

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
4:30 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair; John Cahill – Vice Chair; Keith Chatinover; Leon Brathwaite; R. Peter Wharton; and Tristan Israel, Donald Leopold

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer, Geoff Freeman – Airport Manager, Bruce Montrose – Veterans Agent

Others Present: Lucas Thors – Vineyard Gazette

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

Minutes

John/Leon moved approval of minutes from the DCC meeting on May 19, 2021 and April 7, 2021. So voted. Leon yes, Peter yes, John yes, Keith yes, Don yes, Tristan yes, Christine yes. All in favor.

New Assistant Treasurer Nefititi Jette was introduced and welcomed by the Dukes County Commissioners as a new addition to the County Treasurer's Office.

Airport Grant Assurance authorization request (see documents on file)

Geoff Freeman introduced the request for grant assurance for a grant (80% state /20% local share) for Southeast Apron Lighting for total cost of \$83,510 (local share \$16,702).

Peter/Leon moved to approve the grant assurance and authorize the county manager to sign. So voted. Leon yes, Peter yes, John yes, Keith yes, Don yes, Tristan yes, Christine yes. All in favor.

The Airport offered to donate to Dukes County Administration Building a defibrillator. Airport manager added that the Airport will maintain it and provide training to county staff as well.

Tristan/ Keith moved to accept the donation of the defibrillator from the Air[port. So voted. Leon yes, Peter yes, John yes, Keith yes, Don yes, Tristan yes, Christine yes. All in favor.

Heating Oil bid award – Martina informed the board that no bids were received. She will create a new bid package and readvertise with a deadline in July. She negotiated with the Packer Co. to extend the current price until a new bid is awarded.

NEPA notice re Offshore Wind Farm – appoint our representatives –

Leon/ Keith moved to appoint Tristan Israel as the key contact for Dukes County to be part of the consultation process. All in favor. Tristan will talk to Eric Peckar and Ben Robinson and also reach out to get Aquinnah representation.

MV Commission Request for Mapping Storm Tide Pathways Matching Funds – the Finance Committee did not have time to discuss and will meet and come up with recommendation for DCC by the next meeting. We need to consider our own needs for matching funds for Norton Point dune restoration project and also to determine if this would be appropriate use of the Cape and Island License Plates funding.

Cape and Island Vaccination Campaign – Christine updated the commissioners on proposal and budget for the “Get vaccinated” campaign and shared some materials.

Tristan/ Keith moved to use \$15K from the C&I License Plates funds for this purpose.

Discussion followed. So voted. Tristan – yes, Keith – yes, Don – no, Leon – abstain, John – no, Peter – yes, Christine – yes.

American Rescue Plan Act funding – Martina updated Commissioners with information that was shared with the counties by the state via webinar (see document attached). There is no deadline for applying. There are several options that the County has. If we do request it we will have the reporting and documentation requirements. We can use some of the funds to hire additional staff to help with the process, so it is done correctly. A legal opinion was requested last week to outline the steps and parties that need to be involved in the process. Christine reached out to Art Smadbeck to see if County Advisory Board members would be part of an advisory committee to help county commissioners determine how the funds should be spent. Skipper Manter, Bill Rossi and Jeff Kristal are willing to serve on the advisory committee. Commissioners Don Leopold, John Cahill and R. Peter Wharton will also serve.

Tristan/John moved to apply for the funds. After further discussion Tristan withdrew the motion until we have a legal opinion, which should be forthcoming before next meeting. John withdrew the second.

Manager’s Report

- The letter to Steamship Authority was sent in support of the 5:30am boat.
- Town meetings – Edgartown and Chilmark town meeting are done, and all county sponsored articles passed.
- State beach – regulation signs are in, pathways 37 & 38 are closed due to bird protection measures.
- DCR grant was not received this year, Martina reached out to see if we can reinstate for FY2022.
- The Governor announced re-opening of public buildings and changing COVID rules as of May 29th. The County Commissioners agreed to proposed changes and to open the buildings as proposed with Registry opening as of June and County Administration Building and Vineyard Health Care Access as of July 1st.

- Request from NAACP to fly a pride flag at the Dukes County Courthouse in recognition of June being a pride month.

Tristan/Keith moved to allow for the pride flag to be flown at the Courthouse pole for the month of June. So voted. Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Keith – yes, Don – yes, John – yes, Peter – yes, Christine – yet. All in favor.

- Climate Action Week – organized by the MV Commission is scheduled for fall of 2021.

Tristan/Don move for the County to get involved in planning and activities of the Climate Action Week. So voted. Peter -yes, John -yes, Leon – yes, Don -yes, Keith – yes, Tristan - yes, Christine -yes. All in favor.

Old business – nothing.

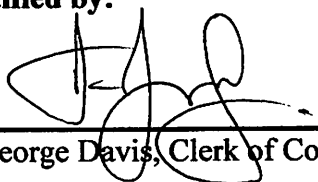
New Business - Peter brought up the Steamship Authority ransom that impacted the operations of the SSA and asked how vulnerable the County is. Discussion followed with explanation that our payment processing and revenue is done offline. Martina is in full support of doing a cyber security assessment and remediation and would propose to appropriate funds in the budget for this purpose. Finance Committee will talk about this at their next meeting.

Public Comment - There were no public or press comments.

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

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Minutes from 4-7-2021 and 5-19-2021 DCC meeting
- Airport Grant Assurances request
- ARPA update from County Manager
- Vaccination Campaign budget
- Vaccination Campaign presentation
- Request from NAACP to fly the Progress Pride Flag at the Courthouse
- WT Finance Committee letter