

Dukes County Commissioners

Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

4:30pm

Dukes County Administration Building
9 Airport Road, Edgartown, MA

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Gretchen Tucker Underwood – Chair, *Tristan Isreal – Vice Chair, **Keith Chatinover, John Cahill (John C.), Leon Brathwaite, **John Alley (John A.), and Christine Todd

*Arrived late

**Left early

Other County Officials Present: Rebekah ElDeiry-Assoc. Commissioner for Youth, Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, Martina Thornton – County Manager

Others Present: Joanie Ames—MVTV, Marc Hanover – SSA

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

Minutes:

Christine/Keith made a motion to approve the meeting of the Dukes County Commissioners minutes of May 1, 2019 as amended. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Associate Commissioner for Youth – Update by Rebekah ElDeiry:

Rebekah (Beka) said she has been the position of Assoc. Commissioner for Youth for two years and feels that the role would be better suited for two people. She said an educator at an on-island school would be a good candidate, or someone “on the inside” of the school system. She also proposed that a student intern be brought on to assist, as they would provide an essential voice of the youth for such a counsel. Beka gave the DCC a brief history of her involvement in numerous groups and coalitions on the Island and discussed her contributions and planning of the After-Prom Party. She also recommended starting a Regional Youth Counsel – modelled after Newton perhaps – to help jumpstart teen participation in youth programs and events such as the After-Prom Party. A discussion was held. The DCC discussed her role in these groups and their purposes.

Steamship Authority – Updates on Construction Project by Marc Hanover:

Marc gave the DCC a brief update on how the Steamship Authority is doing. The construction is 12 weeks behind with an expected completion date of May 2021. Marc discussed the terminal design and the continuous struggles the management team has encountered with a small batch of residents of Woods Hole. He stated that it was a “sore subject” but that they were making some progress. A discussion was held. Tristan said he shared concerns with the Woods Hole group over legislation on traffic patterns. Marc said that all three slips will be open and functional by the June 20, 2019; allowing full usage for the busy summer. The operations center is also fully functional now, which will allow for better bus operations and more efficient scheduling. Marc also said that Thomas B. Landers lot could have solar panels and that the new electric buses could theoretically run off the energy gathered by the panels. Gretchen asked for a rough time frame for the new panels. Marc said it is merely an idea right now.

Real Estate Tax Appeal Process:

Gretchen made it clear that the DCC would not be discussing specific personal appeals, simply the generalized process. She said the DCC is not ready to discuss this matter. She then reviewed the legal counsel advice on how the DCC should respond to this request.

Eastville Beach – Regulation Revision & Management Plan:

Martina said the County owns most of the property; except for the parking lot, which is owned by Oak Bluffs and a small portion of the beach (next to and under the bridge) which is owned by Tisbury. A discussion was held. The DCC discussed maintenance and rule of the beach including allowing dogs. Christine said she had concerns about enforcing the rules for dogs.

Keith/Christine made a motion to approve an area for dogs to be allowed on the Eastville Beach, as long as it is only on the side of the beach closest to the bridge and before 8:00am or after 5:00pm. The motion was tabled for later discussion as Keith had to leave early, however further, more heated discussion occurred for some time after Keith left.

****Keith Chatinover left the meeting at 5:09pm.**

County Treasurer – Elected V. Appointed – Discussion, Possible Vote:

Leon updated the group on a pending inquiry with the State regarding the county treasurer's position. He said that it was still pending and that he hoped it would be ready for the next DCC meeting. The DCC discussed the options and Martina recommended simply filing a special legislature to change the appointing of a county treasurer from elected official to appointed official. Ann M. said she preferred the position remain elected, but would respect a change to appointed.

Christine/John C. made a motion to approve the process of pursuing an appointed position for the county treasurer. So voted. Tristan yes, John C. yes, Christine yes, Leon no, John A. no, Gretchen yes. Motion carries.

John Alley left at 5:33pm.

Hebrew Center for Summer Beach Events:

Martina spoke of a few upcoming events (June 9th at 9am, and every Friday between July 5th-Aug. 30th at 6pm) held at the Jabberwocky entrance to State Beach.

Tristan/Christine made a motion to approve the requested times for the Hebrew Center to hold their summer events on State Beach by the Jabberwocky entrance. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Manager's Report:

- **Airport Bond:** The bond for the Airport for \$1.27M is about to go through the Senate. She has confirmation that in the next two weeks it will pass through the Senate and be on the Governor's desk, where, hopefully, it will be signed.
- **New Legislation:** There has been new legislation filed that would add a recording fee to the state's budget that would create new County revenue.
- **Eastville:** Both the towns of Tisbury and Oak Bluffs have come together to pay for someone to come and repair the parking lot at Eastville Beach.
- **The Health and Human Services Regional Contract:** Would govern all the health and human services for Dukes County, was pitched to the town selectmen in Aquinnah. It was met with questions and push back. Martina expressed interest in having another member of the DCC accompany her to the next selectmen meeting for additional support. Christine agreed to accompany Martina if another member of the DCC joins them. Gretchen said that a DCC from each town should accompany the Martina and Christine at each separate town's meeting.

John C. volunteered to attend the meeting on the 11th. Tristan recommended that the DCC host an island-wide meeting in September to explain to the public what the DCC is and they do.

Christine/Tristan made a motion to adjourn the DCC meeting. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

The DCC meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm.

Certified by:

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 5-1-19
- Email from Michael Goldsmith regarding Applications for Property Tax Abatement