

Pursuant to proper notice, a public meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of Norfolk was held at 614 High Street, Dedham, MA and via Zoom Teleconference on June 16, 2021, notice of said meeting having been posted as required by law.

Commissioners present were:

Chairman Joseph P. Shea (via teleconference)
Commissioner Peter H. Collins (via teleconference)
Commissioner Richard R. Staiti (via teleconference)

Chairman Shea called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm.

Chairman Shea stated the Norfolk County Commissioners are meeting in person in accordance with the open meeting law, with a zoom option for public participation, contingent upon action of the State Legislature extending Governor Baker's "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, Section 20.", the Commissioners may hold meetings via Zoom in the future and plan to discuss this during the meeting.

Chairman Shea welcomed John Cronin, County Director, to his first Commissioners' Meeting. Mr. Cronin thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve as County Director.

Chairman Shea called the roll and Commissioner Staiti, Commissioner Collins and Chairman Shea responded "present."

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Staiti and

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of June 9, 2021 as submitted

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Staiti and

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of June 9, 2021 as submitted and to withhold release

Chairman Shea asked for public comment. There were no comments from the public.

John McGowan, Superintendent of Buildings, presented the Facilities Maintenance Capital Improvement Report & Coronavirus Update. Mr. McGowan stated there were no COVID-19 issues. He reported on the Registry of Deeds. Mr. McGowan stated one of the Registry of Deeds boilers is in poor condition. He stated IBS removed and replaced damaged sections of piping. Mr. McGowan stated repairs should be covered under warranty. Commissioner Collins asked about the expected lifespan of a boiler. Mr. McGowan stated the original boilers lasted approximately 40 years. He stated there may have been a casting flaw with the current boilers because they are approximately 8 – 10 years old. Mr. McGowan stated work on the Registry of Deeds boiler should be completed before the heating season. Commissioner Shea asked if labor is included in warranty work. Mr. McGowan stated warranty work will include parts and labor.

He reported on Stoughton District Court. Mr. McGowan stated he attempted to acquire air purifiers but will not be able to receive units from the Commonwealth until jury trials begin. Commissioner Shea stated Commissioner Staiti, Nancy Rockwell, CPO, and Mr. McGowan will meet at Stoughton District Court to discuss the air handler project. Mr. McGowan stated the installer and structural engineer will also attend the meeting.

Chairman Shea announced there are no appointments.

Chairman Shea announced there is no old business to discuss.

Chairman Shea discussed personnel matters. He stated personnel matters on today's agenda include the retirement and appointment of a Special Education Director at NCAHS. Chairman Shea stated the Special Education Director is an important position at NCAHS. Commissioner Staiti stated the Commissioners should be consistent and hold the appointment until next week. He stated the Commissioners may want to hear the new Superintendent's input. Michelle Labadini, Manager of Personal Services, stated the submitted blue personnel papers indicate an offer was made and the person needs to be on board before July 1. Commissioner Collins stated the Finance Committee asked the Commissioners to put a hold on hiring non-essential employees. He stated the Finance Committee was in favor of hiring essential employees and seasonal summer employees. Commissioner Collins stated to say the Special Education Director is not essential is a stretch. Ms. Labadini stated personnel papers must be signed before the on boarding process may begin. Commissioner Staiti stated he is open to delaying the appointment 1 week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Staiti and

VOTED: To table personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice Appointment for Kim F. Cattan Skelly of Sharon, MA02067 as Director of Special Education (replacing Heidi C. Black) JG: FR \$108,000.00/yr. effective 7/1/21.

A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice of Retirement for Heidi C. Black of Needham, MA02492 as Director of Student Services JG: FR \$126,997.50 effective 10/7/2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice of Contingent Appointment for Michael J. Rice of Whitinsville, MA 01588 as CEC Student Worker JG: FR \$13.50/hr. effective 7/5/21.

Notice of Contingent Appointment for Erika F. Goldowsky of Canton, MA02021 as Student Worker (AS) JG: FR \$14.50/hr. effective 7/5/21.

Notice of Contingent Appointment for Evan G. McLellan of Walpole, MA02081 as CEC Student Worker JG: FR \$13.50/hr. effective 7/5/21.

Notice of Address Change for Tammy T. Quinn to Harwich, MA02645 effective 7/1/2021.

A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-50	Payroll – County	135,072.35
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-50	Payroll – School	345,624.83
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-50(25.1)	Payroll – School	14,837.18
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-50(25.2)	Payroll – School	5,020.44
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

6-15-21	WRF – Sales Tax	3,205.57
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

06-03-21	Expense – County	506,139.65
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

21-12A	Expense – School	155,307.34
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Chairman Shea announced there are no bid openings as detailed in Exhibit A.

