

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

October 14, 2021

A regular meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the County of Plymouth Administration Building, 44 Obery Street, Plymouth, MA. Present were Chairman Sandra M. Wright, and Commissioner Jared L. Valanzola. Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley was unable to attend due to a last minute conflict.

Also, in attendance were Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch, Register of Deeds John Buckley, 4-H Director Molly Vollmer, Entomologist Blake Dinius, County Administrator Frank Basler, and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Chairman Wright called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Wright requested the agenda be taken out of order to accommodate Lea Filson, President of See Plymouth to allow her to give a tourism program update. The board concurred.

See Plymouth-tourism program update

Lea Filson, President of See Plymouth gave a power point presentation to the board providing an update on the most recent tourism programs and up to date information on all the Town of Plymouth and Plymouth County has to share with visitors. A tremendous amount of outreach is ongoing with advertising, digital and print media. Ms. Filson happily reports the statistics show tourism numbers have increased since the pandemic closed most venues last year and is thankful for the support of the Plymouth County Commissioners with their annual contribution. Ms. Filson invited the board to the next Legislative Breakfast to be held November 5, 2021, at Hotel 1620.

Vote Meeting Minutes: September 28, 2021

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 28, 2021. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms:

Joan Barove – anniversary step increase to 9-2; Ligia Fernandes – anniversary step increase to 2-2; Michele McVicar – anniversary step increase to 18-6; Irlanda Monteiro – anniversary step increase to 2-3; Edmund Toomey – anniversary step increase to 11-2; Meghan Riley – new hire as Agricultural Extension Educator 20-1; Kevin Will – emergency hire temporary full time Custodian 2-1; Lidiane Afonso – temporary employee to new full time hire as Custodian 2-1; Michael Wholey – one day suspension.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to accept and approve the personnel status form listed. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Sick Leave Buy Back–Maureen Young

Chairman Wright requested this agenda item be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner Valanzola concurred.

Vote to accept and approve vendor vouchers

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve vendor vouchers as recommended by the Treasurer. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve payroll vouchers

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the payroll vouchers as recommended by the Treasurer. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

CARES Act: update and distribution votes

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$229,784.17 to the Town of Abington. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$42,881.95 to the Town of Bridgewater. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$23,913.21 to the Town of Bridgewater. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$6,480.86 to the Town of Carver. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$17,306.06 to the Town of Duxbury. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$7,056.00 to the Town of East Bridgewater. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$199,970.96 to the Town of Hanson. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$12,067.82 to the Town of Kingston. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$10,220.99 to the Town of Kingston. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$23,438.97 to the Town of Lakeville. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$12,778.49 to the Town of Marion. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$9,523.91 to the Town of Rockland. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$341,412.24 to the Town of Whitman. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$22,350.00 to the Town of Whitman. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$36,648.75 to Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA for Administrative Support. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$390.00 to Attorney Shannon D. Resnick for Legal Support. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)–update and vote to authorize ARPA key contacts

Treasurer O'Brien reports the ARPA website is live, and all Town Managers, Administrators and Finance Directors have been instructed on the application submittal process. The new website is www.plymouthcountyarpa.com. Treasurer O'Brien received a request from Dukes County to join the partnership of Plymouth, Bristol, and Norfolk Counties but unfortunately the team is unable to accommodate any additional county members. Treasurer O'Brien will continue to help Dukes County with advice and suggestions when possible.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion for the County of Plymouth, FID#04 60001430, DUNS# 076573740, and CAGE 50F32 to authorize and designate as American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") contact the following representatives:

- Authorized Representative: Francis Basler, County Administrator, fbasler@plymouthcountyma.gov
- Authorized Reporter/Preparer: Jeffrey Welch, Deputy Treasurer, jwelch@plymouthcountyma.gov

Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Liberty Chevrolet 2022 Model Year price increase request

