

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

April 8, 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 Gregory M. Hanley, Commissioner Sandra M. Wright, and Commissioner Jared L. Valanzola.

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

Chairman Hanley called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vote Meeting Minutes- March 18, 2021

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 18, 2021. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms

Richard Connolly-anniversary step increase to JG 13-5; Peter Burke-fill existing vacancy-Data Entry Manager-Parking Dept.

Commissioner Wright 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 Wright 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 voucher

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

CARES Act: update and possible distribution votes

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$859,814.43 to the Town of Plymouth. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$113,132.25 to the Town of Rochester. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$432,930.86 to the Town of Wareham. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve a voucher in the amount of \$2,687.10 to Shannon D. Resnick, PC for Legal Support. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve a voucher in the amount of \$1,943.00 to Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP for Administrative Support. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer O'Brien stated 150 applications have been currently approved and approximately 150 additional applications have been received since March 31, 2021. The Town of Rockland has submitted the most applications with 46.

Financial update

Treasurer O'Brien briefed the board on a financial update of "Scenario 4" and the status of pension liability vs. revenues for the county. The current projection for FY 2029 shows a deficit of \$7,103,289. Treasurer O'Brien reports although the deeds excise revenues have increased this year, the past few years revenues have come in lower than expected. He advises the Commissioners continue to be fiscally responsible with spending.

Update on Bridgewater land use

Treasurer O'Brien gave an update on the negotiations with the State Fire Marshall on the use of county land in Bridgewater. A lease fee of \$10,500 annually has been proposed for use of approximately 3 acres of land.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the fee offer of \$10,500 per year to the State Fire Marshall for the lease of land located in Bridgewater, MA. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Zoom camera equipment update

Administrator Basler presented pricing on a digital camera system to be used for Zoom meetings and public broadcast of the Commissioner's Meetings.

Commissioner Valanzola had presented another wireless live streaming camera at the last Commissioner's meeting. Chairman Hanley stated his support for the purchase of either camera and feels the cost would be approved for reimbursement through the CARES Act funds. After much discussion regarding the "need" or "want" of the camera, Commissioner

Valanzola made a motion to table the discussion of purchasing the camera for 6 months. There was no second to the motion. Commissioner Valanzola amended the previous motion to table discussion for 3 months. Commissioner Wright seconded. Vote: Chairman Hanley-No. Commissioner Wright-Yes. Commissioner Valanzola-Yes.

Approval of the Surety Bond for the Treasurer

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion the County Commissioners of the County of Plymouth, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 35, Section 3, hereby certify that the Bond of Thomas J. O'Brien, as County Treasurer, with Western Surety Company, as Surety, in the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), a copy of which is hereto annexed, is on file in the Office of the County Commissioners, at Plymouth, in said County. Witness our hands and the seal of said County of Plymouth this Eighth day of April 2021. Commissioner Wright seconded. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Register's Report

Register Buckley reports deeds excise revenue figures for the months of January, February and March have increased by 36% due to the large amount of re-financing.

Treasurer's Report

GASB 74 & 75 report

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to authorize the Chairman and Treasurer to sign a contract agreement with Sherman Actuaries for a fee of \$7,000 for FY 2020 and \$1,500 for FY 2021 to prepare the GASB 74 & 75 required reports. Commissioner Wright seconded. Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

The auditing firm of Melanson Heath is currently conducting field work for the FY 2020 audit.

4-H Extension Director's Report

Director Molly Vollmer briefed the Commissioners on research currently being done on the options for the AARPA funded educational programs. Programs are starting again with in-school programs and the Marshfield Fair as well as summer camps are still pending for this year.

Molly expressed her thanks to Administrator Basler and Chairman Hanley for the work with obtaining the variances for the bathroom in the greenhouse.

Administrator's report

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on maintenance reports for all buildings with respect to cleaning and projects. Power installation at the greenhouse will be finalized soon. Effective April 15th, 3 custodial employees will be transferred to new buildings as part of the ongoing need for cross-training.

The dredge is currently in use by the Towns of Bourne and Falmouth and informational packets will be distributed to all Harbormasters in attempts to increase interest with the coastal communities in Plymouth County.

Administrator Basler reports the county wood lot gravel removal project has been completed and Brad Cushing of Kingstown Corp. is currently regrading the site, and fertilization and seeding will begin soon. Unfortunately, the site is currently being accessed illegally by dirt bike riders and the local police department is unable to access the site to monitor the activity.

The Trial Court Rent Audits for FY 2020 are currently being done. The request for pre-retirement and pre-funded OPEB payments have been rejected and appeals are outstanding for FY 18 and FY 19. Legal avenues are currently being pursued.

Commissioner's New Business

Commissioner Valanzola shared a thank you note received by the Town of Marion for their appreciation to the county for the CARES Act funding presented recently. Chairman Hanley expressed thanks to Treasurer O'Brien for organizing the check presentations for the Commissioners.

Chairman Hanley requested a letter and citation be prepared for the Commissioner's signatures for Rockland Selectman and Plymouth County Advisory Board Executive Board member Michael Mullen. Selectman Mullen will not be seeking re-election to the Rockland Board of Selectman.

Commissioner Valanzola briefed the board on the Rail Trail application in process with the Town of Hanover and reports he will be serving on a board for the Regional Visitor's Center in Scituate.

Commissioner Valanzola gave an update on the internship program between the county and Bridgewater State University. 4-H Director Molly Vollmer has submitted a request for her department and Commissioner Valanzola encourages the other department heads to submit requests as well. Chairman Hanley expressed his thanks to Commissioner Valanzola for organizing this program.

Commissioner Wright briefed the board on recent conversations held with various Plymouth County Police Chief's regarding the gun range. Many of the Chief's are supportive but are hesitant to show public support. Administrator Basler reports the City of Quincy is currently constructing a new public safety building with a gun range. Chairman Hanley offered to obtain the building specs. The next step will be to get cost estimates for construction.

Commissioner Wright requested information on the communication towers in Hanson and Plymouth located on county land. Administrator Basler explained the county currently has a lease with Verizon for both towers.

Executive Session

In Accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3; to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for union negotiations with OPEIU Registry union, SEIU Clerical and Maintenance union and non-union employee benefits. To discuss strategy with respect to MA Office of the Trial Court annual rent remedies and legal action. The Board voted to enter Executive Session and to return to open public session at 7:16 p.m.

Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright-Yes. Commissioner Valanzola-Yes. Chairman Hanley-Yes.

At 8:05 p.m. the meeting was called back to open session. Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright-Yes. Commissioner Valanzola-Yes. Chairman Hanley-Yes.

SEIU Clerical Union vote on proposed contract

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the proposed SEIU Clerical contract as amended. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:07 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Documents and/or exhibits

- Meeting Minutes-March 18, 2021
- Vote-Approval of Surety Bond-Treasurer Thomas O'Brien
- Documentation-Pension Liability vs. Revenues Scenario 4
- Town of Marion thank you note
- MOU-SEIU PC Admin Memorandum of Agreement

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant