

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING

February 7, 2019

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 Daniel A. Pallotta, Commissioner Sandra M. Wright and Commissioner Gregory M. Hanley. Commissioner Pallotta called for the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in attendance were Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Register of Deeds John Buckley, Deputy Treasurer Jeffrey Welch, 4H Director Molly Lipper, Superintendent of Buildings Doug Wedge and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

County Fire Chiefs' Donation

The Commissioners presented the County's annual contribution of \$8,000.00 for the Firefighter Rescue Training Association to Duxbury Fire Chief Kevin Nord, Onset Fire Chief Raymond Goodwin, President of the Plymouth County Fire Association and Carver Fire Captain Robert Telles, Secretary/Treasurer of the Plymouth County Fire Training Association. Chief Nord expressed his sincere appreciation to the county for this much needed contribution.

Annual Reorganization of Board

Per MGL Ch. 34, section 4, Chairman Pallotta called for the nomination for the position of Chairman. Commissioner Hanley nominated Commissioner Pallotta as Chairman. Commissioner Wright seconded the nomination. Ballots were cast and with a 2-1 vote Commissioner Pallotta was voted as Chairman of the Plymouth County Commissioners.

Appointment to the Mayflower Municipal Health Group Advisory Committee

Chairman Pallotta made a motion to re-appoint Commissioner Wright as the County Representative to the General Board of the Mayflower Municipal Health Group and County Administrator Frank Basler as alternate. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment to Board of Trustees Cooperative Extension Service

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to re-appoint Chairman Daniel Pallotta as Trustee and Liaison to the Board of Trustees on the Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Service. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment County Counsel

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to re-appoint the Law Firm of Clark, Balboni & Gildea as county counsel. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes –December 5, 2018, January 2, 2019 and January 8, 2019

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 5, 2018, January 2, 2019 and January 8, 2019. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Payroll

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

County Personnel Status Forms

Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke presented the Commissioners with personnel status forms for:

Anniversary Step Increase

Catherine Acampora to 13-7; Susan MacDonald to 13-2; Bernadette Tobin to 9-2

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–IRS Mileage Rate 2019

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to increase the mileage allowance from .54.5 cents per mile to .58 cents per mile effective January 1, 2019 per the Internal Revenue Service.

Chairman Pallotta seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Register's Report

Register Buckley briefed the Commissioners on January's deeds excise numbers and reports the recordings are down approximately 15% from last year.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer O'Brien reported the current budget has a \$245,000 deficit due primarily to recording fees revenue being down and the remodel of the Registry of Deeds office in Brockton coming in a little over budget.

The MMHG Steering Committee has made a recommendation for a 1.5% increase for the next fiscal year.

After some discussion regarding the deficit in the county budget, Commissioner Hanley made a motion to enact a hiring freeze and a funding freeze for all discretionary spending.

Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Bill HD.1105

Commissioner Hanley expressed his appreciation and kudos to Treasurer O'Brien and Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch for drafting legislation that would dedicate a new stream of revenue for the Community Preservation Trust Fund (CPTF) and reallocate existing revenues towards county governments in furtherance of the promotion of regional services.

The proposal was introduced at a recent County Commissioner's Association meeting and has been co-sponsored by State Representative Josh Cutler and State Senator John Keenan. Currently, 51 legislators have signed on in support of the legislation and all County members voted in support as well.

Extension Service Director's Report

4H Director Molly Lipper briefed the Commissioners on the upcoming Agriculture Day to be held at the end of March at the State House. Currently, over 4000 participants have joined the Plant Science Sunflower Project. Blake Dinius, County Entomologist reports the latest concerns on the invasive species of the Spotted Lantern Fly that has arrived from China.

Superintendent of Buildings/Maintenance Update

Superintendent Doug Wedge briefed the Commissioners on the status of the new heating system at the Hingham District Courthouse as well as new Compressor issues. Chairman Pallotta will be visiting the courthouse tomorrow to inspect the Compressor.

Disposition of 32 Belmont St., Brockton, MA

Per MGL, Chapter 30B and Chapter 34, Section 14, Commissioner Hanley made a motion to list the office space at 32 Belmont St., Brockton, MA to be available for disposition through an office lease and for the Administrator to move forward with an RFP to identify candidates to lease office space. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

RFP-County Audit FY 2019-2021

After some discussion, the board came to a consensus to request the County Administrator obtain quotes instead of an RFP for auditing services for 3 years with 2 one-year options.

Executive Session

In Accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, held for the purpose to discuss strategy with respect to discussions concerning union negotiations of non-union employee steps, and to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; 48 Obery St., Plymouth, MA and the County Farm. The Board voted to enter Executive Session and to return to open public session at 6:15 p.m.

Chairman Pallotta called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Hanley–Yes.
Chairman Pallotta–Yes.

At 6:22 p.m. Chairman Pallotta called the roll to enter back into open session: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Hanley–Yes. Chairman Pallotta–Yes.

Vote–Annual Stipend–Non–union Employees

Commissioner Hanley made a motion, in alignment with union contracts, to approve the annual stipend for employees that are not eligible for steps as follows, for the life of this contract only:

- Starting in year 10 through 14: \$1,000 annually (non–pensionable) on July 1 of each fiscal year
- Starting in year 15 and on: \$1,200 annually (non–pensionable) on July 1 of each fiscal year

Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

At 6:25 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Documents and/or exhibits

Meeting Minutes–December 5, 2018, January 2, 2019, and January 8, 2019

Votes–Reorganization of the Board, Appointment to Cooperative Extension Liaison

RFP–Draft Lease of Real Property–32 Belmont St., Brockton, MA

RFP–Draft County Auditor

Summary–HD.1105 “An Act Relative to Community Preservation Act Funding and the Promotion of Regional Services

Invitation–Carver Community Celebration–March 15, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O’Rourke
Executive Assistant