

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 2025**  
**4:00 PM**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

Dukes County Commissioners: Christine Todd, Randy Milch, Doug Ruskin, Don Leopold, Juli Vanderhoop, Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel

County staff: Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira, Martina Thornton

Other: Norm Werthwein

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

**Minutes from 10-1-2025**

**Peter/Randy moved to approve the minutes from 10-1-2025. Randy - yes, Doug-abstain, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Juli- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.**

**FY27 Budget** – Detailed spreadsheets on file

The Finance Committee agrees with the newly designed budget presentation and FY2027 budget request and recommends that the Commissioners approve it on the following four points:

1. The Substance of the budget.
2. The Design of the presentation.
3. The Separation of the Veterans Budget.
4. Asking that the County tax is derived from expenses- revenue – Surplus in excess of 10% of county tax, per MGL 35 Section 30.

The Veterans department has been separated from the general county budget, and it is recommended that it be assessed to the towns in accordance with Chapter 128 of the Acts of 1982. The Finance Committee would like to go to the Department of Revenue to ask that the county tax be calculated as above, as well as asking to separate the Veterans department budget from the calculation of county tax.

- 1. Peter/Randy moved to approve the substance of the FY27 budget as presented, with the understanding that County manager and County treasurer will refine the numbers as they come in. Randy - yes, Doug-yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Juli- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.**
- 2. Peter/Tristan moved to separate the Veterans Services department FY27 budget as presented. Randy - yes, Doug-yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Juli- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.**
- 3. Peter/Randy moved to approve the design of the FY27 budget presentation. Randy - yes, Doug-yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Juli- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.**

4. Peter/Doug moved that the County tax calculation be consistent with MGL 35 Section 30. Randy - yes, Doug-yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Juli- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

**Committee Updates:**

Finance Committee – The committee will meet on October 28<sup>th</sup> to review warrant articles and the county regional program budgets.

Land Use Committee – The next meeting will be 11-4-2025. Finance committee approved funds to go forward with replacing the Administration Building steps & ramp, and funds for the necessary repairs at 29 Breakdown Lane.

Legislative Committee – Tristan and Christine meet to create a spreadsheet of all legislation currently in the works.

Martina mentioned a study of the Register of Deeds: H.3971 (HD3866), "An Act directing a study on the feasibility of placing registries of deeds for county governments that have not been abolished under the oversight of the Secretary of the Commonwealth." Paulo informed the DCC that he is planning to submit a written testimonial in support of this study.

Christine would like to appoint Don to chair the Nominating Committee. Tristan has agreed to join the committee. They are looking for a third person to join the committee.

**Manager's Report** – on file

Doug/Randy move to spend \$30K from the Capital Improvement Fund 630 for 29 Breakdown Ln. roof, gutter, and siding repairs and maintenance as recommended by the Finance Committee. So moved. Randy - yes, Peter- yes, Doug-yes, Tristan- yes, Don- yes, Juli - yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

Randy/Peter to approve up to \$50K from the Capital Improvement Fund 650 for new stairs and handicap ramp at the County Administration Building as recommended by the Finance Committee. So moved. Randy - yes, Peter- yes, Doug-no, Tristan- yes, Don- abstain, Juli - yes, Christine- abstain. Motion carries.

Peter/Don move to adjourn the meeting. Randy - yes, Peter- yes, Doug-yes, Tristan- yes, Don- yes, Juli - yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries. The meeting ended at 5:22pm.

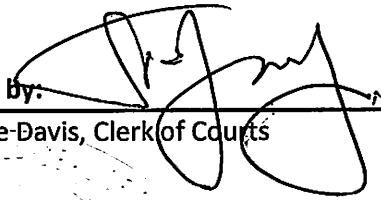
**Calendar**

- Next commissioners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- The next County Advisory Board meeting will be October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in person admin building.
- **Island-wide Emergency Management Planning** November 6<sup>th</sup> to conduct a review of existing plans and a gap analysis.

Certified by:

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. George Davis', is written over the horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.