

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

April 29, 2021

A regular meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 5:35 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, County Administrator Frank Basler, 4-H Director Molly Vollmer, and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Chairman Hanley called for a moment of silence in memory of former Norfolk County Commissioner Francis W. O'Brien.

Chairman Hanley called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vote Meeting Minutes– April 8, 2021

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 8, 2021.

Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms

Christopher Kelly–anniversary step increase to JG 4–7.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to accept and approve the personnel status form 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 Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$332,761.63 to the Town of Bridgewater. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$364,440.97 to the Town of Bridgewater. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$182,079.88 to the Town of Carver. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$241,377.89 to the Town of Halifax. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$44,004.84 to the Town of Halifax. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$264,396.02 to the Town of Halifax. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$7,397.50 to the Town of Hanson. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$701,123.47 to the Town of Hingham. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$210,519.59 to the Town of Hingham. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$10,870.79 to the Town of Hull. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$3,500.00 to the Town of Hull. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$18,347.61 to the Town of Hull. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$24,931.78 to the Town of Hull. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$200,920.19 to the Town of Kingston. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$81,989.48 to the Town of Kingston. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$51,204.38 to the Town of Lakeville. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$61,975.90 to the Town of Lakeville. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$288,440.80 to the Town of Marion. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$958,478.75 to the Town of Marshfield. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$119,694.67 to the Town of Middleborough. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$155,103.87 to the Town of Norwell. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$315,774.06 to the Town of Pembroke. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$52,750.40 to the Town of Pembroke. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$10,941.14 to the Town of Plympton. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$17,343.93 to the Town of Plympton. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$5,325.00 to the Town of Rockland. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$22,449.98 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$51,500.53 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$50,979.46 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$52,132.34 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$110,587.44 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$75,595.82 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$36,295.46 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$262,499.40 to the Town of Scituate. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$103,572.41 to the Town of Whitman. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$42,182.91 to the Town of Whitman. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$64,880.11 to the Town of Whitman. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer O'Brien stated the total amount disbursed today of \$5,598,370.40 brings the total CARES Act disbursements to over \$34 million. The Town of Marshfield is currently at their cap and the Towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Norwell will be at their cap with their current applications submitted.

Vote–Amend Plymouth County Personnel Board Rules & Regulations: Holidays and Personal Leave

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to amend the Plymouth County Personnel Board Rules & Regulations. As of July 1, 2021 the following holidays will be observed as work holidays:

Holidays

The following holidays are observed by Plymouth County:

- New Year's Day (January 1)
- Martin Luther King Day (third Monday in January)
- Washington's Birthday (third Monday in February)
- Patriot's Day (third Monday in April)
- Juneteenth Day (June 19)
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (first Monday in September)
- Columbus Day (second Monday in October)
- Veteran' s Day (November 13)
- Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in November)
- Christmas Day (December 25)

Personal Days

Beginning on July 1, 2021 and on each July 1, full-time employees on the payroll as that date will be credited annually with four paid personal leave days which may be taken during the following twelve months at a time or times requested by the employee and approved by the department head. Full-time employees hired or promoted into the County after July 1st of

each year will be credited with personal leave days in accordance with the following schedule:

Date of Hire

July 1 – Sept. 30	four paid personal days
Oct. 1 – Dec. 31	three paid personal days
Jan. 1 – March 31	two paid personal days
April 1 – June 30	one paid personal day

Any paid personal leave not taken by June 30 will be forfeited by the employee. Personal leave may be used in conjunction with vacation leave. Permanent part-time employees who regularly work half-time or more are entitled to a prorata of the personal days.

Commissioner Wright seconded the motion for discussion. Register Buckley feels this change is unfair to two Registry of Deeds employees that are non-union employees. The non-union employees are losing a personal day and not being compensated. Chairman Hanley requested a legal opinion and requested Administrator Basler research whether the other counties have the same policy. Commissioner Valanzola requested the record reflect that he committed to the SEIU Administrative Union to raise this change in order to keep non-union and union consistent.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to move the question. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

On the main motion of Commissioner Valanzola, seconded by Commissioner Wright to amend the Personnel Board Rules and Regulations as presented.

