

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
4:00 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair, John Cahill – Vice Chair, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Don Leopold, Keith Chatinover

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

Others Present: Jim Malkin – Steamship Authority Board representing Martha’s Vineyard (MV), Joseph E. Sollitto, Jr. – Port Council member representing Oak Bluffs, Rich Saltzberg – MV Times, Abigail Rosen – MV Times*, Don Ogilvie – MV Airport Commission

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. She had issues with internet connection and asked Peter Wharton to chair the meeting.

Minutes – 3-16-2022

Peter/John moved to approve minutes of 3-16-2022. Discussion followed. There were several changes, so Martina will reflect it and the minutes are tabled until the next meeting.

Steamship Authority (SSA) updates – proposed legislation

Jim Malkin commended on letter sent by Nantucket Board of Selectmen. Commissioners Chatinover and Brathwaite did support the content of the legislation however the appropriate public process was not followed prior to filing this legislation. Rep. Fernandes did reach out to him and others in confidence, so it was not for Jim or others to bring it to the public for discussion. He suggested to send similar letter and outline the lack of process and our concern with it. The County Commissioners did not receive the notice of the public hearing about this legislation at the State House that was scheduled for Wednesday at noon until Monday afternoon, which precluded the Commissioners to post a meeting and have a discussion prior to the hearing being held.

John/Don moved to write a letter and outline the lack of process similar to what Nantucket did and that there should be a public hearing. Discussion. Christine did send letter objecting to the process as a person and would be supportive of the commission sending a letter. Keith did not share the feeling a public hearing prior to filing. Peter said that since Rep. Fernandes did reach out to many commissioners and any of the commissioners could have bring this up to the public forum as well. John clarified that he was only left a voice message the day before the legislation was filed. Dylan never reached Christine as he had a bad phone number for her, nor Peter Wharton. Don asked that we are in general very supportive of our representation and include that in the letter while expressing our concerns. Jim asked if we could send the letter this week. Christine and Martina will work with Jim to send it out.

Rich Saltzberg, MV Times questions:

Does the County Commission have a liaison to the representatives? Martina commented that Kaylea Moore is the island’s legislative liaison to both legislative representatives.

Rich asked if anyone knows what started the contentious debate about the enabling act changes at the turn of the century if it was an open discussion or a behind the scenes legislation. Tristan said the change was started by George Leontire (New Bedford city solicitor back then).

So voted on the motion. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover – no, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

American Rescue Plan Act Updates –

John Cahill said the Review Committee did not have meeting and he will have update in couple of weeks. Initial meeting with county counsel happened already and there will be a follow up meeting. Treasurer did forward the procedures to our auditors for review and meeting is scheduled for next week to go over it with them. MOU with Plymouth was returned with one addition – to limit the agreement to end by the end of 2022.

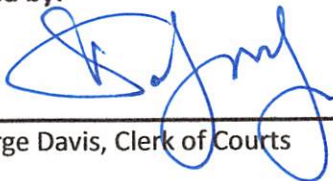
Peter/John moved to approve the MOU with Plymouth with the one addition as proposed by Plymouth. Discussion followed. The ask is to pay \$7,000 for the ARPA documents they developed in connection with distribution of ARPA funds.

So voted on the motion. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, John Cahill – yes, Don Leopold – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries.

Tristan would like to bring up the legislative changes at the next meeting under old business.

Tristan/Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:55PM. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes, Don Leopold – yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Nantucket letter to legislators
- Updated Memorandum of Understanding with Plymouth re ARPA documents