

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 2, 2022
4:00 PM**

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair *, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel**, Leon Brathwaite, Don Leopold

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer, Sarah Kuh – Vineyard Health Care Access Program

Others Present: Bob Johnston, Aiden Pollard- Vineyard Gazette, Rich Saltzberg – MV Times, Angie Grant - VTA

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. She had issues with internet connection and asked Peter Wharton to chair the meeting.

Minutes – Tristan/Don moved to approve minutes of 2-24-2022. So voted. Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, Don Leopold – yes, R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries.

*Christine joined the meeting.

Steamship Authority (SSA) updates – proposed legislation - Jim Malkin

Legislation was proposed to limit term of board members and to appoint chief operating officer. Jim raised concern about the process that the proposed legislation was filed by our legislative representatives without seeing any input from Martha's Vineyard port communities and the appointing authority for MV representative. Jim was concerned about lack of open discussion with Dukes County as his appointing authority. Jim said there is value in knowledge that comes with tenure on the SSA board. Jim feels that it is function of the board to decide if they will hire and carry the cost of the COO as they do with all other staff. Jim cautioned that once the legislation is open, it is open to various amendments that might not be in the best interest of the island. There has been already an amendment that is relative to the supermajority on the SSA board. Discussion followed. Don suggested to invite the representatives that filed the legislation to next county commissioners meeting to discuss this. Jim said they did attend meeting on Nantucket regarding this issue and Jim will supply the Commissioners with a letter that Nantucket representatives wrote relative to this issue and pick this up at the next meeting. We are to contact Oak Bluffs and Tisbury Port Council representatives and coordinate approach.

Annual County Appointments: Dukes County Health Council

Martina read the slate as proposed by the Dukes County Health Council into the record - see document of file for slate.

Tristan/ Leon moved to appoint the slate as read into the record for two years. So voted. Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Christine Todd – yes, R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries

Chairman's appointment - Associate Commissioner for Disabled – Richard Cohen

Christine made the appointment of Richard Cohen for another year. She thanked Richard for his great work. Christine said that she is working on making the appointment for Associate Commissioner of Youth.

FY2022 & FY2023 Budget Amendments – see list of proposed budget amendments and individual budget worksheets on file. Martina introduced individual budget amendment requests.

FY2022 Budget Amendments

Fund 550 - VHCAP – personnel changes due to Mary Leddy retiring as of April 30th – memo attached, amendments are resulting in \$1145 overall savings.

Christine/Tristan moved to approve the FY2022 VHCAP budget amendments. So voted. Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Christine Todd – yes, R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries

Dept. 3000 Treasurer – need to move \$5K to temporary help line to get help in the office – see department budget spreadsheet.

Dept. 610 – Admin. Building - revenue for rent from Retirement System \$9,416

Grant & Program Administration Revenue line: adjusting the revenue line to reflect the current situation and separate \$16,000 worth of COVID related revenue (CACCI Cares Act funding - approx. \$1,000 and BOH Contact Tracing Grant - \$15,000)

Fund 230 Parking Clerk – miscellaneous changes – see budget spreadsheet. Ann explained the individual changes. Discussion followed.

Tristan/Christine moved to approve the FY2022 General County budget and Parking Clerk budget amendments as proposed. So voted. Tristan Israel - yes, Leon Brathwaite - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Christine Todd – yes, R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries

FY2023 Budget Amendments

Fund 550 - VHCAP – additional county employee transition from MV Hospital – see memo. There will be recalculation of retirement assessment for all departments for FY2023 as a result of this change. We have funds from the Hospital sub-account to cover any additional expenses that this might require, if any.

****Tristan Israel left the meeting.**

Fund 134 – Registry of Deeds – various smaller adjustments, see budget spreadsheet for details. Overall, there is about \$5K increase.

Dept. 610 – Admin. Building - retirement rent revenue – updated estimate is \$9,500

Dept. 3300 – Veterans Services Officer – pay & related lines (change of employee) – see budget spreadsheet – resulting in a small decrease of expenses.