Chairman Shea announced there are contract awards as detailed in Exhibit B.

Robert Pierson, RSVP Director, presented an RSVP Update. Mr. Pierson discussed RSVP Summer Recognition. He stated RSVP will forgo the traditional Summer Recognition at Lantana in Randolph and will offer 2 drive-through events. He stated RSVP will hold the events at Councils on Aging in Weymouth and Norfolk in August. Mr. Pierson stated RSVP will offer a socially distanced boxed lunch opportunity at the events.

Mr. Cronin discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. He stated Norfolk County is poised to receive approximately \$137M in ARPA Funds. Mr. Cronin stated there has been internal dialog about a program that would benefit the County and its cities and towns. He stated ARPA has 2 funding streams, 1 for cities and towns and 1 for counties. Mr. Cronin stated cities and towns are actively applying for their funding. He stated there are still many questions regarding the County portion of ARPA Funds. Mr. Cronin stated he hopes the Commissioners understand the dilemma of accepting funds and distributing and managing the funds or passing funds through to the state and allowing the state to distribute the funds.

Commissioner Staiti asked if cities and towns apply to the County and to the state. Mr. Cronin stated they apply to the state. Commissioner Staiti stated the County must determine its own needs. He stated the bulk of County ARPA Funds will go to the cities and towns. Mr. Cronin stated administration of ARPA Funds falls on the Treasurer's Office. Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners are in constant contact with Plymouth and Bristol County Administration regarding ARPA Funds.

Commissioner Collins stated Mr. Cronin recommended combining administration of ARPA Funds with Plymouth and Bristol Counties. Mr. Cronin stated the County could achieve savings by combining with the other Counties.

Chairman Shea stated Plymouth County Treasurer O'Brien has developed a plan to administer ARPA Funds. Mr. Cronin stated if the Commissioners chose to receive ARPA Funds they may put administration of ARPA Funds out to bid if they chose to hire an outside firm to administer the funds.

Commissioner Staiti asked about the Commissioners' role in ARPA. Mr. Cronin stated the Commissioners decide whether to opt in or out of the program. He stated the Commissioners also determine eligible programs. Mr. Cronin stated there are potentially hundreds of project stemming from ARPA Funds. He stated the grant ends in 2024 but will allow projects to be completed through 2026. Commissioner Staiti asked if non-profits may apply for ARPA Funds. Bill Buckley, Assistant County Director, stated non-profits may apply for funds.

Mr. Cronin presented the Report of the County Director. He thanked the Commissioners for appointing him County Director. Mr. Cronin stated he brings 30+ years of experience and hopes to better Norfolk County. Mr. Cronin stated he has met with the Commissioners and internal staff. Mr. Cronin stated he looks forward to carrying out the Abrahams Group Report.

Ms. Labadini thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to serve as Interim County Director.

Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners received draft financial policies last week. He stated the Abrahams Group will attend next week's meeting to discuss financial policies.

Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners must decide whether the Commissioners will meet in person, on Zoom Videoconference, or a combination going forward because an agenda for next week must be posted on Monday. Chairman Shea stated Governor Baker has extended the Zoom option through April 2022. Commissioner Staiti stated some towns have a summer schedule and reduce the frequency of their meetings. He recommended allowing remote participation over the summer. Commissioner Collins stated he likes in person meetings and there is merit to Zoom. Mr. Cronin stated there is an option to meet in person and join on Zoom for a quorum. Chairman Shea stated the MGL allows for the appointment of an Acting Commissioner if only 1 Commissioner is available. Mr. Buckley stated the legislation allows for continuation of the current status quo. He stated through April 2022 there will be a Zoom option for public participation. The Commissioners agreed to meet in person and allow remote participation for the public and for purposes of a quorum.

Commissioner Staiti asked about public access for those that have and have not received COVID-19 vaccinations. Ms. Labadini stated there is signage in the Administration Building advising unvaccinated individuals to wear a face covering.

Commissioner Staiti asked when the Commissioners may meet with counsel regarding the NCAHS Solar Project. Mr. Buckley stated there is an Executive Committee Meeting tomorrow to discuss another matter regarding the Solar Project. He stated Attorney Lopez is on vacation. Mr. Buckley stated the legal matter has been postponed for 1 month.

Chairman Shea stated he will contact Tammy Quinn regarding the Special Education Director.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary

Clerk