

**Dukes County Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2020
4:30 – 5:45 PM
*REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY***

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Tristan Israel – Chairman, Christine Todd – Vice Chair, John Cahill, Keith Chatinover, Leon Brathwaite.

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – County Manager, Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds.

Others Present: Cindra Trish & Paddy Moore – Healthy Aging MV, Geoff Freeman – Airport Director, Richard Knabel & Bob Rosenbaum – Airport Commission, Brian Dowd, and Aaron Wilson, Sydney.

Tristan Israel called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Minutes

Christine Todd made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commission's minutes from September 2, 2020. John Cahill seconded. So voted. Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard 2020 Survey

The upcoming older adult island-wide survey will be conducted soon as a Boston University partnership. It will include seasonal and year-round 60+ year old residents. The topics covered include housing, transportation, island infrastructure, health and wellness, community engagement, caregiving needs, demographics, COVID-19 impact and future plans for the island. It will be available in multiple languages, on paper, online, and in-person with certain caregivers. Results will be able to be sorted by seasonal and year-round residents. In 2015, the survey of 65+ year old full-time Island residents had a 49% response rate. The information collected was used to surface needs and priorities, identify vulnerable populations, support development of new programs/services, and provided valuable data for grants and proposals. The results showed that 29% lived alone, 27% reported falling in the last year, <30% were caregivers, and 97% wished to remain in their homes. This data helped create programs like the Home Safety Modification Pilot Program funded by Martha's Vineyard Hospital grant. This provides little-to no cost assessments of homes and installing high impact modifications to ensure their safety on a referral basis. They are hoping to assist 30-40 Island residents over the next year.

Filling Open Seat of Dukes County Commission Board

Due to Gretchen Tucker Underwood leaving the Board there is now a vacant seat. Richard "Peter" Wharton was contacted and does not wish to serve until his term begins in January 2021 pending the election in November 2020. He will however be added to the email list to be invited to attend the Zoom meetings in the meantime if he so chooses. It was decided that the Board will finish out the year as is and not advertise the open position.

Heating Oil Bid for Municipalities

The advertised bids for over 200,000 gallons of heating oil for all of the municipal buildings were due September 15, 2020 at 2:00PM. There was only one bid from R.M. Packer Company which was 0.06% over last year's bid. It fluctuates throughout the year based on the OPIS Boston Low Rack price, so the proposal is to be 0.485% over the OPIS Boston Low Rack price. Last year it was 0.425%. The current OPIS Boston Low Rack heating oil price with a 0.485 margin is \$1.0895. With no other bidders, the contract is recommended to be awarded to R.M. Packer Company. The contract will be ending on June 30th with the fiscal year. In the Spring there will be advertisement for a full Fiscal Year 2022. **Leon Brathwaite made a motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder that submitted (R.M. Packer Company). John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**

Beach Regulations & Updates

Beach crowding and bridge jumping enforcement is still being looked into. There was a discussion about having the State Highway continue to maintain the deteriorating wooden guardrails by the bike path. Furthermore it was suggested that Little Bridge parking lot be attended to, as it is a hazard.

Proposed Guidelines for the Borrowing Process

A draft of the proposed guidelines for the borrowing request was presented by the County Treasurer. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to analyze the borrowing process between the Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission and the County. Christine Todd and Tristan Israel nominated Leon Brathwaite to chair the subcommittee with Geoff Freeman also being a part of the subcommittee. Donald Leopold will be asked to join the subcommittee. Christine Todd will be the substitute for Donald Leopold.

Manager's Report

- The contract for new Courthouse sinks and faucets will be in on Friday, September 18, 2020.
- There will be a gathering in front of the Courthouse on Saturday, September 19 from 6-7PM to bring awareness to the United States' mass incarceration crisis.
- The County received an offer for an extension of the grant from MDPH for the Youth Task Force. The first extension was for the first three months of FY 2021, now the extension is to the end of the fiscal year for additional \$75,000. The Youth Task Force has been sent an extended contract. The County will remain a fiscal agent for them and continue to fund them until June 2021. **Leon Brathwaite made a motion to accept the extension of the grant. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, a Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**
- September 22, 2020 is Opioid Awareness Day and they are hosting voluntary anonymous screening. Participants will be able to learn from experts and patients with experience with opioid use disorder and treatment that will be recorded and available online for future viewing. More information is available at www.opioidscreening.org.
- FY2020 financials are being wrapped up. Once completed there will be a determination of how much money will be returned to the Towns after the regional programs close of the year. The budget process will also be starting and worksheets distributed to the

Department heads by the end of the week. There will be a presentation of a draft budget on October 7th meeting. At the following meeting, October 21st, there will be a vote to approve the budget, as budgets are due November 1st. The audit is scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving.

Appointment Process

The formal language on the appointment process will be presented at the next meeting. At the December 2nd meeting there will be discussion about advertising for Spring appointments and a timeline for applications/interviews.

Old Business

- No new updates on the allocation of overhead.
- Next Tuesday (September 22nd) there will be a public meeting to discuss critical issues and long-term planning for the Courthouse. Of the Courthouse Committee, John Cahill, Donald Leopold, Martina Thornton, Paulo DeOliveira, and Skipper Manter will be in attendance. They will report back periodically with updates.

New Business

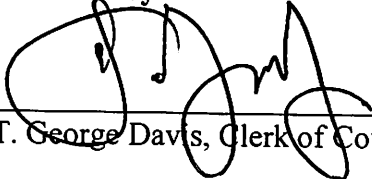
- The Dukes County Health Council will be meeting on September 17th from 7:30-8:30AM to discuss a COVID-19 update.
- Martha's Vineyard is in a severe drought and there is currently no manager of the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest. The Department of Conservation and Recreation will no longer allow someone to live on the premises. There would need to be legislative action to allow someone to live there while holding the position of Forest Manager. The salary for this position is approximately \$55,000. Christine Todd proposed that a letter be written to the legislatures about the dire need to fill the Forest Manager position. There will be an effort to coordinate with the Martha's Vineyard Commission Subcommittee on this issue.
- There was a brief discussion about the Island's homelessness issue with Senator Julian Cyr, who was under the impression that the County was approached with and denied an offer for assistance from MEMA with affordable shelters equipment for the homeless, which did not happen. This issue is currently being looked into.

Adjournment

Keith Chatinover made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Tristan Israel aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 PM.

The next Dukes County Commission meeting is on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

Documents Discussed

- Healthy Aging Presentation
- Proposed Guidelines: Request for Borrowing Draft