

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 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 and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer

**Others Present:** Lucas Thors – Vineyard Gazette, Noah Asimov – MV Times.

**Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.**

State Forrest Manager housing legislation – Christine and Tristan have participated at public hearing regarding House Bill H909 and provided testimony on why it is important for the bill to pass to allow for the manager to live in the house at State Forrest.

Vaccination Campaign – several campaigns are happening on the island. The main issue is to along with encouraging people to keep wearing masks in public to encourage people to get vaccinated. Various ideas are being discussed to collaborate with the Steamship, Airport and buses to show video and have messaging about the same. Commissioners discussed various issues how people could get incentivized by local businesses if vaccinated and how to reach the cohorts that are hesitant to get vaccinated. The County helped organized the Vaccination Forum where hospital and others presented information related to vaccination on Wednesday April 28<sup>th</sup> and recording of this is available on the Dukes county website and Facebook. Commissioners discussed if they could contribute to the vaccination campaign form the Cape and Islands License Plates fund. DCC agreed with the concept of a campaign and financially supporting it. There will be a presentation at the next meeting with more particulars.

County Counsel appointment – There were no letters of interest in response to our advertising. Recommendation from our last counsel was to engage Attorney James Lampke who did some work for us in the past.

**John/ Keith made a motion to appoint attorney James Lampke for 3 year term.**  
Leon/Keith moved to amend the motion to make the appointment for 2 years and at the reorganization meeting in 2023 we can revisit this. Don Leopold did not support the amendment as other county appointments are for 3 years and we do have right to terminate for cause if needed. Peter agreed. Leon and Keith withdraw the motion for amendment.

**Vote on original motion. Chatinover – yes, Wharton – yes, Leopold – yes, Brathwaite – yes, Cahill – yes, Israel – no, Todd – yes. Motion carries.**

American Rescue Plan Act funding – discussion

County will receive about 3.4M directly from federal government at part of the American Rescue Plan Act. The four broad eligible uses of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief Fund (CLFRF) as outlined by the text of the (ARPA) are as follows:

1. Respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts
2. Provide premium pay to employees providing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency
3. Provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19
4. Invest in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure

To date there are no specific guidelines from federal government on any particulars surrounding these funds. The County Finance Committee will meet first to discuss logistics and after that the commissioners will engage stakeholders to discuss how these funds will be handled.

Rules and Regulations for the beaches for the summer – Martina presented language to DCC to add to all even permits this summer. “All event permits on county managed beaches will be approved with a condition that the applicant will ensure complete compliance with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and orders, including but not limited to any and all guidelines and requirements issued by the Commonwealth or its Governor, or the County of Dukes County, or the local town and boards of health as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.” The commissioners agreed.

**Keith/Don made a motion to allow Hebrew Center to hold their service on Friday night at 6:00 pm, July 2nd - August 27<sup>th</sup> at State Beach, the Jabberwocky area. They will observe the social distancing and mask requirements. So voted. Chatinover – yes, Wharton – yes, Leopold – yes, Brathwaite – yes, Cahill – yes, Israel – Yes, Todd – yes. Motion carries.**

2 – Felix Neck Fundraiser as part of their 50 Years Celebration. They have created 500 wooden sharks, (sustainably sourced(handmade)) which will be numbered and released on the ocean side of Little Bridge and follow the current through the flood tide into a funnel which will capture the winning shark. Island Spirit Kayak team has volunteered to guide the sharks and be sure there are no strays. The event should take under an hour and will happen rain or shine, noon - 1pm on August 29<sup>th</sup>. It also has the ability to be a live event without any spectators if that is what is necessary due to COVID protocols, although hope we could have up to 100 supporters cheering on the sharks! This is event is completely non-profit and 100% of proceeds are donated to Felix Neck.

**John/Keith Moved to approve the request of Felix Neck with the understanding that all they bring will be removed from water and from shore. So voted. Chatinover – yes, Wharton – yes, Leopold – yes, Brathwaite – yes, Cahill – yes, Israel – Yes, Todd – yes. Motion carries.**

### Manager's Report

- Martina and Christine had a site visit at Alchemy restaurant to review plans for this summer prior to giving the temporary license for outside tent on Courthouse laws as approved at the last meeting.
- Treasurer hired a new Assistant Treasurer Nefititi Jette.
- FY2020 Audit will be reviewed by Finance Committee on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm and the DCC will have an exit conference at their next meeting.
- We will be renewing a contract with the MV Hospital in support of the VHCAP for the next 3 years for \$60K per year.
- Peter asked about the project of installing mini-splits in the rest of the offices in the Courthouse. Martina reported that she is working with the contractor to get an estimate of cost and scope of work before she can determine if this work will require preparation of a bid or if solicitation of proposals will suffice. The offices do have AC window units currently, but heat pumps would be more efficient and also serve as heat back up.

### Planning Committee update – Don Leopold

He interviewed 26 people so far from various county stakeholders. He collected a wide range of opinions of the role they would like to see the County play. Couple people have questioned if county is the right structure. About 1/3 thinks the county should do what the county currently does. About 40% would like the county to be central resource for the island for information etc. Some would like the county to be stronger more like Barnstable County. In general people do not understand what the County does overall. They are positive about the interactions they have but they have very little sense what other functions county plays. There are number of priorities that people would like to see the County play but there are three main areas: 1. Clearly and effectively communicate the roles the County plays and why. 2. Do a self-examination of what the county provides and how and where is room for improvement. 3. Become a “go-to” resource for the island for emerging island critical issues.

### Old Business

Tristan requested Jim Malkin to come to report on Senator Moran's bill regarding Steamship Authority. Keith, Leon and John spoke to the issue. So far from discussion at steamship meetings it does not seem that the bill has much support. Steamship is working with the working groups in Woods Hole and Falmouth. Both our legislative representatives are opposing the bill.

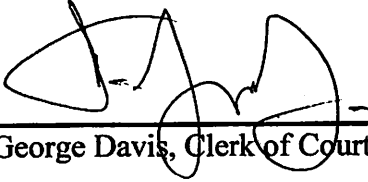
New Business - There was no new business.

Public Comment - There were no public or press comments.

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

**The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:00 PM.**

**Certified by:**



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T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- General Information about the ARPA funding
- Requests from Hebrew Center and Felix Neck for beach permits