

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

January 4, 2024

A statutory 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 Jared L. Valanzola, Commissioner Sandra M. Wright, and Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley.

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

Annual Reorganization of Board

Per M.G.L. Ch. 34, Section 4, Chair Valanzola called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Commissioner Hanley nominated Commissioner Valanzola as Chair. Commissioner Wright seconded. Ballots were cast and with a 3-0 vote Commissioner Valanzola was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Plymouth County Commissioners.

Appoint MMHG Advisory Committee Member and Alternate

Commissioner Wright made a motion to re-appoint Chair Valanzola to the Mayflower Municipal Group Advisory Committee with County Administrator Frank Basler remaining as the alternate member. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Appoint Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Trustee/Liaison

Chair Valanzola made a motion to re-appoint Commissioner Wright as Trustee/Liaison to the Board of Trustees for the Plymouth County Cooperative Extension. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Appoint Shannon Resnick as County Counsel

Commissioner Wright made a motion to re-appoint Attorney Shannon Resnick as Plymouth County Counsel. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote Meeting Minutes: December 8, 2023, December 13, 2023, and December 21, 2023

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2023, December 13, 2023, and December 21, 2023. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously for the minutes of December 21, 2023. The Minutes of the Meeting held December 8, 2023; Vote: Commissioner Wright-Abstain. Commissioner Hanley-Yes. Chair Valanzola-Yes.

The Minutes of the Meeting held December 13, 2023; Vote: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Hanley–Abstain. Chair Valanzola–Yes.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms:

There were no new CPS forms submitted for approval.

Vote to accept and approve vendor vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve payroll vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman signature–Letter CY 2023 Meeting Minutes for Dept. of Revenue

Administrator Basler presented a letter for the Chairman’s signature to the Department of Revenue to accompany the CY 2023 Meeting Minutes as required per M.G.L. Ch. 34., Section 10.

Vote–Approval of IRS standard mileage rate CY 2024

Commissioner Wright made a motion to increase the mileage allowance to \$.67 cents per mile effective January 1, 2024, per the Internal Revenue Service. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) update and distribution votes

Treasurer O’Brien briefed the board on an upcoming virtual Zoom meeting to be held Monday, January 8, 2023, with all Town Administrators and Town Managers to discuss the Plymouth County ARPA Program closeout planning and upcoming deadlines. The deadline for each community to submit a detailed plan of expected use of remaining funds is March 1, 2024. The guidelines also state the deadline for obligation of funds by December 31, 2024, and the expenditure of funds by December 31, 2026.

Commissioner Hanley requested the consideration of any remaining ARPA funds be allocated to any Plymouth County revenue producing projects. Treasurer O’Brien welcomes any suggestions on revenue producing ARPA projects that meet the federal guidelines.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$45,104.10 to the Town of Carver as relief for and in support of the public health response.

Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$39,895.50 to the Town of Norwell as relief for public sector revenue loss. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$12,826.78 to the Town of Norwell as relief for public sector revenue loss. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$64,800.00 to the Town of Norwell as relief for public sector revenue loss. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve grant disbursement of funds in the amount of \$65,266.50 to the Town of Norwell as relief for public sector revenue loss. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to vote to authorize the County Administrator to submit an ARPA application for up to \$800,000 for the creation of the Plymouth County Model Integrated Health Care Program and for the Administrator and Attorney Resnick to use The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) as a procurement program to work with MASCON Medical Inc to finalize a contract for the program. Chair Valanzola seconded.

Vote: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Hanley–No. Chair Valanzola–Yes.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to vote to authorize the County Administrator to submit an ARPA application for \$122,189.55 for driveway milling and resurfacing of the Plymouth County Administration Building parking lot at 44 Obery Street, Plymouth. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Extension Director's Report

4-H Director Molly Vollmer reports UMass has ended their recent MOA with all 4-H camps. Agricultural Extension Educator Meg Riley will be attending the National Farm Bureau Conference in Utah with 4-H student Hope Healy of Plymouth, a student at the Bristol County Agricultural High School and 4-H student Mariella Santa Lucia of Hanson, will be attending the Ignite Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. Cathy Acampora continues to run successful dog programs around the county.

Register's Report

Register Buckley reports the December receipts for fees are far below estimates and deeds excise numbers are coming in over estimates. Unfortunately, the Real Estate market continues to look dismal.

Register Buckley announced the final payment on the bond for the financing of the construction of the Registry of Deeds at 50 Obery St., Plymouth has been paid.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer O'Brien reviewed the current draft revenue and expense projections report for the month of November. The current deficit is \$645,271.96.

Maintenance Superintendent's Report

Administrator Basler briefed the board on the status of the ongoing upgrades being done at the Clerk's Office at Brockton Superior Courthouse.

Administrator Report

Dredge update in Mattapoisett

Administrator Basler gave an update on the current use of the county dredge in Mattapoisett and will be conducting additional outreach to the Plymouth County Harbor Masters for other possible use of the dredge.

Plymouth Cell Tower lease amendment with Verizon update

Administrator Basler reports the check for the remaining payments is expected in the mail in the next week or two.

Plymouth Cell Tower lease amendment with AT&T update

Administrator Basler reports the AT&T lease amendment transfer is currently awaiting DCAMM approval of the transfer of lease from the Sheriff's Office.

MMA Meeting

After some discussion on the benefits of attendance at the Mass Municipal Association (MMA) Conference this month and the cost associated with overnight accommodations given the current budgetary concerns, Commissioner Wright made a motion to require all overnight accommodations be personally expended and not paid through the County budget. Chair Valanzola seconded.

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

Executive Session

To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property concerning the cell towers at Plymouth and Hanson, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body.

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 6:30 p.m.

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

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Commissioner's next meeting will be held Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:45 p.m. the Board voted to adjourn.

Documents and/or Exhibits:

- Draft Meeting Minutes-December 8, 2023, December 13, 2023, and December 21, 2023
- Vote-Annual Re-organization of Board for Chair and ballots
- Votes and warrants-ARPA distributions
- Memo-ARPA Closeout Plan
- ARPA Projects spreadsheet
- Documentation-Chapter 59 of the Acts of 2001-Bond for Registry of Deeds
- Vote-IRS Mileage Allowance 2024
- FY 2024 Draft Revenue and Expense Projections-November

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant