

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

May 26, 2022

A regular meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 3:00 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 scheduling conflict.

Also, in attendance were Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Assistant Register of Deeds Timothy White, 4-H Director Molly Vollmer, County Administrator Frank Basler, and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Chairman Wright called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vote Meeting Minutes: May 12, 2022

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 12, 2022. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Form:

Cody Jones-Termination.

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve vendor vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve payroll vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Wright requested the agenda be taken out of order to allow the Treasurer to give an update on CARES Act and distribution votes

CARES Act: update and distribution votes

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$81,313.61 to the Town of Bridgewater. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$604,391.16 to the Town of Bridgewater. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$175,118.84 to the City of Brockton. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$242,324.94 to the Town of Carver. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$261,368.88 to the Town of Hingham. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$174,331.50 to the Town of Marion. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$14,900.00 to the Town of Marion. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$440,685.76 to the Town of Norwell. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$495,504.48 to the Town of Norwell. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$114,603.21 to the Town of Norwell. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$64,457.49 to the Town of Scituate. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$100,962.24 to the Town of West Bridgewater. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$86,498.89 to the Town of West Bridgewater. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$9,168.00 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$39,198.49 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$15,124.49 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$30,368.81 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$7,683.73 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$7,032.82 to the Town of Whitman. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve payment the amount of \$30,812.08 to Eric A. Kinsherf, CPA for Administrative Support. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) update and votes

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$2,250,000.00 to the Town of Plymouth for the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrades at the Plymouth Municipal Airport. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve payment the amount of \$19,167.00 to Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, PC for Administrative Support. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and vote: FY 2023 County Revenues and Budget Expenses

Treasurer O'Brien presented the FY 2023 proposed revenue figures and budget expenses. Treasurer O'Brien, Administrator Basler, Register Buckley, and Chair Wright, met in March to develop the draft budget. The Commissioner's Office, 4-H/Extension Services Department, the Registry of Deeds, and the Treasurer's Office each cut 10% from their original requested operational expenses to narrow a budget gap. Unfortunately, the Budget is still in deficit by \$209,875.58.

Assistant Register of Deeds Tim White addressed the board with a proposal to increase the Register of Deeds salary by \$15,000. After some discussion, Chair Wright and Commissioner Valanzola denied the request for an increase more than the 2% COLA that was proposed to all employees.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to have Administrator Basler submit a letter to Register Buckley denying the request. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer O'Brien and Administrator Basler will move forward with discussions and ideas on changes to the budget to increase revenues and reduce spending to finalize a draft for the Advisory Board meeting June 9th.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to allow Chair Wright to review the draft to allow a final vote at the June 9th Commissioner's meeting. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Chapter 64D, Deeds Excise Funds-County 60%

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the amount of One Million, Four Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars and no cents (**\$1,440,000.00**) representing the **County's 60%** of the 10.625% of Deeds Excise Tax Revenue, which will be generated according to Chapter 64D, as shown in the total income figure for the operation of the County of Plymouth for fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Chapter 64D, Deeds Excise Funds–Registry of Deeds 40%

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the amount of Nine Hundred, Sixty Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$960,000.00) representing the **Registry of Deeds' 40%** of the 10.625% of Deeds Excise Tax Revenue, which will be generated according to Chapter 64D, as shown in the total income figure for the operation of the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds for fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer O'Brien gave a brief update on the status of the bill on the Deeds Excise increase. The State has requested additional figures to quantify the increase. The increase would be 6 million more for Plymouth County with a total of 24 million for all six counties.

–Cyber Security Training/BSU

Treasurer O'Brien presented a request for a vote to authorize Administrator Basler to sign an ARPA fund submission for \$150,000 for Cyber–security training to be administered through Bridgewater State University. Commissioner Valanzola made the motion and Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Extension Director's Report

4-H Director Molly Vollmer briefed the board on ongoing programs 4-H Educator Cathy Acampora is conducting with dog safety and plant sciences. Blake Dinius continues to be very busy with tick and insect programs. The Plymouth North and South High Schools have been involved with installing beds at the greenhouse.

Register's Report

Assistant Register White reports the deeds excise numbers are continuing to be active. Mortgages are down with foreclosures increasing.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Basler reports the temporary chiller has been installed at the Hingham District Courthouse.

Security cameras have all been installed at each courthouse. Training will be conducted next week.

Demolition projects update–The demolition and environmental clean up will be taking place soon and both buildings will be removed for \$100,000.

Gun Range Solicitation–The RFP for the Gun Range will be issued in June.

CPCWDC Dredge RFP–One submittal was received on the May 24th due date for a custom-made freshwater dredge.

Plymouth County Retirement Board Real Estate disposition–An RFP was issued to dispose of the warehouse building at the Retirement Board’s offices.

The Plymouth County Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. with the Executive Board meeting at 6:15 p.m. The Commissioners will have their meeting begin at 4:30 p.m. to allow time for budget discussion and votes.

Executive Session

In Accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3; to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, the County Woodlot, Plymouth, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body. The Board voted to enter Executive Session and to not return to open public session at 4:40 p.m.

Chair Wright called the roll: Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chair Wright–Yes.

At 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Valanzola made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Documents and/or exhibits:

- Draft Meeting Minutes–May 12, 2022
- Draft FY 2023 Budget and Revenue
- Vote–Chapter 64D–County 60%
- Vote–Chapter 64D–Registry of Deeds 40%
- Scenario 1–4.6 Pension Liability vs. Revenues
- Article–“The States that could be headed for a Fiscal Cliff”
- Woodlot Public Hearing Q & A with email reply to Attorney Serkey

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant