

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**  
**4:30 PM**

*REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY*

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

**Other County Officials Present:** Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer, Bruce Montrose – Veterans Services Officer

**Others Present:** Liz Durkee, Christine Flynn, Adam Turner - MV Commission (left after their presentation); Lucas Thors – MV Gazette

**Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.**

Minutes

**Don/Peter moved to approve minutes of 6-16-2021 DCC meeting with suggested amendments. So voted. Peter yes, John yes, Keith yes, Don yes, Tristan yes, Christine yes. All in favor.**

**Peter/Tristan moved approval of minutes from the DCC meeting on 4-21-2021 as presented. So voted. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine yes. All in favor.**

Storm Water Funding update – Liz Durkee

Liz explained why the funds are needed and showed a brief presentation (on file). Discussion followed. Total of \$56K is needed as local match, MV Commission is asking for \$25K from the County, which is what the County Finance Committee recommended. Tisbury approved at their spring town meeting \$10K towards the project. The MV Commission will ask other towns to approve contributions at their fall town meetings. This project does not include Gosnold.

**Tristan/Peter moved to approve \$25K from the Cape & Island License Plate Funds to be used as local match for Mapping Storm Tide Pathways Grant that is being received by MV Commission. So voted. Peter - yes, John - no, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine yes. Motion carries.**

FY2022 Heating Oil Bid Award

Martina informed the board that she only received one bid from RM Packer Co. This was the second time she advertised for the bid. It is 14 cents higher per gallon than the last bid at \$0.6250 over the Boston price as published in OPIS as specified in the bid package. She reached out to

the schools administration as the biggest user if they have any objections to the bid award and did not hear back.

**Keith/John moved to award the FY2022 heating oil bid to RM Packer Co. So voted. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

#### Surplus copier from Registry of Deeds

**John/Tristan moved to surplus the Registry copier. So voted. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

#### State of Emergency ending for Dukes County

Martina explained the reasons why she believes the County should end the state of emergency. State of Massachusetts ended it on June 16<sup>th</sup> and so did at least some of the island towns if not all. Some commissioners expressed concern as the COVID-19 is still on MV and ask what implications it would have if they don't vote. Martina explained that this gives her and the Commissioners additional options that are otherwise not at their disposal to address the emergency, like closing buildings, order work remotely etc. that otherwise they would not have.

**John/Keith moved to end the state of emergency for Dukes County. Discussion followed. Several commissioners raised concerns. So voted. Keith – no, John -yes, Tristan – no, Don – yes, Peter – no, Christine – no. Motion failed.**

#### ARPA funding update

Don and Peter gave update on the work of the ARPA Funding Steering Committee. Don shared a presentation and as part of it shared a Press Release and Letter of Inquiry that are ready for public distribution with some basic criteria of how the group will evaluate the proposals. They are looking to get the initial Letters of Inquiry from interested parties by August 30<sup>th</sup>. The group will still actively seek input from the towns. The commissioners asked the county treasurer and county manager for input as far as procedures and policies how to handle the funding (requesting funds, holding funds, distribution of funds). Peter suggested for it to be a reimbursable grant.

Ann Metcalf, the County Treasurer wants to have a policies and procedures in place so she can figure out how much administration this funding will require. She was asking if there will be a budget, if there will be a public forum before a decision is made on distributions and some other details relative to funds award and distribution. Don and Peter will work with Ann to prepare some general policies to be voted on at the next DCC meeting. Ann stated that it will take 2-3 weeks to get the funds from start of the process of requesting it.

The Committee hopes to have recommendation how to use this funding to County Commissioners by October 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Manager's Report – see document on file

The Friends of Sengekontacket (FOS) would like their annual Oar & Paddle Regatta to take place on August 31<sup>st</sup> 8am to noon. Martina asked DCC to waive the fee as this is fundraiser for FOS who are tremendous help in keeping the beach clean, helping with restoration projects and maintenance with their volunteers.

**Keith/Tristan moved to approve the event and waive the fee. So voted. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

**Airport Lot 44,#2 – Martina asked DCC to allow her to notify Sheriff's Office that the Airport is planning to terminate lease with the County for Lot 44, #2 North Line Road at the Airport Business Park, which is the lot on which the challenge Course is located. Since the Dukes County Sheriff's Office is the sublessee on the lot an official letter from the County to the Sheriff's Office with the same language should be send so that the County as their landlord gives a proper notice directly to the Sheriff's Office. Airport letter (attached) was already sent to them.**

**Peter/Tristan moved to send notice to Sheriff's Office as proposed. T Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

**COVID – Martina proposed amendments to the policies that were instituted in June in light of the fact that there are no longer any CDC, state or local regulations or guidelines relative to COVID and it is up to each organization to institute safety provisions as they see fit:**

1. If staff is vaccinated and can socially distance, no need to wear masks (among staff). They would still need to wear masks when interacting with the public. If not vaccinated employees should use Personal Protective Equipment as necessary to protect themselves. Public still needs to wear mask when entering county buildings (no matter if vaccinated or not).
2. We will no longer be tracking staff presence in the buildings. It was done for contact tracing purposes in case of positive case and since everyone is back to work, we can track it now directly through our payroll system.
3. Social distancing is still advisable in all staff and public interactions.
4. If anyone is experiencing COVID symptoms they need to stay home and call in sick. Public with such symptoms is not allowed to enter the buildings.

**Tristan/Don moved to adopt these rules as proposed. So voted. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

Martina briefly reported on additional topics as outlined in her manager's report (see file).

Tristan suggested to send thank-you letter to Sam Hart for working with us on behalf of the Trustees on Norton Point issues and project. All agreed.

**Tristan/Peter moved to accept the \$10K grant from the Tower Foundation for the VHCAP Emergency Fund. Peter - yes, John - yes, Keith - yes, Don - yes, Tristan - yes, Christine - yes. All in favor.**

#### Old business

Tristan noted that the Housing bank legislation hearing is tomorrow and asked for formal support from DCC for the two legislations. Christine informed the board that since DCC already voted to support the Housing Bank she sends letter of support to the legislator as chair on behalf of DCC already.

Christine raised concern regarding the vulnerability of underwater cable supplying electricity to MV as reported in the newspapers. Tristan reported that the Climate Committee has been discussing it this week. Tristan suggested to reach out to Liz Durkee to see what can be done. Martina said discussions among the emergency managers also happened last week and they received updates from Eversource on immediate steps as was reported in the paper. Christine will talk to Liz and send letter asking Eversource to inform us about for long-term solutions to the concerns.

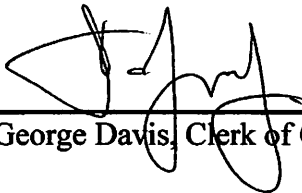
Public Comment - There were no public or press comments.

**Tristan/ Don made a motion adjourn the meeting. So voted. John Cahill aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, Tristan aye and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.**

**The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.**

**The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 4:30 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
- Minutes from 4-21-2021, 6-16-2021 DCC meeting
- MV Commission Storm Water project update (slides)
- ARPA Funding Steering Committee update (slides)
- Airport Letter with Notice of termination of lease
- Manager's Report 7-21-2021