

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Leon Brathwaite, John Cahill

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

Others Present: Aidan Pollard – MV Gazette, Rich Saltzberg – MV Times, Bob Johnston – Vineyard Futureworks, Bob Rosenbaum – MV Airport Commission (AC) Chair, Bob Zeltzer – AC, Stephanie Browne, John O’Hara, Mark Baumhofer, Don Ogilvie - AC, Meghan Gombos, Jack Ensor - AC, James Lampke – County Counsel, Daniel Lampke, Richard Knabel – AC, Norm Werthwein

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Minutes – Leon/Tristan moved to approve minutes of 1-19-2022 and 1-12-2022. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

Annual County Appointments

Christine introduced all the appointments that are on the agenda:

- Dukes County Regional Housing Authority -Chilmark appointee – Ann Wallace (incumbent)
- Clerk to the County Commissioners – T. George Davis
- OPEB Trust – John O’Hara (incumbent) – report & re-appointment
- Cape Light Compact – Meghan Gombos
- Dukes County Personnel Board – Stephanie Browne
- Airport Commission – Kristin Zern, Don Ogilvie

Christine asked Bob Rosenbaum to give update on the Airport. Bob updated the board on operations and business park upcoming upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and recommended for Kristin Zern and Don Ogilvie for reappointment as valuable member of the Airport Commission.

County Commissioners thanked all incumbents for their work so far and all new applicants for being willing to serve.

Peter/John moved the slate as presented.

Leon/Tristan moved to amend the original motion to appoint George for as long as he is Clerk to the County. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

Vote on the motion as amended. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding

Attorney Lampke introduced the document prepared for the County to clarify the process of handling the ARPA funds. Discussion followed. John recommended for Peter to work with the attorney to finalize the wording of the document. Attorney Lampke tried to explain a difference in ordinance and resolution.

Ordinance is like a law that once adopted needs to be observed until it is changed. It requires submission of proposal by County Manager or a Commissioner to all Commissioners at least 3 days before the meeting. If it is entertained by the board, the ordinance language must be published at least 2 weeks prior to a public hearing along with notice of the hearing in the paper. There can be amendments to the ordinance made at the public hearing. The ordinance does not take effect until 31st day after it is adopted. There is possibility for emergency ordinance to only in very specific situations.

Resolution on the other hand does not have the force of law. There are specific items listed in the Administrative Code that can be done by resolution. One of which is approval of contracts presented by the county manager, hence he recommended the grant agreements be presented by the County Manager to the board so that a resolution process can be used, instead of creating an ordinance pertaining to handling of ARPA funds.

It was agreed that there will be a working group created at our next meeting next Wednesday that will be dedicated specifically to ARPA that will work with county counsel and include the County Manager and County Treasurer to ensure all ARPA guidelines are being met.

Manager's Report (on file)

County received:

\$10K from Tower Foundation as their contribution to the DC Emergency Fund

\$150K from DPH - contract tracing grant submitted by Boards of Health

Tristan/Leon moved to accept the grants as presented. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, John Cahill- yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

New business –

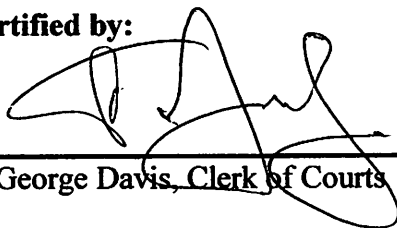
John O'Hara gave Commissioners a report on OPEB Trust and what were the result of investments last year (very good). He urged the Commissioners and the Airport and the Treasurer to work hard on trying to keep contributing to the fund.

Tristan raised that if DCC wants to entertain any legislative changes that DCC would need to propose it soon as there is a deadline most likely mid-March. The issues Tristan suggested for consideration are increasing the 10% surplus retention, Sheriff's department employee liabilities the county is still paying, and the issue of length of terms for county commissioners. Christine said she would put it on the agenda for next regular meeting and Tristan should send some additional information for the discussion.

Leon/Tristan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. So voted. R. Peter Wharton - yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:41PM.

The next special ARPA DCC meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 4:00PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- List of applicants for appointments and their term
- Manager's Report