

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

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

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – County Manager and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds.

Others Present: Marie Marasco, Esq. – Deputy Director of Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc., Geoff Freeman – Airport Commission Director, Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette, and Jennelle Gadowski.

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Minutes

Tristan Israel made a motion to approve the minutes from January 13, 2021. R. Peter Wharton seconded the motion. Commissioner Cahill requested his statement, “the [grant] funds are expected to come within the next week or two.” In the minutes be struck from the record. **Tristan Israel amended his motion to approve the minutes from January 13, 2021 with language as amended. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. Tristan Israel yes, Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, John Cahill aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.**

Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CVEC) Annual Presentation

Ms. Marasco, Esq. gave a presentation on CVEC, their administration structure, a recap of FY2020, and past/future projects. CVEC was organized under State legislature to assist municipal organizations with renewable energy projects. Leases and power purchase agreements are locked in for 20 years. Ms. Marasco, Esq. said that deliverables and answers to asked questions will be provided in order for the County to make informed decisions. See presentation for more details.

FY2021 Mid-year Budget Report and Budget Amendments

Ms. Thornton presented the FY2021 mid-year budget and reported that a majority of the Department is on track with good cash flow. She explained that budget amendments are due to new recommended rates increases, savings, and transfers. Ms. Thornton requested a transfer of \$7.00 for the travel of scholars for the Dukes County Health Council. **Keith Chatinover made a motion to transfer \$7.00 for travel for scholars. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Tristan Israel yes, Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, John Cahill aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.** There was a discussion about reviewing the County budget planning process, forming a Budget Committee, and adding a paid Emergency Manager. It was clarified that the County Treasurer is prevented from spending any money that is associated with employment or capital expenses. The changes

then need to be approved by the County Commission and County Advisory Board (CAB) first. There was further clarification that there is a County Stabilization Fund, but it is not funded yet because the CAB was not supportive of transferring County surplus directly into the Fund without the towns voting on it first. So currently the Fund is awaiting votes from three towns in order to be used. The Dukes County Personnel Board approved the recommendation to implement a compensation and classification study which resulted in a compensation scale retroactively to July 1, 2020. **Tristan Israel made a motion to approve the FY2021 compensation scale as recommended by the Personnel Board for approximately \$12,000. Donald Leopold seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Tristan Israel aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, John Cahill aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.** Ms. Thornton reported that her recommendations were to remove the \$7,000 surplus deficit placeholder and increase projected revenue for Deeds Excise due to an unexpected surplus that was originally projected to have a shortfall; increase revenue for Trustees; decrease payments from the reimbursement retiree contributions; increase individual salary lines based on the pay scale that was approved; and increase OPEB contributions. She further added that Department 610 needs \$10,000+ for the County Administration Building. See budget documents for more details. The DCC was not comfortable voting on the proposed budget amendments as presented. **Leon Brathwaite made a motion to form a Budget Committee to review the budget and report back to the DCC at a Special Meeting at 9:00 AM January 28, 2021. Tristan Israel seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Tristan Israel aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, and R. Peter Wharton aye. Motion carries.** Commissioner Todd appointed Commissioner Israel, Commissioner Brathwaite, and Commissioner Wharton to the Budget Committee.

FY2022 Budget Amendments

To be put on hold and discussed by the Budget Committee and then at the upcoming Special Meeting.

Manager's Report

The State Ethics Board gave advice to Karen Tewhey, Harbor Homes Director, and their recommended language has been incorporated into her Harbor Homes contract. **Leon changed his abstention from the prior meeting's vote on her contract to a yes.** The letter regarding vaccinating Steamship Authority (SSA) crew was sent in collaboration with Nantucket. Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission approved \$125,000 allocation for FY2021 on January 14, 2021. All County appointment applications are due January 31, 2021. Board of Selectmen voted to approve Mark Leonard for the Oak Bluffs Representative to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority and an application from Louise Clough for CVEC Representative was submitted.

Appointment Process

Commissioner Todd suggested meeting with her Vice Chair, Commissioner Cahill, to discuss and determine the appointment process and criteria. They are open to suggestions and will report back with an update at a later time.

Strategic Planning Committee

Commissioner Leopold presented a proposed process and goals for the new Committee. The new name is Action Planning Committee and consists of Commissioners Cahill and Israel. The three-step planning process consists of 1.) gathering input from internal and external sources for a 2-year vision formatted into a discussion and document; 2.) defining vision and priorities in a document; and 3.) developing an action plan with calendar, roles, and a management review process. The next steps are for Commissioner Leopold to hold individual interviews with County Commissioners, Ms. Thornton and Paulo DeOliveira that ask their 2-year vision and person input.

Letter Condemning Events at the Capitol

Commissioner Wharton submitted a draft of a letter condemning the events at the Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. Commissioner Todd mentioned slight grammatical changes. The letter will have a letterhead containing all Commissioner's names and the signature will contain Commissioner Todd's name. **Tristan made a motion to approve the letter with any grammatical changes necessary and send it to local, state, and federal agencies. R. Peter Wharton seconded the motion. So voted. Tristan Israel aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Donald Leopold aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, John Cahill aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.** The final version of the letter will be sent to Ms. Thornton, elected officials, and news outlets.

Old Business

The County Treasurer was excused from this meeting and could not give an update. Mr. Freeman updated the DCC in her place and informed everyone that the Martha's Vineyard Airport Commission (MVAC) approved the Allocation of Overhead Plan. Mr. Freeman reported that for FY2021 \$125,000 was paid out. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has the allocation model for the borrowing process. Their few concerns were answered by Mr. Freeman. The Airport tentatively approved the model pending the FAA's decision to approve. There was some miscommunication and DCC requested to see the model.

New Business

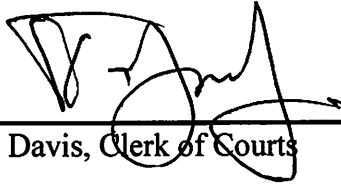
Ms. Thornton reported that the Martha's Vineyard Airport gave her a grant assurances document for a snowblower attachment that needed to be reimbursed. She requested DCC authorization to sign the document. Mr. Freeman added that the request is a reimbursement for a snowblower attachment that came late (last week) due to COVID-19 and was dropped off at the County Building. **Leon Brathwaite made a motion to approve the request. R. Peter Wharton seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Tristan Israel aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, John Cahill aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.**

Public/Press Comments

There were no public or press comments.

R. Peter Wharton made a motion adjourn the meeting. Tristan Israel seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill yes, Tristan Israel yes, R. Peter Wharton aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 9:30 AM.

Certified by:

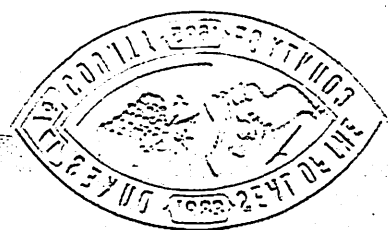


T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts



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

- Meeting Agenda for January 20, 2021
- Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2021
- CVEC Presentation
- DCC FY2020-2021 Detailed Operating Statement – County General Fund
- DCC FY2021 Proposed Budget Amendments
- DC Proposed FY2021 and FY2022 Pay Plans/Scales
- Manager's Report
- Action Committee Presentation
- Letter Condemning Capitol Insurrection
- Grant Reimbursement for Snowblower Attachment



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