

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING

September 16, 2021

A regular meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 5:32 p.m. at the County of Plymouth Administration Building, 44 Obery Street, Plymouth, MA. Present were Chairman Gregory M. Hanley, and Commissioner Sandra M. Wright. Commissioner Jared L. Valanzola attended the meeting via Zoom video/telephone teleconference per amended open meeting law requirements.

Also, in attendance were Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch, 4-H Director Molly Vollmer, Superintendent of Buildings Doug Wedge, County Administrator Frank Basler, and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke. Plymouth County Register of Deeds John Buckley and Plymouth County Attorney Shannon Resnick attended the meeting via Zoom video/telephone teleconference.

Chairman Hanley called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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, and SEIU Maintenance union. The Board voted to enter Executive Session and to return to open public session at 5:33 p.m.

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

At 5:55 p.m. the Board voted to return to open public session.

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

**Obery Street Land Court Application-Attorney Resnick update**

Attorney Resnick briefed the board on the history of the pending application for Plymouth County property on Obery Street. Former Chair Pallotta previously advised delaying the submission of the application due to timing. After some discussion and input from Register Buckley, Deputy Treasurer Welch and Administrator Basler, Commissioner Wright made a motion to move forward with the application in Land Court. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

### **Vote Meeting Minutes: August 6, 2021, and August 23, 2021**

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 6, 2021, and August 23, 2021. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms:**

Rebecca Galandzi–anniversary step increase to 13–5; Elizabeth Sheibley–anniversary step increase to 18–9; Maureen Young–retirement; John Moran–temporary full time emergency hire as JG 2–1 custodian; and Monica Joyce–extension of 120 days on temporary part-time emergency hire as Reconciliation Specialist.

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

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **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: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **Vote to accept and approve payroll vouchers**

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

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **National Suicide Prevention Month proclamation**

Commissioner Wright made a motion to designate September 10, 2021, which overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10, 2021, as “National Suicide Prevention Month” in Plymouth County. Commissioner Valanzola seconded. A proclamation was presented for signatures of the board.

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **CARES Act: update and possible distribution votes**

Treasurer O’Brien reports as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 321 applications have been processed with 42 remaining to review. Currently, a total of \$57,097,727.67 has been disbursed to the member communities. The Treasurer briefed the board on Phase 7 and discussed future requests for reimbursements from the various towns. Chairman Hanley expressed his thanks and

appreciation to the Town of Marshfield for the very successful county wide vaccination program held at the Marshfield Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve Phase 7 as presented by the Treasurer. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$231,517.16 to the Town of Bridgewater. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$289,382.24 to the Town of Carver. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$278,949.78 to the Town of East Bridgewater. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$135.21 to the Town of Kingston. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$58,019.63 to the Town of Middleborough. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve reimbursements in the amount of \$94,065.83 to the Town of Pembroke. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$32,850.00 to Eric A. Kinshurf, CPA for Administrative Support. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

### **American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)–update**

Treasurer O'Brien announced Barnstable County has agreed to participate in the program. The Auditors and Attorneys continue to work on details on the program.

### **Vote–Wildlands Trust approval to improve connector trail to County owned Hanover property to create seven-mile network**

Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to approve the request of the Wildlands Trust to improve the connector trail on County owned property in Hanover to create a seven-mile network. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **Maintenance Superintendent's report**

Superintendent Wedge briefed the board on the status of a burst pipe in the basement of the Hingham District Courthouse this past week. 4 feet of water was pumped out of the basement with water damage to the boiler, chiller and all equipment located in the basement. The courthouse was closed for 5 days while the damage was assessed, and the insurance company conducted an appraisal. Chairman Hanley expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Wedge and the Hingham Custodial Staff for the hard work done in this emergency. Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to have letters of appreciation signed for Superintendent Wedge and the Hingham Staff to be placed in their personnel files. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **4-H Extension Director update**

4-H Director Molly Vollmer discussed the recent success of the Marshfield Fair and upcoming 4-H National presentations for the first week of October. Plymouth County Entomologist Blake Dinius continues to exceed all expectations with his presentations and community involvement with the schools. Commissioner Wright made a motion to have a letter of appreciation signed by the Commissioners to be placed in his personnel file. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

Vote: Chairman Hanley called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Valanzola–Yes. Chairman Hanley–Yes.

### **Register's Report**

Register Buckley reports the Registry of Deeds is continuing to record increased numbers of deeds each month and foreclosures have not begun to reflect on those numbers yet.

## **Administrator's Report**

### **-Hingham District Courthouse leak update**

Administrator Basler reports he has received authorization from DCAMM for emergency procurement bids to replace damaged equipment.

### **-Zoom Equipment**

Administrator Basler briefed the board on quotes he has received for a hybrid system of equipment for the County to purchase. After some discussion, Commissioner Valanzola made a motion to authorize the purchase of Zoom equipment not to exceed \$4,000. Commissioner Wright seconded.

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

### **-County Dredge**

Administrator Basler reports the Town of Falmouth has successfully completed their recent project using the County Dredge. This project is the first to use the dredge for a freshwater cranberry bog. The Administrator is happy to report the Town of Mattapoisett will be using the dredge in October. Mattapoisett is the first Plymouth County member to use the dredge.

The Commissioners will be attending the Town of Rockland Selectboard meeting next Tuesday, September 21, 2021, as well as on October 5, 2021, will attend the Town of Bridgewater Town Council meeting to give an update on CARES and ARPA.

The Commissioners next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

## **Commissioner's New Business**

Chairman Hanley announced his recent appointment as Town Administrator to the Town of Holbrook and will step down as Chairman of the Plymouth County Commissioners. Chairman Hanley made a motion to nominate Commissioner Wright as Chair for the remainder of his term. Commissioner Valanzola seconded.

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

Commissioner Valanzola and Commissioner Wright both congratulated Chairman Hanley on his recent appointment and expressed their appreciation for the guidance, leadership, and motivation he has provided this past year.

At 7:06 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

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

**Documents and/or exhibits:**

- Draft Meeting Minutes August 6, 2021, and August 23, 2021
- Wildlands Trust-Connector Trail Overview-Hanover, MA

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy O'Rourke  
Executive Assistant