

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
4:30 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair, John Cahill – Vice Chair, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Keith Chatinover*(left at 5:37pm), Leon Brathwaite

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

Others Present: Aidan Pollard –MV Gazette, Abigail Rosen – MV Times

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

Minutes – 6-1-2022

Tristan/Keith moved to approve minutes of 6-1--2022. So voted. Peter – yes, John – yes, Keith – yes, Tristan – yes, Leon – yes, Christine - abstained. Motion carries.

Minutes from 5-25-2022 will be voted on at the next meeting.

Heating Oil Bid Award

The county received only one bid – from R.M. Packer Co. which is for \$0.79 over OPIS Boston Low Heating oil price. This is 16.5 cents per gallon increase over last year's bid price. With prices going up it is good to be able to lock the price.

Tristan/Leon moved to approve the award of the heating oil to Packer Co. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Keith – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Healthy Aging MV letter of support for Aging Friendly and Dementia Friendly Community designation by the World Health Organization (10 min presentation) – Cindra Trish shared a presentation (on file) and explained the plan of initiatives of Health Aging and the community for the next couple of years as part of the effort to get re-certified as Aging Friendly Community and working with the MV Center for Living to also get a new designation as Dementia Friendly Community. The County was asked for a letter of support for these initiatives. This will give our community access to more grants for these initiatives.

*Keith left the meeting.

Tristan/Leon moved to give the letter of support for both initiatives as presented. So voted. Leon – yes, Trista – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Request from the MV Hebrew Center would like to secure a permit for their summer Friday night services at 6:00 pm, July 1st - August 26th at the Jabberwocky area of State beach. They would still

observe the social distancing and mask requirements. In the past we have allowed them to do so and waived any permit fees.

Leon/Tristan moved to authorize the manager to approve the MV Hebrew Center request on annual bases. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

FY2022 Budget Transfers (list on file)

Leon/Tristan moved to approve the transfers as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

This vote included two inter-departmental transfers that are changing the department budget total as follows:

Decrease in the Dept.600 budget by \$1,131.46 (new total budget of the department is \$131,780.83) and increase in Dept.800 NY Ave by \$1,131.46 ((new total budget of the department is \$13,997.13). This is between insurance lines to cover the shortage in the NY Ave building budget.

Decrease in Fund 540 Center for Living operating budget by \$4,000 (there is no change in budget total) and increase in Dept. 630 Center for Living building budget by \$4,000 (new total budget of the department is \$238,290) This is to cover the extra cost incurred for sewer.

FY2023 Budget Updates

Martina said that there will be a need to update the FY2023 budget to reflect the new insurance premium rates split among the buildings, the carry overs for projects that will not be finished by the end of this fiscal year – especially the cyber security assessment related activities that will partially have to be done in FY2023. We are planning to do this once the FY2022 budget is closed and we see where we stand with the projects.

Creation of new funds

- Cape & Island License Plate Fund and transfer money from the general fund to track it separately
- National Opioid Settlement

Finance Committee reviewed and recommended to create these two new funds.

*Keith joined the meeting again.

Tristan/Leon moved to create a new fund for tracking the National Opioid Settlement funds that will be received. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Keith – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Tristan/Leon create a separate fund for Cape & Islands License Plate Funds and transfer funds at the end of the FY2022 to this new fund to be tracked separately. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Keith – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

MV Commission – Joint Transportation Committee appointment

Motion to appoint Leon was tabled at the last meeting. Leon said he will not be running for county commissioner going forward. Tristan and Peter withdrew their motion from the last meeting.

Tristan/Keith moved to appoint Leon as County representative to the Joint Transportation Committee for 3 years and to periodically report to DCC. So voted. Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, John – yes, Keith – yes, Leon – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Building Committee - Update

The Committee met at the VHCAP property last week and the committee has to meet again to see how they can improve the working environment to allow for more privacy and more space for the services that are being provided there. Peter would like the County to look at what option the County has – short-term repairs, necessary upgrade for improvement or build new building, and possibly co-locate county services. The County Administration building lease with the Airport is up in 4 years and we need to decide where we want to apply our energy and funds long-term – where do we want to be 5-10 years from now. The lot is big enough to build a building, but we would have to engage professionals to help us to determine what would be possible there. We would have to reach out to the neighbors, the Oak Bluffs community, town and the boards that will have approval authority over the location to engage them in the project.

American Rescue Plan Act – Updates

ARPA needs to meet to review the engagement letter sent by the Plymouth attorneys and Peter requested a face-to-face meeting with the lead attorney before he feels the recommendation for new engagement can be made. John did not have anything new to report from his committee.

Manager's Report – see managers' report on file for more details. Items discussed:

- Eastville Beach – Mr. Convery (member of family who donated the beach) sent a letter to the editor pleading for the Commissioners to give it to the Land Bank to assure better management. Tristan was not in favor of giving it to the Land Bank. He reminded all that there was a study done and detailed report on ecology and management and what can be done with the property and that there was an MOU with the towns on the management. Commissioners also offered apology to Mr. Convery for not being aware that the use was restricted to conservation and recreation and requested all documentation on this property to be disseminated among the Commissioners so they can get themselves educated on the restrictions and see what can be done going forward to improve the site. Mr. Convery will join the Commissioners meeting on July 6th to discuss this further.

Christine/Keith moved to send a letter to Mr. Convery to offer a sincere apology and sincere regret that this incident happened (storing road project material at the site) and that it will not happen again. (No vote was taken).

Paulo reminded the Commissioners that County owns percentage of the Tashmoo beach in Tisbury as well.

- Cyber Security Insurance Issues – only able to get \$100K per claim coverage at this time and will need to do multifactor authentication on all county computers to regain the \$2M coverage, which will take some time.
- Norton Point Beach revenue will be \$29K over budget.
- State Beach – need for increase of hourly wage and hours for the beach patrol to attract a candidate. Martina will make proposal to Personnel Board. This will require a budget change.
- Administration building – project of rebuilding the bathroom started this week.
- Courthouse – lift is schedule to be repaired, AC in courtroom is not and we have hard time getting contractor there. The mid-day cleaning contract with Trial Court will continue for next fiscal year.
- John Alley celebration of life is on Saturday June 18th at 4pm at the West Tisbury Agricultural Hall.

County Manager's Annual Evaluation

Tristan is waiting for one commissioner who is mailing the evaluation to him. A special meeting was scheduled for Friday June 17th at 6pm to do the evaluation, go into executive session and finalize county manager's contract.

New business


Tristan/Leon moved to fly the Juneteenth Flag at the Courthouse. Christine will try to get one from the NAACP and it will be flown on June 19 & 20 at the Courthouse location. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries

Public Comment - none

Calendar: County Advisory Board – June 24th at 3:30pm, Dukes County Commissioners Meeting will hold a special meeting on June, 2022 and next regular meeting is on July 6, 2022, at 4:30PM

Leon/Tristan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58PM. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, John Cahill – yes, Christine Todd – yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:58PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda

- Manager's Report
- Healthy Aging presentation and request for support letters
- Engagement letter from Mintz – new ARPA legal counsel
- FY2022 Budget Transfers