

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

October 13, 2022

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 Chair Sandra M. Wright, Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley, and Commissioner Jared L. Valanzola. Also, in attendance were Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch, Register of Deeds John Buckley, 4-H Director Molly Lipper, Superintendent of Buildings Doug Wedge, County Administrator Frank Basler, and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Chair Wright called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Wright requested the agenda be taken out of order.

Great Barrington addition to Parking Program

Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch presented an inter-municipal agreement between the Plymouth County Parking Program and the Town of Great Barrington for the Commissioners signatures. The Commissioners approved and signed the document. With the addition of Great Barrington, 37 governmental entities are utilizing the County parking program. Mr. Welch reports a 37% increase in fees for the member towns.

Extension Director's Report

4-H Director Molly Lipper reports the recent addition to the staff of Cheryl Mehan as part-time administrative assistant. 4-H Annual Awards night will be held Friday, November 4, 2022. The Commissioners will be receiving formal invitations soon.

Lisa Spencer-SSCAC

Lisa Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of the South Shore Community Action Council presented an annual report to the board with respect to the various programs SSCAC provides to Plymouth County residents. The County funds have contributed to the Backpack Food 4 Kids program as well as the Income Tax Assistance Program.

Vote Meeting Minutes: September 16, 2022

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the meeting minutes September 16, 2022. Chair Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Doug Wedge briefed the board on the current projects underway to replace lighting and ceiling tiles in the courthouses. The Judges and courthouse staff are very happy, and these changes have resulted in major savings to the county through rebates from National Grid.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms:

Joan Barove-anniversary step increase to 9-3; Michele McVicar-anniversary step increase to 18-7; Meghan Riley-anniversary step increase to 20-2; Cheryl Mechan-new hire Ext. Services Admin. Asst. PT 9-1; Kelly Morse Perez-extended absence approval; Thomas Jones-retirement (30 years at the County); Ronald Butterworth-termination; John Moran-termination temporary employee; Alfred Jones-appointed permanent FT Asst. Building Custodian 3-1.

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to accept and approve the personnel status forms listed. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve vendor vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve payroll vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hanley update on County Donegal outreach

Commissioner Hanley briefed the board on his recent trip to Ireland as a guest of Ambassador Claire Cronin. Commissioner Hanley feels there are many economic development opportunities for each county and would like to foster cross-cultural ties with County Donegal. Ambassador Cronin and her colleagues will be visiting Plymouth County November 16, 2022, and Commissioner Hanley proposes a tour of the historic records at the Registry of Deeds and a reception at Plimoth Patuxet with the Massachusetts County Commissioners Association. The board agreed to present a county flag as well as a citation to the Ambassador and her colleagues at the reception.

Vote to accept the FY 20 Single Audit

Treasurer O'Brien requested the acceptance of the FY 20 Single Audit be tabled to the next meeting.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) update and votes

Treasurer O'Brien reports there are currently 4-5 submitted applications in process.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$312,779.58 to the Town of East Bridgewater as relief for negative economic impacts and support of the Public Health Response. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$726,508.00 to the Town of Norwell as relief for negative economic impacts and support of the Public Health Response. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$3,942.50 for Administrative Support to Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLP. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$185.40 for Administrative Support to Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Register's Report

Register Buckley reports total recordings and re-financing are continuing to trend way down. Foreclosure notices are beginning to increase.

Acceptance and approval of the FY 2022 JAG Byrne Grant

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion for Plymouth County to accept and administer the 2022 DOJ JAG Byrne Grant for the sum of \$127,690 with an allocation to the City of Brockton for \$73,551, the Town of Middleborough \$10,167, the Town of Plymouth \$18,865, the Town of Wareham \$12,518, and administrative costs of \$12,769 to the County. Furthermore, to authorize the Treasurer and Administrator to complete the grant award process and distribute the funds. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hanley gave kudos to Administrator Basler for his hard work in administering the grants for the Towns of Plymouth, Middleborough, and Wareham as well as the City of Brockton. Mr. Basler will invite the Police Chiefs to the next Commissioners meeting to present FY 19 grant checks.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer O'Brien reports as of September 30, 2022, all CARES Act funds have been disbursed. Plymouth County is currently the only County to have turned back zero funds to the Federal Government.

MMHG will be holding a meeting Wednesday, October 19th to approve a 1.1% increase to Medex II and will be introducing a new Medicare Advantage Program.

Administrator's Report

-Hingham District Court Chiller Procurement

Administrator Basler gave an update on the DCAMM emergency procurement conducted to replace the chiller at the Hingham District Courthouse due to the flood. Commercial Boiler submitted the lowest bid of \$247,500.00. Insurance proceeds cover a portion of the cost of the replacement and the county will be responsible for the remaining balance.

-Gun Range Questionnaire

Mr. Basler reports questionnaires were emailed to all Plymouth County Police Chiefs for input on the gun range. Responses are being tabulated for the feasibility study.

-CPCWDC update: new commissioner search and funding

Mr. Basler gave an update on the recent addition of CPCWDC Commissioner Laura Biechler of Brockton to replace Commissioner Joanne Zygmunt. Sadly, Commissioner Mark Sotir has also moved from the district and is no longer able to serve as a Commissioner on the CPCWDC Board. Senator Michael Brady has secured \$50,000.00 in state funding for the commission.

-50 Obery Street Rent RFP for former Old Republic space

Mr. Basler reports the RFP for renting the available space at the Registry of Deeds in Plymouth will be administered at the end of next week.

-Dredge update and vote Mattapoisett project

Administrator Basler happily reports the Town of Mattapoisett has finally received permits to move ahead with their project and will be using the County Dredge over the next few months. Mattapoisett is the first Plymouth County community to utilize the Dredge. Various towns within Barnstable County have been using the Dredge for projects over the past few years.

-Plymouth County Retirement Association procurement

The Plymouth County Retirement Association has requested another RFP be issued to dispose of the adjacent warehouse space to their new offices.

-Onset Fire District project

The Onset Fire District has requested procurement assistance from the County to dispose of property of the old Fire Station to make room for parking etc.

-Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Commissioner's next meeting will be held Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. with the Advisory Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. via zoom for budget transfers.

Commissioners New Business

Commissioner Valanzola gave an update on a tour he and Treasurer O'Brien received at the new Champions High School in Brockton. The school is very impressive and has many offerings for the youth of the City of Brockton.

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to conduct a survey for the Plymouth County member communities for interest in the purchasing of Plymouth County flags. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:20 p.m. Commissioner Valanzola made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Documents and/or Exhibits:

- Draft Meeting Minutes–September 16, 2022
- Votes and warrants CARES Act
- Votes and warrants ARPA
- South Shore Community Action Council Reports

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant