

**Dukes County Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
4:30 – 5:49 PM
*REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY***

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

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

Others Present: Melinda Loberg, Robert Rosenbaum- Airport Commission Chair, Geoff Freeman – Airport Director, Aaron Wilson - newspaper, Lucas Thor - newspaper, and Jennelle Gadowski – taking minutes.

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

Acceptance of Martha's Vineyard Airport Bids

Leon Brathwaite made a motion to approve the Martha's Vineyard Airport FAN (Federal Anticipation Note) bid for \$205,555. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite yes, Keith Chatinover yes, John Cahill yes, Christine Todd aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Donald Leopold was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries.

Christine Todd made a motion to approve the Martha's Vineyard Airport BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) rollover bid of \$1,265,791.00. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Donald Leopold was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries.

Minutes

Christine Todd made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commission's minutes from August 19, 2020. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, Leon Brathwaite abstained, and Tristan Israel aye. Donald Leopold was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries. Christine Todd made a motion to approve the Dukes County Commission's minutes from May 6, 2020 and May 27, 2020. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold abstained, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Letter of Appreciation

Tristan Israel drafted a letter of appreciation for Chuck Cotnoir and his 37 years of service to the Island community. The Commissioners approved the letter and decided it will be sent out soon unless there is a substantive issue.

Discussion About Filling Open Seat of Dukes County Commission Board

Richard “Peter” Wharton won a spot on the Dukes County Commissioners Board. There was a discussion regarding whether or not he should come aboard early or wait until January to begin the position. It was agreed that Tristan Israel will reach out to Peter to gauge his interest.

Legislation Updates

The legislation for the Treasurer’s position to be appointed as opposed to elected was approved by the House and the Senate and signed in by the Governor. The question will now appear on the State ballot on November 3, 2020. Martina Thornton sent the summary for the legislation to the representatives to review and send to the Elections Division. There was discussion about educating the constituents about this ballot question and its importance. It was agreed that the Communications Committee will draft a letter to the editor and/or Op-Ed to explain that if passed, it would take effect in six years. These drafts will be presented at the October 7th meeting for approval.

Personnel Bylaws Updates

Martina Thornton met with the Personnel Board to discuss Personnel Bylaws. There are forms that need to be updated. However, after the consultation with the Personnel board chair there will be one more meeting to clarify couple things before it will be presented to the County Commissioners for vote.

Beach Regulations Update

The update from the Annual Paddle & Oar Regatta event was that it went well with three heats and limited spectators.

There was much concern amongst the Commissioners for the lack of enforcement of COVID-19 safety, especially on the Martha’s Vineyard beaches and the big bridge on state beach. There have been sightings of 20-40 people congregating on the bridge. There has been some dialogue between the local Boards of Health, Chiefs of Police, and Board of Selectmen, but with no resolve. So, it was decided that since the Dukes County Commissioners are not in support of the situation and have exhausted all of their efforts, they are encouraging officials to finally take a stronger stance on this issue. It was suggested that an Island-wide Board of Selectmen meeting be held to address the issue. Furthermore, there will be an inquiry into the State’s ability to enforce the bridge jumping and congregating since it is illegal to jump off the bridges. Communications will be sent expressing the dire concern about this matter.

Manager’s Report

A County Advisory Board (CAB) meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2020 at 2:30 PM to go over the FY21 budget amendments that were approved in August.

Appointment Process

There will be an official write up on this topic presented at the next meeting. Next year’s Spring appointments will be advertised by December 2020 to allow for adequate time to review resumes and hold interviews. This will be further discussed at the November 18th meeting.

Old Business

The Allocation of Overhead Plan was sent to the FAA. The FAA needed things refined, so it was sent back to Ann Metcalf and the Martha's Vineyard Airport.

New Business

Christine Todd made a motion to formalize the Courthouse Subcommittee to look into issues of the Courthouse with Donald Leopold and John Cahill as Co-Chairs. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Leon Brathwaite was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries.

Christine Todd made a motion to add Paulo DeOliveira to the Courthouse Subcommittee. Donald Leopold seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Donald Leopold aye, Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Leon Brathwaite was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries.

This subcommittee will report back periodically with updates.

Martina Thornton informed everyone of the heating oil bid for all municipal buildings that has been advertised in the local newspaper, on the Dukes County website, and with the State. Bids are due at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2020.

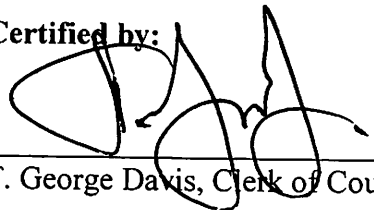
Christine Todd explained the new efforts being done to sustain local businesses and the Island's economic health during these uncertain times. There has been a local business disaster relief fund created. She proposed starting a Dukes County Economic Committee to be a conduit of funds and support efforts. It was suggested to look into grants and other funding sources. Also, it was suggested that involved parties attend a Dukes County Commission meeting to further educate the Commissioners on this matter.

Adjournment

Christine Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Leon Brathwaite was absent at the time of the vote. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

The next Dukes County Commission meeting is on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

Documents Discussed

- Agenda
- Memo regarding Airport BAN and FAN rollover bids
- Final version of the Treasurer legislation