

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 23, 2024
4:00 PM
Hybrid meeting**

Dukes County Commissioners present in person: Christine Todd, Don Leopold, Peter Wharton, Doug Ruskin

Dukes County Commissioners participating remotely: Randy Milch, Tristan Israel

Staff: Paulo DeOliveira, Juliet Mulinare, Martina Thornton

Others: Steve Zablotny, Norm Werthwein

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:02PM

Minutes 10-16-24

Approving the minutes was tabled to next week's regular meeting

FY26 Budget Draft – proposed budget and budget memo are on file

A balanced budget was presented. To balance the budget the Finance Committee proposed to increase the county assessment by 2.5% increase and by the anticipated increase in expenses as allowed by MGL. A request to that effect was sent to DOR for approval. Also used to balance the budget is the interest income from the ARPA funds.

The largest increases in expenses are for personnel (4.65% cost of living adjustment – based on median adjustment given to the town employees in the prior year along with a 3% step increases. The general liability insurance premiums will not be known until June (budgeted 15% increase). Health insurance premium will available and the end of January or beginning of February. The retirement appropriation alone went up significantly compared to FY2025. There have been some formatting changes made to the budget spreadsheet. It does not show the full retiree life and health amount for the county and allocations for retirees are included in the individual departments where the retirees were working.

Revenue from the Registry of Deeds is projected to stay the same as in FY2025.

Martina also review budgets for three funds/programs that employ county employees but are not part of the general county budget: Health Care Access, Public Benefits Access & Parking Clerk. These funds have separate revenue sources, including grants and contracts for services. Health Care Access and Public Benefits Access will be requesting funding from the towns.

Next DCC Meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2024 at 4pm at which meeting the FY2026 county budget will be approved.

Doug/Peter moved to adjourned at 5:15pm. So voted Peter- yes, Tristan- yes, Randy – yes, Don- yes, Doug, yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

