

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**  
**4:00 PM**  
**Remote Meeting**

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

County staff: Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira, Martina Thornton

Other:

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

**Minutes from 12-3-25**

Randy/Peter moved to approve the minutes from 12-3-2025. Doug- abstain, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan-yes, Christine -abstain. Motion carries.

**Grant from DPH for additional \$15000**

Doug/Randy moved to accept the grant from DHP- \$15000 for additional staff coverage for open enrollment. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

**Inter-island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Intermunicipal Agreement (on file)**

Martina would like to be authorized to sign the presented agreement on behalf of Dukes county. The final version might be slightly amended depending on the final town's legal counsel review.

Randy/Peter moved to approve for the County Manager to sign the Inter-island Public Health Excellence Collaborative Intermunicipal Agreement substantially in the form as proposed. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Don-yes, Peter- yes, Tristan-yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

**2027 Meeting Calendar- on file**

Commissioners agree with the calendar meeting schedule as proposed.

**Budget Amendments FY27**

Juliet & Martina worked and updated the numbers and there will be an increase in the Veterans Department budget by \$4,864.42 and decreasing Health and Human Services Department by \$32,347.31

Doug noted that he would like more lead time to be able to review the request in detail.

Randy/Peter moved to approve the budget amendments as presented and to submit the financial requests to the towns with these updated numbers and to submit the place holder warrant articles for supplemental income to the rest of the towns. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Don-yes, Peter- yes, Tristan- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

**Committee Updates:**

Nominating Committee- Application are due Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. The committee will meet after that to review all positions. Randy suggested lowering the number of members on the Health Council.

Land Use Committee- Meeting will be in person tomorrow.

Communication Committee- It was decided that the focus on next year's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been set aside. Doug presented the first go of the new website.

Finance Committee- At the last meeting the warrant articles and place holders were discussed. It was decided to probably use the interest from the ARPA fund to cover a supplemental income request, if required. To be finalized after the budget is fully updated to reflect anticipated changes.

**Manager's Report** – on file

Martina asked the board to endorse two proposed legislations relative to increase of hunting. Both bills would help the Vineyard in reducing the deer population, which in turn helps reduce the tick population that became a public health emergency in the past couple of years. The bills are to:

- Expand Crossbow Authorization - Senate Bill S595 - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S595>
- Reduce Setbacks - Senate Bill S498 - <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD65>

Martina will get more information and the commissioners will review the request in January.

**Doug/Randy moves to adjourn the meeting. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Tristan- yes, Don-yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.**

The meeting ended at 5:28pm.

**Calendar**

- The next county commissioners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**Certified by:**

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