Grant & Program Administration Revenue line: COVID related - Contact Tracing grant \$10,000

Leon/Christine moved to approve the FY2023 General County budget and VHCAP budget amendments as proposed. So voted. Leon Brathwaite - yes, Don Leopold – yes, Christine Todd – yes, R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries

Manager's Report

- Mask mandate was lifted by the local Boards of Health as of today at 1pm. Martina suggested to follow the Boards of Health action and end the requirement for county employees. Discussion followed. Trial Court is still requiring public to come in with masks. Discussion followed. Commissioners agreed that the County will continue with requiring masks for all public entering the county buildings. County employees are all vaccinated and when interacting with each other are not required to wear masks but do have to wear a mask when interacting with the public. The policy will be revisited at the beginning of April.
- Opening buildings for public – Courthouse has been open already. Martina recommended to open the County Administration Building as of next week to give us time to prepare signage. VHCAP building might alter the opening to the public based on availability of the front desk personnel. Commissioners agreed.
- Sarah Kuh will be applying for a Navigator Grant for \$50K (Mass Health Connector – recurring two-year grant) and Dental Clinic for \$12K from MV Community Foundation to provide the adult clinic and there will be an administrative fee build into the application of \$1,000. It will serve about 224 patients over the course of 3 weeks with two providers.
- VTA and Eversource approached the county to allow for a transformer box to be installed on the Courthouse lawn. Originally this should have been underground but recently it was determined that they will not be able to bury it and ask to put a box on the lawn along Church Street so they can take the last electric pole down which would help with the congestion of this area and accessibility and safety. Angie Grant from VTA provided additional explanation. Eversource is not willing to have us disguise it, it must stay the special green paint. It cannot be collocated with any other equipment that is being installed further on Church Street. At his time, we could do this at very cost-effective manner. Martina will work with Angie to work out a better proposal.
- Martina presented Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of interest as required by G.L.c. 268A, Sec. 23 (b)(3) as advised to do by the State Ethics Commission attorney, in connection with two bills that have been submitted by a contractor but not paid yet. See disclosure and supporting documentation on file. Martina noted that ideally the disclosure should have been done before the work was performed, but she was advised that there is nothing further that can be done relative to conduct that has already happened. Martina further recommended that the department heads of the facilities where work was performed co-sign the authorization for payment as they were on site at the time the work was performed and one of them contracted for the work (not Martina). Ann clarified that she reached out to a different section of State Ethics relative to these two bills but also other bills that were paid to the same vendor in the past, but did not hear back.

American Rescue Plan Act Updates – The working group will be meeting next week. Christine Todd said she reached out to the State Ethics Commission and that she does not have a conflict relative to her serving on the MV Commission and can continue to serve on both boards as she is not being compensated for either. The

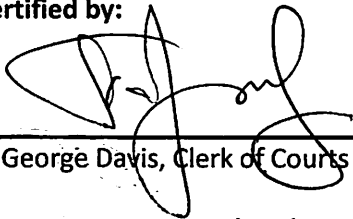
Legislative Changes - Tristan requested this on the agenda but was not present at the meeting when this topic came up.

New business - Anything the Chairman did not reasonably anticipate for discussion when filing the meeting notice to be posted.

Don Leopold informed the County Commissioners that he presented the slides regarding County roles to West Tisbury Finance Committee last night and went very well and they unanimously supported the requests including the allocation. He is not able to present at Aquinnah Finance Committee meeting the following Wednesday at 9:30am. None of the present commissioners were able to cover. Martina will reach out to Keith to see if he can do the presentation. Martina thanked Don for doing this presentation and agreed that it is very helpful to have a county commission present at the Finance Committee meetings. Discussion followed regarding the issues we had at Oak Bluffs Finance Committee and where to take the presentations next.

Christine/Don made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:48PM. So voted. Don Leopold – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, Christine Todd - yes. R. Peter Wharton - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:48PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Proposed Steamship legislation bill
- Dukes County Health Council appointment slate for 2022
- List of proposed Budget Amendments
- FY2022 Budget Summary with amendments
- FY2022 VHCAP budget amendments
- FY2022 VHCAP Personnel changes – narrative
- FY2022 VHCAP Budget amendments -Personnel changes – calculations
- FY2022 budget worksheets for Treasurer's Office, Parking Clerk
- FY2023 Budget Worksheets for Registry of Deeds, Veterans Services Department
- FY2022 draft January operating statement
- Martina Thornton disclosure and supporting documentation