

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 3, 2022
4:30 PM**

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

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

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Sarah Kuh – Vineyard Health Care Access Program Director

Others Present: Aidan Pollard –MV Gazette, Rich Salzberg – MV Times, Jeffrey DuBard, James Klingensmith

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

Minutes –7-20-2022

Tristan/Keith moved to approve minutes of 7-20-2022. So voted.

Keith – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Minutes 7-25-2022

Tristan/ Keith moved to approve minutes 7-25-2022. So voted. Keith – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Leon – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

American Rescue Plan Act – Update

The subcommittee met to review attorney's suggestions for changes in the ARPA documents and made final determination on what should be in the documents. I related it to the attorney this morning and he will have the final documents for us ready by tomorrow or Friday. After that we can have the Airport and the MV Commission re-sign the updated documents and move on to review of the individual applications.

The main change is that the funding will be on reimbursement basis only. All projects are to be designated as revenue replacement projects (also recommended by the auditors) – as opposed to water/wastewater category – this is to allow for simpler reporting. The lawyer will make sure that proper language is inserted in the documents to assure this selection. The auditors recommended monthly reporting requirement by the recipients to allow for consistent reconciliations and also no more than monthly requests for reimbursements. The recipients will be required to have the project be insured. The board can entertain a motion to approve the final documents with the understanding that these items will be incorporated into the documents, so we don't have to wait until the next meeting to approve the updated documents.

Tristan/ Don moved to approve the updated ARPA documents subject to final approval by the ARPA working group. So voted. Keith – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Special Purpose Fund – in general both legal counsel and auditors viewed this as acceptable with the understanding that the funds would have to be spent by the ARPA required deadline. The attorney strongly recommended having criterion of eligibility that will be the same across the island and to include “means based need” as there is assumption that lower income population was negatively impacted by covid, and relation can be made between the demographic and covid effects. Separate documents and process would have to be created to legally assure proper documentation is received from the homeowners for our reporting purposes before they can be reimbursed. More details will follow in a memo and the ARPA sub-committee will meet to create recommendation to the full board. It was agreed that at the next meeting time will be allotted for the discussion on this topic.

Building Committee Update

- CAB approved on Friday \$25K to be spent from Capital Improvement Fund on the schematic design for VHCAP building. Building committee will meet to choose which architect we will use for the work.
- Courthouse – have discussion about the future of the courthouse and relationship with the Trail Court and what are our option. Skipper suggested to selling the courthouse, but we need to consider the future of the Registry of Deeds. This also brings up the discussion about needs of other county programs and how that can be addressed globally.

Manager’s Report

- Norton Point Beach - the Trustees are withdrawing the draft Management Plan for Norton Point. There was no timeline
- New Treasurer has been sworn in and started working with the staff in the office.

*Leon joined the meeting.

- Courthouse

See attached proposal for installation of the second electrical panel at the Courthouse. Not sure if the building committee wants to discuss before the DCC can vote to spend the funds from Capital Improvement Fund to move the project forward. It was determined by the trial court maintenance staff that the electrical plugs at the Courtroom are not safe to plug in the window ACs, hence the Courtroom is still without proper air conditioning, and they have to run the ceiling AC units that are leaking – now into big trash barrels. The only way to improve the situation is to bring the power from basement to the second floor, install second electrical panel and from there run additional circuits and upgrade the plugs. The proposal is for the first step which is establishing a 200Amps panel. I reached out to two other electricians (Brissett and Merritt Electric) and both were not interested to provide me with proposals. I am unable to find anyone to fix the ceiling units and I am being advised to just take the indoor units down and install new registers that are properly sized for the space. I did ask for proposal for that as well. Nothing came back yet.

*Peter joined the meeting.

Tristan/Leon moved to approve up to \$20K to install second electrical panel on the second floor of the Courthouse as proposed. So voted. Keith – yes, Leon – yes, Peter – abstained, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Martina informed the commissioners that apparently there is no contract in place with our auditors for doing our FY2022 audit, which they already did a lot of work on. She asked for proposal and might have

something by the next meeting. It was noted that CAB asked to go out and solicit for new auditors through RFP. Martina said that she would not recommend it for FY2022 as they already did a lot of the work, but we can do that going forward, although auditing services are exempt from procurement. It was also noted that we have agreements with the current auditors to be involved in our ARPA process.

Leon/Tristan extension for additional year at the same price for FY2022. So voted. Keith – yes, Leon – yes, Peter – yes, Don- yes, Tristan – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Oak Bluffs is scheduling a special town meeting for November 1, 2022 – I do not have anything that we need at this moment to bring up. The deadline for submitting warrant articles is September 9th.

New Business

Leon made a comment that in the paper it sounded like the Trustees own Norton Point and not that they are just managing it for the County. Tristan said that they need to come to the County with their next draft for input.

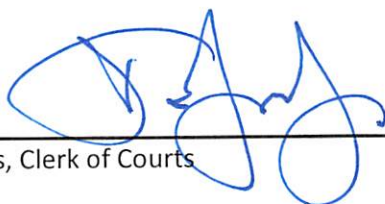
Eastville Beach – Tristan suggested to ask for CPC funds if we need money for improvements. The conversation would have to start in fall. This can be also funded from the License Plans money.

Public Comment – Rich Saltzberg asked what the resale value of Courthouse is and how many of parking spaces behind it the County owns. Martina answered that he can look up the assessed value and she can provide value to which it is insured but resale value would be hard to determine as it is one-of-a-kind building in the Edgartown historic district. County owns parking spots only directly adjacent to the building, not the big parking lot behind, that belongs to the town.

Leon/ Tristan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:19M. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Keith Chatinover – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Don Leopold -yes, Leon Brathwaite – yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:19PM.

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

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Manager's Report