

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair; John Cahill – Vice Chair; Keith Chatinover; Donald Leopold; Leon Brathwaite; R. Peter Wharton; and Tristan Israel.

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

Others Present: Liz Argo – Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) Representative; Sam Feldman – Buy Local; Lauren Lynch – Buy Local; John O’Hara – Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Representative; Tain Leonard Peck – CVEC Applicant; Louise Clough – CVEC Applicant; Joseph Jims – Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission (MVAC) Applicant; Ben Hall, Jr. – MVAC Applicant; Richard Knabel – MVAC; Bob Rosenbaum – MVAC; Geoffrey Freeman – MV Airport Director; Don Ogilvie – MVAC; Maia Coleman – Vineyard Gazette; Richard Saltzburg – MV Times; and Jennelle Gadowski.

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Minutes - The meeting minutes from February 2nd and 3rd were not voted on at this meeting.

Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative Update

Ms. Argo reported that she will be retiring early and will now be a consultant. She answered follow up questions that DCC had at the January meeting. Ms. Argo mentioned that some of the Round 6 projects look promising enough to guarantee economic benefit but that some installations (25 kilowatts) are too small for commercial and industrial buildings. Ms. Thornton clarified that three of the County building roofs are ineligible for solar panel upgrades at this time due to age of roof and the last one has too much shading. Ms. Argo further said that due to a 20-year term lease or purchase agreement, all projects have 20 years of guaranteed output. If the project does not perform, the developers will make the County whole and pay for any shortfalls. She told DCC that Vineyard Wind’s contracts with Eversource are sealed so there is no ability to utilize some of the offshore power. She suggested DCC look at Cape Cod Commission’s sighting tool for developers to assess where solar can go on public properties. DCC thanked her for her service and update.

Buy Local

Mr. Feldman and Ms. Lauren Lynch gave a brief presentation on the Buy Local initiative. “Buy Local” signs for Island business and “I Buy Local” bumper stickers for consumers were created by local graphic designer and printed by local company. This “call and response” initiative is meant to help encourage support for local businesses. DCC thanked them and extended their support for this project.

Pooled Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust Update

Mr. O'Hara reported that OPEB Plan for the 2020 calendar year was up 15.3% gross, which puts the three and five year returns in excess of 8% benchmark. The allocation of 70% inequities diversified globally was largely in line with the benchmarks and both 10% allocation to real estate and 20% allocation to fixed income or bonds significantly outperformed their respective benchmarks. The 15.3% gross number puts the plan in the top 20% of all public plans. The estimate for 2021 is 4.5-5 right now. Dukes County has \$1.46 million in the plan so far. He further informed DCC that KMS Auditors have been unanimously recommended and reappointed.

Interviews for Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative Appointment

There are two applicants. Commissioner Todd read Mr. Peck's letter he submitted. He then said that he wishes to continue in his role so that he can further provide a younger voice and input on decisions on renewable energy. He is committed to serving the community and passionate about the current climate crisis. He felt his greatest achievement was serving on the Board of Directors while CVEC helped establish the PV system on the new Oak Bluffs Fire-EMS Station. He agreed that if reappointed he would periodically update DCC.

Ms. Clough said that she is retired and looking to explore non-healthcare related matters. She mentioned being interested in alternative energy sources. Ms. Clough's experience is in healthcare operations and group purchasing. She currently is the Secretary of the Dukes County Health Council (DCHC) and various off-island Boards of Directors. Her goal is to meet the expectations of CVEC and DCC.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to roll the CVEC appointment vote over to the next meeting in order to deliberate. Tristan Israel seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Tristan Israel aye, Donald Leopold aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries. DCC thanked both applicants.

Appointments

Commissioner Todd reappointed Rebecka El-Deiry as Associate Commissioner for Youth and Richard Cohen as Associate Commissioner for Disabled.

Michael Goldsmith, the current County Legal Counsel, respectfully requested postponing his appointment as he is seeking legal opinion and ensure that he can serve in the best interest of the County without any conflict-of-interest since he is the Chair of Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS) Board now.

John Cahill made a motion to appoint all of the remaining applicants as one slate. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite abstained, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Tristan Israel aye, Donald Leopold aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.

The following people were appointed to three-year terms:

K. Mark Leonard – Oak Bluffs Representative for Dukes County Regional Housing Authority;

Leon Brathwaite – Dukes County Personnel Board; and Kathy Logue – alternate for Cape Cod Municipal Health Group.

The following people were appointed to the Dukes County Health Council for two-year terms per recommendations: Cindy Trish (Health Aging MV), Sheryl Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Public Schools), Beth Folcarelli (MVCS CEO), Dr. Alan Hirshberg, Victor Capoccia, Karen

MacPhail, Mark Saloio (Tisbury Police Chief), Tnisha Chandler (Wampanoag Tribe), and Marcy Holmes (Nurse Practitioner).

Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission Vote & Appointments – two open seats

Each Commissioner was given the opportunity to give remarks on their decision before voting for two of the four candidates for MVAC. **John Cahill called for a vote. Donald Leopold seconded. Leon Brathwaite voted for Brian Hall and Richard Knabel; John Cahill voted for Richard Knabel and Bob Rosembaum; Keith Chatinover voted for Richard Knabel and Bob Rosembaum; Tristan Israel voted for Joseph Jims and Ben Hall; Donald Leopold voted for Richard Knabel and Bob Rosembaum; R. Peter Wharton voted for Bob Rosembaum and Richard Knabel; and Christine Todd voted for Bob Rosembaum and Richard Knabel. All together Richard Knabel received six votes, Bob Rosembaum received five votes, Ben Hall received two votes, Joseph Jims received one vote.**

Richard Knabel and Bob Rosembaum were reappointed to the Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission for the next three years. The two other applicants were thanked for their interest and encouraged to continue to remain invested in local government.

Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Leopold gave a report about the Planning Committee and the three-stage planning process. Stage one of gathering internal input from Dukes County Officials on their two-year vision and top three priorities is underway. The next steps include gathering external individual interviews with key Island stakeholders on their extended vision/needs, desired County role, and critical success factors. Outputs will be a report out document and discussion for stage one, a statement of priorities for stage two, and an action plan calendar for stage three. It was suggested having two interviewers; adding stakeholders that the County provides services for; and attending the upcoming Dukes County Emergency Management Agency meeting to assess the needs.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendments

Ms. Thornton gave an update on the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) budget amendments due to the Comp. Study implementation and health insurance rate changes. See presentation spreadsheet for specific details. There was a discussion about the need for the Finance Committee (Commissioners Brathwaite, Wharton, and Israel) to meet and make recommendations for how DCC should proceed on budget amendments.

Manager's Report

Ms. Thornton reported that the CARES Act funding was on a good way to be approved up to the requested \$14,607. She also submitted a grant to United Way on behalf of the Medical Reserve Corps and Emergency Management Directors for \$4,980 and was told Dukes County will get \$2,500 for personal protective equipment for Emergency Management Shelter supplies. Dukes County will be submitting a Health Excellence Grant Program application in collaboration with the MA Association of Health Boards and the Martha's Vineyard Boards of Health (MVBOH) to fund some shared services for MVBOH.

Dukes County Courthouse reopened February 16th as the new boiler was installed and all necessary inspections occurred. The price for new boiler installation was approximately \$31,000.

Combined with the invoice for the electrician and contractors that addressed the initial boiler emergency, she expects the total to be \$35,000 - \$40,000.

The County Manager's Administrative Assistant position has been advertised for several weeks and there have been five applications so far.

The Martha's Vineyard COVID-19 Vaccine Community Forum with the County, Martha's Vineyard Hospital, MVBOH, Island Health Care, Communication Ambassador Partnership, and Medical Reserve Corps was held on February 12th via Zoom Webinar and livestreamed onto the Dukes County Facebook Page. There were live Portuguese interpretation and translation; approximately 200 attendees; and over 200 questions were answered. Forum recordings can be found on the Dukes County Facebook Page and Website.

Old Business - Ms. Metcalf informed DCC that the Allocation of Overhead method was presented to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and additional information requested was sent. Once approved by the FAA it will be presented to the MVAC, and then there will be a presentation to DCC. The Allocation cost to the Airport for FY22 has been estimated at \$100,000. This item will be put onto the next meeting's agenda for a more in-depth update. Guidelines for Borrowing Process follows bonding company requirements, so it was suggested that a process be set up to work with the Airport to prepare the bond request.

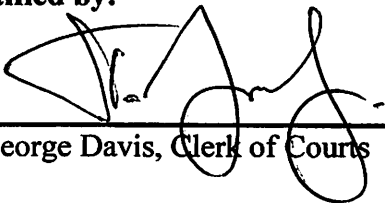
New Business - Ms. Thornton informed DCC of the Department of Revenue (DOR) new percentage split for County tax (assessment) which is based on property valuations in each town. This new rate will be used to determine each towns' county tax assessment for FY22 and FY23. This also determines the weighted vote percentage each town has on the County Advisory Board for the next two fiscal years.

Public Comment - There were no public or press comments.

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

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, March 3, 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 for February 17, 2021
- Letters of interest and resumes for appointment positions
- FY22 Budget Amendments
- Letter from DOR setting the county tax for FY22 & FY23