Vote: Commissioner Valanzola-Yes. Commissioner Wright-Yes. Chairman Hanley-No.

Set Advisory Board meeting date

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to notify the Plymouth County Advisory Board of the Annual Meeting to approve the FY 2022 Budget. The date will be June 3, 2021. A decision will be made closer to the date as to whether the meeting will be in person or via zoom.

Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Register's Report

Register Buckley reports deeds excise revenue figures are still above estimates and the downturn has not started yet.

Treasurer's Report

GASB 74 & 75 report

Treasurer O'Brien reports the GASB 74 & 75 report is complete for FY 2020 and is posted on the county website.

CARES Act Funding

Treasurer O'Brien reports with the Town of Marshfield currently at their cap for CARES Act reimbursements, the Commissioner's may need to extend the cap to allow for vaccine center costs incurred by the town. The Commissioner's will take their support for a cap extension under consideration.

ARPA Federal Funds guidelines are still being developed. Treasurer O'Brien is still in discussions with A & F regarding the bills totaling \$18 million dollars the Commonwealth submitted to the County.

Pension Obligation Bond

Commissioner Wright made a motion to authorize Treasurer O'Brien to enter into an agreement with Stifel Investment Services to present all documentation necessary for a Pension Obligation Bond for Plymouth County to file legislation. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Deeds Excise Legislation

Treasurer O'Brien briefed the board on the status of the bill filed by Norfolk County to increase the county's portion of deeds excise.

4-H Extension Director's Report

Director Molly Vollmer briefed the Commissioners on the great success of the plant science program with over 9000 children participating this year as well as over 3000 in the embryology program. County Entomologist Blake Dinius is conducting Tick Shoe Spray events as well. Molly continues to submit press releases to all available news outlets.

Administrator's report

Maintenance Report

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on maintenance reports for all buildings with respect to ongoing spring cleaning and HVAC.

County cell phones

Commissioner Wright made a motion that the Commissioners, the Register of Deeds, the Treasurer, the Administrator, the Director of Ext. Svc., and the Building Superintendent would be eligible for a \$75 per month taxable stipend to utilize their mobile phones as these team members are often off site and use their mobile phone numbers for County business. The stipend would be in lieu of the use of any county provided cell phone. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Dredge

The dredge is currently in use by the Towns of Harwich and Chatham. Several Plymouth County towns have inquired and are all waiting for permitting to be approved.

44 Obery St. Renovations

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on the upcoming schedule of work planned to replace the carpet and painting at the Commissioner's Administration building.

A request to replace the sign is also in process.

Server update

Administrator Basler reported the server is scheduled to be upgraded tomorrow Friday, April 30th with Retrofit.

Certificates signatures

As previously requested, Citations were presented for signatures for outgoing Plymouth County Advisory Board Chairman Michael Bradley and Plymouth County Advisory Board Executive Board member Michael Mullen. A Citation was also presented for Eagle Scout Owen Golden of Hanson, MA

Commissioner's New Business

Commissioner Valanzola reports the internship program between the county and Bridgewater State University is moving forward and requests have been submitted by Administrator Basler for an engineering student to aid in organizing the "Map Room" on the second floor of the Commissioners building as well as assistance with social media.

Letter-City of New Bedford FTZ Board

Mayor Jon Mitchell notified the Plymouth County Commissioners of their application to the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board for assistance to companies with customs duty savings and economic benefits. The service area proposed would include Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket, Norfolk, and Plymouth Counties. Chairman Hanley asked Administrator Basler to send emails to the surrounding county towns to inform them of the program.

The Commissioner's next meeting will be held Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

At 8:03 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Documents and/or exhibits

- Meeting Minutes-April 8, 2021
- Vote-Personnel Board Rules & Regulations
- Schedule-Renovations 44 Obery Street, Plymouth
- PARS-OPEB quarterly statement
- GASB 74 & 75
- Letter-City of New Bedford FTZ Board

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant