiting the County from supporting the effort and encouraging people to donate to the Chamber of Commerce Fund to help offset the cost of identifying potential funding to help with impacts of COVID-19. If and when a grant is identified that the County would be involved in, then they would look at the mechanism and decide if they will engage with a Grant Writer without triggering any legal issues. The Chamber of Commerce can then give a monetary donation to the County if they so choose for a Grant Writer or they give funds as long as they are specifically marked for this purpose. If the money comes through the County and they hire a Grant Writer, they must sign a contract and follow regular procurement procedures as if Martina is hiring anyone else under a County contract agreement.

Community Outreach Coordinator

Donald Leopold created a draft of a Job description for the new position of Community Outreach Coordinator. Leon Brathwaite reported that the job description was not brought to the Personnel Committee yet since the Commissioners had not yet approved it. He expressed concern about the rate of pay and securing funding for it in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. **Christine Todd made a motion to approve the job description for an Outreach Coordinator. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold aye, Christine Todd aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**

Manager's Report

Martina Thornton reported that the swearing in of County Commissioners and County Treasurer now had to be done in person at the Courthouse by George Davis. COVID-19 safety precautions would ensue – masks, social distancing, and limiting those inside the Courthouse. She urged everyone to reach out to George to schedule a date before the next meeting on January 6, 2020. She requested that everyone schedule and arrive solo in order to be safe.

Due to new COVID-19 regulations, she reviewed and scheduled a remote training session for the office staff on December 17, 2020. The building will be closing, and meetings will be restricted.

Next year's calendar will be reviewed as Martina wants to set the calendar. Leon suggested that it be the first order of business at the January 6 meeting.

The Permeant Endowment approved the application for the Community Ambassadors Program (CAP) for additional funding for local interpreters. The funds were received by the County and will be distributed as proposed.

Chairman's Report

Tristan Israel reports that he hopes to reach out to Gosnold and the Wampanoag Tribe and strengthen the relationship between both. Some changes were made in the Administrative Code and Appointment Process but need to be readdressed next year since other things got prioritized before it being finalized. The first item on the agenda for the next meeting will be reorganizing the Board.

Old Business

Ann Metcalf said that she met with Martha's Vineyard Airport regarding the Allocation of Overhead Plan and to ensure that the new methods are alright, and they are progressing forward. Once documents are created and finalized by her with the new information they will go before the Airport Finance Committee, then to the Airport Committee, then to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – who only has a say over the Airport, and finally to the Dukes County Commission. She and Geoff Freeman admit that they have been busy dealing with the Audit, which has caused further delay as it has taken precedent for the Treasurer's Office and the Martha's Vineyard Airport. Geoff Freeman said that he is awaiting a final go ahead. John Cahill questioned the process and Christine Todd expressed concern over the extreme delay that has lasted a year now. Martina Thornton suggested to Ann Metcalf that she present after the FAA gives their initial blessing, as this will affect all County budgets. Ann Metcalf said that she must ensure that the methodology is viable and put it against the Fiscal Year 2020 budget numbers. She expressed that she would not feel comfortable presenting the material before it is finalized. Geoff Freeman added that the Airport is independent in operation and "stuck in the middle". He suggested forwarding a draft to the FAA so that they can begin looking at it and prevent any further delay. There were no updates on the Guidelines for Borrowing Process.

The COVID-19 Symposium was discussed at length in regard to the community's lack of unified leadership, response, and messaging of the virus. Tristan Israel spoke with a Selectman and they did not have great enthusiasm about the Symposium. Keith Chatinover echoed the sentiment from the Selectperson he spoke with. It has been 13 months since the last All-Island Board of Selectman Meeting even though the County Commissioners have been asking for one since at least the Summer, so they want to go ahead with a unified meeting regardless of what the Boards of Selectman want or if they agree to attend. Tristan Israel suggested a conference format. Christine Todd wants the Island to work together as we would all benefit from consistent messaging and enforcement. She agreed with Tristan and hopes that they can bring together elected officials, appointed officials, health agents, and the public for an educational discussion/Question and Answer session to address the issues at hand – the virus, restrictions from the Governor, vaccines, and effective communication. Leon Brathwaite agreed but worried that this meeting couldn't bring about necessary policy change. Donald Leopold also agreed with the sentiment and added that there needs to be a shared perspective and clear set of objectives. **Keith Chatinover made a motion to formally hold an All-Island Board of Selectmen Meeting with a date that is to be determined. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite no, Christine Todd no, Donald Leopold no,**

John Cahill no, and Tristan Israel no. Motion does not pass. It was unanimously agreed to revisit this issue at the next meeting and invite Boards of Selectmen and Boards of Health for further discussion.

New Business

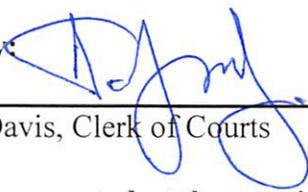
Christine Todd made a suggestion to add an item on the future meeting agendas that allow time for a discussion/question and answer from any press or public present.

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

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, January 6^h, 2021 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, December 2nd, 2020
- Letter of Intent for PV Installation
- Community Outreach Coordinator Job Description