Administrator Basler briefed the board on the request of Liberty Chevrolet on contract price increases for the 2022 Model Year vehicles offered on the Plymouth County Municipal Vehicle Bid. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and microchip shortage, General Motors has limited production and raised bid assistance pricing for municipal customers. Also, recent spikes in steel and aluminum as impacted costs as well.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve an increase in contract pricing for the Cooperative Bid for Public Service Vehicles manufactured by the CHEVROLET MOTOR COMPANY and accessories and equipment as listed in the Invitation for Bid–Chevrolet #20–24 to Liberty Chevrolet, Inc. 90 Bay State Road, Wakefield, MA for the period of February 1, 2021, to January 31, 2022. The base price, equipment prices, and package price increases per attached documentation. The requested increases are allowable under the terms of the Bid Specifications. Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–MHQ/Fisher Plow price increase request

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve an increase in contract pricing for the Cooperative Bid for Public Service Vehicles manufactured by the FORD MOTOR COMPANY and accessories and equipment as listed in the Invitation for Bid–Ford #20–24 to MHQ, Inc.

401 Elm Street, Marlborough MA for the period of February 1, 2021, to January 31, 2022. The price increases per attached documentation. The requested increases are allowable under the terms of the Bid Specifications.

Fisher Plows & Equipment-18% increase

Chairman Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Extension Director's Report and update from Blake Dinius, Entomologist

4-H Extension Director Molly Vollmer thanked Administrator Basler and Chairman Wright for their assistance with the interview process for the Agricultural Extension Educator.

County Entomologist Blake Dinius briefed the board on the many programs he is conducting with the Plymouth County Schools, Councils on Aging, Harvard University and Cornell. Administrator Basler read a Letter of Accommodation signed by the Commissioners for Blake to be placed in his employee record. Chairman Wright, Commissioner Valanzola and Administrator Basler are extremely impressed with Blakes professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication to all the programs.

Register's Report

Register Buckley reports the deeds excise numbers are still strong with September coming in over August. Housing sales and re-financing of mortgages continue to increase with inventory remaining low.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer O'Brien proudly reports the Plymouth County Retirement Association remains a top performer for CY 2020. Treasurer O'Brien expressed his sincere appreciation for all the hard work and perseverance Administrator Basler has been putting in on the project of moving the Retirement Board offices and happily reports the office move will take place in November.

The Treasurer also reported the Town of Bridgewater is in the process of joining the PCOT program and the City of Brockton has officially joined. The Treasurer expressed his thanks to Chairman Wright for her help and hard work helping the Town of Bridgewater make that important decision.

Treasurer O'Brien distributed an update on Bill S.2539-An Act authorizing the County of Plymouth to issue Pension Obligation Bonds or Notes. Senator Patrick O'Connor has presented the bill and there is a hearing scheduled for October 19th.

Maintenance/Administrator's Report

Administrator Basler reports the replacement boilers have been delivered and are currently being installed at the Hingham District Courthouse. The procurement and purchasing process is currently underway for the replacement Chillers. The Administrator has been in contact with the insurance adjustors and engineers on the project.

Administrator Basler has just completed a 3-day procurement class and is currently researching recent changes to the COVID-19 laws concerning sick leave pay.

The Commissioner's were presented with Citations for Fire Chief Jeffrey Blanchard and Police Chief Walter Sweeney of Hanover on their upcoming retirement from the Town of Hanover.

Under Commissioner's New Business, Treasurer O'Brien requested the meeting schedule for the next few months be discussed due to holidays and the necessity for CARES Act approvals before the expiration date of the program December 31, 2021.

The Commissioner's concurred their next regular meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

The remaining tentative meeting schedule will be:

Monday, November 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, November 22, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, December 31, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. If needed for final CARES Act approvals.

At 6:50 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Documents and/or exhibits:

- Draft Meeting Minutes September 28, 2021
- Vote-ARPA Key Contacts
- Vote-Vehicle Bid-Liberty Chevrolet price increases
- Vote-Vehicle Bid-MHQ Ford-Fisher Plow price increase
- Documents-Bill S.2539 Pension Obligation Bond
- Article SouthCoast Today/The Standard Times-Bristol County joins three counties to administer \$389 million in federal ARPA funds

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant