

PLYMOUTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
STATUTORY MEETING

August 6, 2019

A statutory meeting of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 8:05 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 Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Deputy Treasurer Jeff Welch, Register of Deeds John Buckley, Superintendent of Buildings Doug Wedge, County Attorney Shannon Resnick, County Administrator Frank Basler and Executive Assistant Nancy O'Rourke.

Meeting Minutes –July 25, 2019

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2019. Chairman Pallotta seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Vouchers

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote–Payroll

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

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Vote to accept and approve CPS forms

There were no CPS form presented.

Vote County Tax Assessment and warrants

In accordance with Chapter 35, Section 31 of M.G.L., Chairman Pallotta made a motion that the Commissioners authorize and establish the annual County Tax to Plymouth County communities as detailed on the vote. Chairman Pallotta read the vote into public record. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners signed each of the assessments for the Plymouth County member towns and the City of Brockton.

County Lease Policy

Commissioner Hanley discussed establishing a formal lease policy for the County. Chairman Pallotta stated the County currently follows M.G.L. Chapter 34, Section 14 and M.G.L. Chapter 30B. The Commissioners discussed a public and private lease policy.

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to formalize the policy in writing and to adopt as relevant for leases. Chairman Pallotta seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Register's Report

Register Buckley briefed the Commissioners on the Technology Fund extension in the 2020 State Budget to 2025. Deeds Excise figures met expectations for the month of July.

Treasurer's Report

In Treasurer O'Brien's absence, Deputy Treasurer Welch briefed the Commissioners on an upcoming professional development class for CMMT (Certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer) and CMMAT (Certified Massachusetts Municipal Assistant Treasurer) to be held at UMASS/Amherst. Treasurer O'Brien and Deputy Treasurer Welch will be attending.

Maintenance Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Doug Wedge briefed the Commissioners on recent work being done at the Hingham District Courthouse replacing windows as well as County Treasurer O'Brien's office. The Judge's Lobby at the Wareham District Courthouse will be updated with a new kitchenette, new carpeting and paint.

Halifax Land Transfer

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on a recent vote of the Board of Selectmen of Halifax to support the Dept of Fish and Game purchase of a 15-acre parcel of land that is co-owned by the County and Halifax. An appraisal of the land was completed that gave a fair market value of \$250,000, but only realizing that value if the land was subdivided into house lots, which Halifax would not approve. Parcel A consists of 2.8 acres of uplands and just under 5 acres of wetlands. Parcel B is 7.5 acres of wet land swamp and has no value. Halifax has negotiated a small side deal with the Department of Fish and Game to include the demarcated "sliver" of land for no value in order to allow Halifax to improve Aldana Road sometime in the future. The County should realize \$75,000 once the transaction is complete. \$50,000 was budgeted for FY20. Chairman Pallotta made a motion to authorize Administrator Basler to continue to work with Attorney Resnick on completion of the land transfer. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hanley requested the \$25,000 balance be allocated to the 4H program and historic preservation of the "Stagecoach" barn located on the County Farm. Chairman Pallotta made a motion to seek a grant from the Secretary of State for historic preservation of the "Stagecoach" barn. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Review County insurance policy and vote – Administrator Basler has had discussions with Dowling and O’Neil and the County policy will not be available until later in September.

Edward Byrne Memorial JAG solicitation approval for Brockton, Plymouth and Wareham

Administrator Basler reports the 2019 Byrne Grant Award was just announced with Brockton being eligible for \$74,624, Plymouth \$9,528, and Wareham \$9,374. The County receives a little over \$10,000 for administering the grant process. Chairman Pallotta made a motion that the Commissioners support the county application to the JAG Byrne Grant moving forward with the inclusion of the City of Brockton and the Towns of Plymouth and Wareham.

Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hanley made a motion to allow the chair to sign a letter naming County Administrator Frank Basler as the official contact and legal representative for the County regarding Byrne Grant documentation and Federal Grants. Commissioner Wright seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Basler reports the Grant Manual will be available for approval at the next meeting.

Brockton Superior Court easement for National Grid Transformer

Administrator Basler reports the work to finalize the easement for the Brockton Superior Courthouse transformer including the new service into the building has been completed. The documentation for the easement has been reviewed by Council and is ready for approval. The Commissioners signed the document and Deputy Welch notarized the signatures as required.

Administrator’s Report

Court Rent Report

Administrator Basler briefed the Commissioners on the letter they recently received from the Office of the Trial Court for the rent based on FY 18 expenditures. Included in the submittal were OPEB payments and Retirement Fund prepayments that were made that year. Those amounts were not approved in the audit. Commissioner Wright made a motion to authorize Administrator Basler to send a letter appealing the decision of the Trial Court to not approve the FY 18 expenses of OPEB payments and Retirement Fund prepayments. Commissioner Hanley seconded.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously.

Administrator Basler will contact the County Administrators from Norfolk and Bristol Counties to discuss common issues with the Court Rent reimbursement.

The Next Meeting will be a Thursday, August 22 at 44 Obery Street, Plymouth, MA

Executive Session

In Accordance with MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21, held for the purpose to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; County Farm, and Collective Bargaining Discussion with SEIU and Joyce Lewis Grievance, 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 return to open public session at 8:35 a.m. Chairman Pallotta called the roll: Commissioner Wright-Yes. Commissioner Hanley-Yes. Chairman Pallotta-Yes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Documents and/or exhibits

- Meeting Minutes-July 25, 2019
- Vote-County Tax Assessment FY20
- County Rent Report FY18 Audit Letter
- Document-National Grid Grant of Easement
- SSCAC newsletter
- Map-Town of Halifax, Parcels A & B Aldana Rd., Halifax

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy O'Rourke
Executive Assistant