

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
4:00 PM
Remote participation only

Dukes County Commissioners present: Christine Todd, Doug Ruskin, Tristan Israel, Juli Vanderhoop, Peter Wharton

Staff: Martina Thornton, Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:01PM

Minutes

Doug/Peter moved to approve minutes of February 21, 2024, DCC meeting. So voted. Doug - yes, Tristan – abstained, Peter - yes, Juli – abstained, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Doug/Tristan moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024 with edits as suggested with Doug. So voted. Peter – yes, Doug – yes, Juli – yes, Tristan – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

The personnel board recommended changes to the Evaluation forms and amendment to the Personnel Bylaws will be placed on the next agenda.

Town Meeting Preparations (talking points – document on file)

Doug presented the suggested talking points for the town meetings for County commissioners that will be representing the County. Due to a decision of County Advisory Board, there will be a need to amend the county supplemental income warrant article down in all the towns except of Edgartown, where it needs to be amended up. Discussion followed. Commissioners asked for Sarah Kuh to be in Oak Bluffs along with Christine Todd. The representation will be as follows: Aquinnah – Juli and Martina, Chilmark – Martina (we need residents to make the motion and second), Edgartown – Martina, Paulo is not sure, and we need someone else to second the amendment up, Tisbury – Martina and Tristan, who already talked to John Cahil, West Tisbury – Doug. Martina will share representatives from each organization that will be the key people to answer any questions.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Peter reported that they discussed the use of ARPA funds for budgetary shortfall and feel that since the funds were dedicated to septic upgrades by the Steering Committee and the funds will continue to be directed toward the denitrification wastewater issues. If not all the money is used the County can make further decisions. The Airport is also very interested in receiving some of the funds left. Martina will send an updated report on how much money is at this point allocated towards

the septic systems. Next week's Finance Committee meeting will be canceled as it is the same date as three town meetings.

Land Use Committee – Meeting on April 16th.

Legislative Committee - legislation to allow for someone live in the State Forrest – they are working on support letter to be send to the Committee that it is in and ask MV Commission to also send letter of support. On legislation relative to increasing the amount of funds that the county can keep at the end of the year to 25% Christine asked if the Finance Committee can create an argument that will support his legislative change. Peter also reported that a discussion was held regarding different COLA being calculated for County and MV Commission. Martina followed up with additional questions and had not received an answer from Curt Schroeder yet. She will follow up again.

Communication Committee - Doug reported that they were working on the talking points for the town meetings as shared earlier. They are also working on a couple of other initiatives that are not ready to be released yet.

Manager's Report (document on file)

Cape Light Compact – Tristan offered to represent depending on what day they meet, otherwise the position will be advertised. Martina reported that the nesting season started, and symbolic fencing was installed on State Beach. It is important that as of now dogs are not allowed on the beach. There are several projects under way at the Courthouse, all funded by the State.

Tristan noted that at Eastville Beach the access road is in a bad shape and needs attention prior to the season. Christine offered to reach out to Oak Bluffs DPW director to see if they would do it.

New business - none.

Public Comment & Announcements - none

Calendar: Dukes County Commissioners Meeting 4-17-2024 at 4:00pm HYBRID – in person meeting at the County Administration Building to appoint and witness the swearing in of the new County Treasurer.

Tristan/Doug moved to adjourned at 5:04pm. So voted: Peter - yes, Doug - yes, Tristan - yes, Juli – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

Manager's Report



Town Meeting Talking Points