

Dukes County Commissioners

Minutes

Wednesday, August 7, 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, Christine Todd, and John Alley **.

**Left early

Other County Officials Present: Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, Martina Thornton – County Manager, Don Ogilvie – MV Airport Commission, Richard Knabel – MV Airport Commission, Chuck Cotnoir – Dukes County Emergency Management Director.

Others Present: Joanie Ames – MVTv, Lucas Thers – MV Times, Noreen Mavro Flanders – citizen.

Gretchen called the meeting to order at 4:31pm

Minutes:

Keith/John C. made a motion to approve the amended minutes for May 15, 2019 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Christine/Tristan made a motion to approve the minutes for June 5, 2019 as presented. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Keith/John C. made a motion to approve the minutes for June 21, 2019 as presented. So voted. Gretchen – yes, Tristan – yes, John C. – yes, Christine – abstains, John A. – abstains, Leon – yes, Keith – yes. Motion carries.

Martha's Vineyard Commission TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan) Committee Appointment - Vote:

Leon explained that at a prior meeting of the DCC, he had requested to step down from his appointed position on the JTC (Joint Transportation Committee) and to appoint Tristan to replace him on the committee. He explained what that committee does and what his position required of him. There was a brief discussion. Christine recommended that the appointee give regular updates going forward, along with all commissioner appointed positions, to keep the DCC in the loop on the happenings at these smaller committee meetings. Tristan agreed and he also recommended that the appointment last through the remainder of the term, ending in early January 2021.

John A./Christine made a motion to appoint Tristan to the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) in Leon's place. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

Bond Signing:

Martina said that the bond paperwork had not arrived yet and was therefore not ready to be signed at this meeting. She also said that she'd bring it to be signed at the next DCC meeting.

Special Legislation for the Airport:

Martina introduced the new draft of legislation that would allow the airport to bond without having to be approved by the state legislature, but rather by the local authorities and the County Advisory Board would be the final approving authorization needed for bonding. This legislature would not just apply to the airport, but also to the county itself.

Martina explained that the Airport requested \$30M as their maximum cap. She said a total of \$35 million would be a logical cap for the bonding limit; in aggregate. Tristan discussed his concerns with having a cap that high and argued that there shouldn't be a cap at all, claiming that it would merely invite the county to spend that much.

Richard Knabel spoke to Tristan's concern of having a cap on the bonds. He said the legislature requires there to be a set cap, and if one is not specified the state will select an amount for us. He went on to say that the state wants to know what, in the worst-case scenario, the county would need in funding in order to rebuild. A discussion was held.

Christine/Keith made a motion to approve the legislation that would allow the airport or county to borrow up to \$35 million without having to go through the state's legislation process. Tristan/Leon amended the motion to allow for only \$22 million. There was a discussion on the amendment. So voted to place the amendment only. Christine – no, John C. – no, Keith – no, John A. – yes, Leon – yes, Tristan – yes, Gretchen – no. Motion fails.

Christine/Keith amended the original motion to include a final pending approval from the MV Airport Commission of the legislation. There was a short discussion after which Christine/Keith withdrew their amendment to the original motion and asked to vote on the original motion as follows: to approve the legislation that would allow the airport or county to borrow up to \$35 million without having to go through the state's legislation process. Tristan then asked that the motion be tabled until the next meeting, giving the MV Airport Commission and the County Advisory Board the time to approve the legislature. There was another discussion in which it came to light that the MV Airport Commission had not even received a copy of the legislation yet, as it was still only a draft, which severely worried Tristan. Gretchen then called for a vote. So voted. Christine – yes, John C. – yes, Keith – yes, John A. – no, Leon – no, Tristan – no, Gretchen – yes. Motion carries.

Tristan left at 5:28pm.

Keith asked after the vote had passed why the MV Airport Commission had not received a copy of the legislation and Martina explained that because it was only a draft and she was instructed not to release it prior to releasing it at the DCC meeting. Keith was upset to hear this, and argued against keeping important documents, whether they were drafts or not, from other interested parties. A copy of the draft was given to Richard Knabel who pointed out paragraph 3 that would allow the DCC to decide on all Airport expenditures and bonds and raised concern of a violation of a court order. There was a lengthy discussion held about the wording and exactly, was included under the term "expenditures", which could include not just the bonding requests, but also operating and administrative costs. Richard said that a change like this would eradicate the need for the MV Airport Commission entirely. He suggested instead that the legislature merely allow for county approval of the bonding and a yearly budget, not every single expenditure the airport could have on a day to day basis.

Keith/Christine then made a motion to rescind the prior motion. So voted. Christine – yes, John C. – yes, Keith – yes, John A. – yes, Leon – no, Gretchen – yes. Motion carries.

There was further discussion regarding what should be a part of the legislation and what happened in the past regarding the airport and their financial decisions and reporting in prior years. Christine made the point that the relationship between the county and the airport had not always been a good one and that it was high time that that relationship was revisited in order to find a balance for the future. The commissioners agreed with that statement.

John C./Christine made another motion to table the document until the next meeting. So voted. All in favor. Motion carries.

As too many members of the DCC had to depart at 6pm, Gretchen called the meeting to a partial close, asking that Chuck Cotnoir speak to the tornado preparedness for the general public. Leon was asked to be the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

John A., Gretchen, and Keith all left early at 6:01pm.

Tornado Preparedness Update – Chuck Cotnoir:

Chuck introduced himself and gave a presentation about the recent tornado warnings and activity and answered questions regarding what to do and what kind of information is out there. There was a brief discussion.

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

The DCC meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.

Certified by:

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 5-15-19, 6-5-19, and 6-21-19
- Tornado Action Plan – Instructions for Employees
- FY19 to FY20 Carryovers
- Airport Bonding Legislation Draft
- Proposed Special Legislation for Treasurer’s Office