

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 5, 2020

A regular meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 8:03 a.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. Chairman Pallotta called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also, in attendance were Register of Deeds John Buckley, Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Assistant Treasurer Jeff Welch, Superintendent of Buildings Doug Wedge, 4-H Extension Director Molly Vollmer, County Administrator Frank Basler and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Meeting Minutes –February 6, 2020

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 6, 2020. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve vendor vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS Forms:

Edmund Toomey–anniversary step increase to JG 9–3; Paul Curran–termination; Maria DeBarros–termination; Maureen Roche–hiring as temporary full-time custodian 1–1; Ronald Butterworth–rehiring as permanent full-time custodian JG 2–3; Bernadette Tobin–promotion to fill open position of Recorder JG 13–1.

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Payroll

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner's New Business

Commissioner Hanley discussed the upcoming meeting for the 4-H County Farm Task Force scheduled for 6:00 p.m. today at the Commissioner's Meeting Room, 44 Obery St., Plymouth, MA

Register's report

Register Buckley reported the revenue for the month of February was \$90,000 higher than projected due to an increase in re-financing.

Register Buckley presented a draft Five-Year Plan on Staffing the Registry of Deeds as requested by the Commissioners. The plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Extension Director's report

4-H Director Molly Vollmer briefed the Commissioners on upcoming 4-H Visual Presentations of approximately 75 4-H members for this Saturday, March 7th at Plymouth North High School. The week of April 12th is Dog Bite Prevention Week and Cathy Acampora is completely booked with presentations for the entire week and continues to be successful with her program. County Entomologist Blake Dinius is very busy with tick season being in full swing and continues his successful programs county wide. Molly also happily reports a 4-H club is now in the City of Brockton thanks to the efforts of Mayor Sullivan.

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on the Town of Plymouth existing by-laws regarding demolition of historical buildings. Approval is required for any building built 50 years ago or older. The existing structure on the County Farm to be used by the 4-H Task Force although in very bad shape will require approval from the Town of Plymouth. The Commissioners gave the Administrator approval to move forward with the approval process.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer O'Brien presented an update on the MMHG proposed rate increases for FY 21 of 2% recently approved by the Steering Committee. The entire board will meet Wednesday, March 11th to approve the increase.

Maintenance Superintendent's report

Superintendent Wedge requested the board's approval for vacation time requests for 2 maintenance department employees; one for the month of May and one for 3 weeks at the end of June into the first week of July. Chairman Pallotta requested the written requests be presented at the next meeting for approval.

Superintendent Wedge briefed the Commissioners on the demolition work beginning at the Wareham District Courthouse to replace the chiller and the installation of gas lines at the Hingham District Courthouse is scheduled to begin in 2 weeks.

Falmouth dredge use and update

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on the successful completion of dredge work in Falmouth. The Town of Plymouth has decided not to utilize the county dredge. Commissioner Hanley met with the Town of Scituate Harbormaster on potential use of the dredge for a project.

Halifax Land Transfer and Vote on Purchase and Sale

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to authorize Chairman Pallotta to sign the purchase and sale agreement between the County of Plymouth and the Town of Halifax for the property located off Aldana Road, Halifax for the price of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000). Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Pilgrim Hall Museum Loan of Documents

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to approve a rental request agreement for the use of Plymouth Colony Records Book I, Deeds from May through September 2020 and Court Orders, Volume I from October to December 2020 to be displayed as part of an exhibit for Plymouth's 400th anniversary commemoration and for the Administrator to work with the Register to finalize details. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: Commissioner Hanley–Yes. Commissioner Wright–Yes. Chairman Pallotta–No.

Administrator's report

Web site design

Commissioner Wright made a motion to approve the proposal of CivicPlus for the county website redesign. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Sewer connection for 48 Obery Street

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on the status for a sewer connection to the Sheriff's house located at 48 Obery Street. The Administrator will seek to get an extension from Plymouth.

Eagle Scout Certificates

The Commissioner's signed citations for 5 Boy Scouts from Troop 48 in Carver that have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Commissioner Wright will present the county citations at the celebration to be held March 22, 2020 in Carver.

Elva B emergency repairs

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on \$5,300 of emergency repairs required for the county airplane.

Advisory Board Special Meeting Date–March 12, 2020

The Plymouth County Advisory Board will be meeting next Thursday, March 12, 2020 to approve a loan in an amount up to \$517,602 from the stabilization account for the emergency replacement of the Chiller and Cooling Tower at the Wareham District Courthouse.

Executive Session

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 3; to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares re: CBA for SEIU and OPEIU.

9:00 a.m. appointment–Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 1; to discuss discipline sanctions/termination with respect to Maria DeBarros and Paul Curran as requested by SEIU. Proper notice (greater than 48 hours) given to Ms. DeBarros, Mr. Curran, and SEIU and Executive Session discussion chosen by union members. The Board voted to enter Executive Session and to return to open public session at 8:40 a.m. Chairman Pallotta called the roll: Commissioner Wright–Yes. Commissioner Hanley–Yes. Chairman Pallotta–Yes.

At 9:27 a.m. Chairman Pallotta called the roll to enter back into open session: Commissioner Wright-Yes. Commissioner Hanley-Yes. Chairman Pallotta-Yes.

Employee Compensation and vote

After some discussion with SEIU representative Joan Caruso, Stewards Tammy Correa and Mike Wholey on the last contract negotiations and a possible pay adjustment once the deeds excise tax change was approved by the legislature, Commissioner Hanley made a motion to approve a 2% non-pensionable pay stipend for all county employees due to a surplus in deeds excise revenue and as a gesture of goodwill for the sacrifices of the employees over the last few years. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Approval is also required of the Plymouth County Advisory Board at their meeting on March 12th.

The Commissioners next meeting will be held March 12, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Documents and/or exhibits

- Meeting Minutes-February 6, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes-January 7, 2020
- Draft proposal Registry of Deeds 5-year plan on staffing
- Falmouth dredge project photos
- Proposal-CivicPlus website redesign
- Proposal-Professional Engineering Design Services-4H Extension Program Community Center
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System-Inventory of Historic Assets for Plymouth County House of Corrections

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant