

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 17, 2022  
4:30 PM**

**REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY**

**Dukes County Commissioners Present:** Christine Todd – Chair, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Don Leopold, Keith Chatinover

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

**Others Present:** Aidan Pollard –MV Gazette, Abigail Rosen – MV Times, Bob Rosenbaum – MV Airport Commission Chair, Doug Ruskin\*

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

**Minutes –8-3-2022**

**Tristan/Don moved to approve minutes of 8-3-2022 as amended. So voted.**

**Peter – abstained, Keith – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.**

**Sub-committee membership** – 6 commissioners, 3 is quorum, we cannot have 3-member sub-committees without posting any meeting as full meeting of DCC.

Building Committee – Tristan, Keith  
Finance Committee - Peter, Leon  
ARPA Review Committee – Don, Tristan  
ARPA Working Group – Peter, Leon

All subcommittee meetings are public.

**Treasurer Search** – job description was developed in collaboration with the auditors. It will be distributed to DCC for comments. We have one application so far. Search Committee consisting of Chair and Vice Chair will evaluate the application against the needed qualifications once the Discussion followed. We should mention that it is only for the remainder of the term. Tristan suggested to file legislative change to allow for search off island and also to change the position to appointed position. It will be on our next agenda.

**American Rescue Plan Act – Update**

- Don reported that he and Martina will meet with the Board of Health Agents at their next meeting to discuss the proposal for funding of nitrogen-reducing septic systems.
- Peter reported that it was determined that ARPA does allow for creation of loans as opposed to grants, but he would be opposed to it as it is very administratively intensive.
- Airport application – we are figuring out if it can be a grant or internal transfer agreement, which was posed to county counsel. County will need additional information

from the Airport once they have their RFP process for the project finalized and can determine proposed payment schedule etc.

- Bob Rosenbaum said that the Airport will provide additional information as needed. The deadline for RFPs was today. The additional funds needed will be funded by a loan over 20 years from the State Revolving Fund. He asked if Airport could get additional funds from ARPA for the Wastewater upgrades.

Building Committee – Update (see Manager’s report copy on file)

Manager’s Report (see full copy of Manager’s report on file)

**Tristan/ Peter moved to authorize the Manager to enter into a contact with Reubens Designers for VHCAP building project not to exceed \$25K. So voted. Peter – yes, Keith – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.**

**Don/Keith moved to authorize Manager to accept proposal by Willett Electric to install second electrical panel at the Courthouse and to enter into a contract for the project and to spend up to \$20K from Capital Improvement Fund for this project. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Don Leopold -yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries**

Martina obtained proposals for removal of two trees at VHCAP. It would be beneficial to take the trees down as it would allow for a potential installation of solar panels on the roof and prevent future damage to the roof and the building. The board will review it at the next meeting.

**Audit for FY2022** – Powers & Sullivan agreed to do the audit at the same price as FY2021 audit. Commissioners agreed to enter such contract at the last meeting. Martina will sign the engagement letter along with the Airport.

**CPA** – Contact with the CPA was prepared, and scope of work defined based on what the current treasurer will be looking for the CPA to do. The scope will be finalized after a conference call with the auditors tomorrow. The CPA will be charging \$150 per hour.

**Tristan / Don moved to authorize Manager to enter the contract with CPA as proposed. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Don Leopold -yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries**

**State beach** – there was an issue of a porta potty company installing two porta potties by the Big Bridge for a party without a permit. Since the company is not willing to release the name of the party the only option is to issue fine to the company. Discussion followed. It was agreed that a fine should be sent to the company since we don’t know who the party is that requested and paid for the porta potties to be there.

New business

Tragedy of two people drowning as a result of jumping of the bridge at State beach late at night. Jumping of a bridge is unsafe. There are “No jumping signs” posted on the bridge. We do not have

jurisdiction over the bridge, it is Mass DOT property. We can reach out to Mass DOT again, as we did numerous times along with the Town of Edgartown and Oak Bluffs to redesign the bridge to make it safer. The whole area around Big Bridge is unsafe in the summer during busy days. We will try to schedule a meeting with Mass DOT, Town of Edgartown, Oak Bluffs and include our State representatives to discuss the situation.

\*Doug Ruskin joined the meeting.

We will be requesting Steamship Authority update by our representative at the next meeting and also schedule a public hearing of the SSA representatives soon and have the meeting be widely publicized.

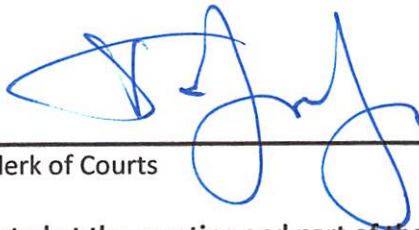
#### Public Comment

Calendar: Dukes County Commissioners Meeting 9-7-2022 at 4:30PM

**Keith/Don made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:40PM. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Don Leopold -yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.**

Calendar: Next regular meeting is on September August 17, 2022 at 4:30PM

**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
- Manager's Report