

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2022
4:30 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

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

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager

Others Present: Aidan Pollard –MV Gazette, Abigail Rosen – MV Times, Bob Rosenbaum, Richard Knabel, Jack Ensor – MV Airport Commission, Geoff Freeman – Airport Manager, Doug Ruskin, Kate Warner, Ben Robinson, James Malkin –SSA board representative, John Cahill & Joseph A. Sollitto, Jr. – Steamship Port Council MV representatives, Ebba Hierta, James Klingensmith, Robert Hannemann, Bob Davis – SSA General Manager, Bob Johnston, tel. 508-645-2894

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM

Minutes –8-17-2022

Tristan/Don moved to approve minutes of 8-17-2022. So voted.

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

Steamship Authority (SSA) Update – Jim Malkin

Jim gave an update on the summer trips by the SSA with about 4 trips per thousand that were cancelled. Jim encouraged people interested in steamship authority issues to view the zoom recordings of the SSA board meetings. Jim listed several areas of need for improvement including communication of updates with island communities, reservation system etc. He is more interested in execution of the strategic plan and running boats on time and on schedule. There has been an electrification study done and some islanders have concerns about it and Jim encouraged them to bring it to the next SSA board meeting. Peter Wharton shared presentation about electrified ferries at Washington State. The Steamship must finance all capital improvements from their own revenue and grants they need to apply for. This makes it important to be mindful of the costs and their impact on the prices for islanders.

Christine asked that Jim comes once per month to the DCC meetings to update the Commissioners and general public more often. Kate Warner said that Washington State consultants determined that the best solution is a hybrid solution and she encouraged the SSA to look into it as opposed to fully electrified boats that were recommended. She asked if Woods Hole terminal construction can be scaled down so SSA can invest into new boats with the renewable energy component. Jim said that the terminal construction is already on way.

Airport Request – Bob Rosenbaum (see request on file)

Airport is asking for approval of using the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to fund the construction which is estimated to cost about \$10.1M. He explained how the construction will be funded once completed. There will be about \$4.2M that will have to be raised through SRF loan or cash reserves and borrowing by the Airport which will require County approval.

Tristan/Peter moved to authorize the use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) up to \$10,971,561 for the construction phase of the renovation of the Airport's Waste Water Treatment Plan at no interest for the term of the construction. So voted. Peter – yes, Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Geoff updated the Commissioners that commercial in-planes were flat or slightly down compared to last year, operations traffic overall was down in August compared to last year about 7%.

Treasurer Search – we have two applications. We are still advertising. Peter will help with the screening of candidates. The temporary part time Treasurer is making sure that payroll and bills are being processed and we are getting the CPA set up to remotely access our books to help with generating information needed by the auditors.

American Rescue Plan Act – Update

- Don reported that he is setting up a meeting with Board of Health agents and MV Commission and will have more updated by the next meeting.
- Martina reported that the contract with Airport needs to be revised by counsel due to the fact that Airport is an agency of the County. Bob Rosenbaum asked to not do reimbursement.

Building Committee – Update

Keith is a new member of the committee and is scheduled to tour the VHCAP building and then the committee will meet. Martina said that the architect the board agreed to engage for the work was not able to proceed with signing the contract with County and she is now negotiating with another architect to take on the job. The board agreed that it is ok for the manager to proceed with the new architect if she feels comfortable and it is for the same scope of work and with eh same spending cap.

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

There was a suggestion to have managers reports only once per month. Don suggested establishing priorities of the board for the year and ask Martina to report on it during the year. Martina said she is sending e-mails to the board periodically as things come up that raise to the level that the Commissioners need to be informed about it or need to take action.

Legislative Changes re County Treasurer

The board needs to conceptually agree if they want to move forward with the legislative changes and if so than develop a specific language with that request. Peter suggested having full board to take such a vote. Tristan advocated for the appointed county treasurer. Don again asked for the board to first identify the priorities and see if this rises to the level of the board putting time and energy into pursuing this. Christine suggested to leave this for discussion for January when new commissioners come on board.

Old Business

State beach Big bridge safety

Martina read into the record the response from MassDOT (see on file). Tristan asked for follow up to towns and MassDOT to have a meeting to see what can be done.

We can make an effort to encourage agencies that are promoting it to stop promoting it like Chamber of commerce, local business associations etc. Peter suggested asking Edgartown to move their Lifeguard stand to that location.

Center for Living request to host AA meetings will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting with Trail Court on Tuesday Sept. 13th – Christine and Tristan will attend.

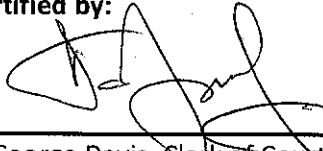
Public Comment - none

Calendar: Dukes County Commissioners Meeting 9-21-2022 at 4:30PM

Don/Peter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13PM. So voted. R. Peter Wharton – yes, Tristan Israel – yes, Don Leopold -yes, Christine Todd - yes. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:13PM.

Calendar: Next regular meeting is on September 21, 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
- Airport Request
- SSA Propulsion study
- Letter from MassDOT re Big Bridge