

Pursuant to proper notice, a public meeting of the County Commissioners of the County of Norfolk was held via Zoom Teleconference on June 2, 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 1:02 pm.

Chairman Shea stated today's meeting is conducted under remote participation as detailed in Governor Baker's Order of March 12, 2020.

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 table the Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of May 26, 2021 to June 9, 2021

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

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss the dismissal of a County employee

On the roll call vote,

Commissioner Collins voted "yes"

Commissioner Staiti voted "yes"

Chairman Shea voted "yes"

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 1:04 pm.

The Commissioners returned to Open Session at 1:15 pm.

Chairman Shea asked for public comment. Leah McGaughey, speaking through her co-worker Peg Comer, asked about the Juneteenth State Holiday. Michelle Labadini, Interim County Director, stated Juneteenth falls on a Saturday and per the Commonwealth, will be observed on Saturday. Ms. Labadini stated she sent an updated holiday list to Ms. Sirois at the Registry of Deeds and asked Ms. Sirois to update Registry employees. Ms. McGaughey asked if Register O'Donnell's pandemic pay proposal will be on today's Finance Committee Agenda. Bill Buckley, Assistant County Director, stated the Commissioners will speak to counsel next week regarding the pandemic pay.

John McGowan, Superintendent of Buildings, presented the Facilities Maintenance Capital Improvement Report & Coronavirus Update. Mr. McGowan stated there were no COVID-19 issues. He stated Facilities Maintenance continues with its regular 3 times a week spraying and disinfecting schedule. Mr. McGowan requested reducing the schedule to 2 times a week after June.

Mr. McGowan discussed Stoughton District Court. He reported on rooftop units. Mr. McGowan stated he received correspondence from the structural engineer indicating that the structural engineer has not been on site. He stated the correspondence indicates the base scope is \$6,500 and strengthening the project area is \$3,500. Mr. McGowan stated the area must be reinforced to hold the weight of the new units. He stated Nancy Rockwell, CPO, or Ms. Labadini should address the matter of the structural engineer site visit. Chairman Shea stated he spoke with Ms. Rockwell about the matter. He recommended a meeting to discuss the Stoughton Court Air Handlers. Commissioner Staiti stated if the meeting is a public meeting of 2 or more Commissioners, the meeting should be posted.

Mr. McGowan stated the rear Registry of Deeds entrance was paved last week.

Ms. Labadini reported on the Registry of Deeds Parking Lot. He stated the movie trucks will exit the lot by 4 pm today.

Commissioner Staiti asked about Wrentham District Court. Mr. McGowan stated ceiling and ductwork issues have been addressed.

Chairman Shea announced there is a 1:30 pm appointment with the Finance Committee.

Chairman Shea announced there is no old business to discuss.

Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners received a letter from Joseph Reardon, Chairman, NCAB Finance Committee. Mr. Reardon stated his letter was written as a Milton resident, not as a Finance Committee Member. Mr. Reardon stated he has 2 principal concerns – filling positions and pandemic pay. He proposed a hiring freeze until the Abrahams Group submits their report and not to take action on pandemic pay until the counsel gives an opinion. Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners will discuss pandemic pay with counsel on June 9. Commissioner Staiti stated the idea of holding off on hiring is troublesome. He stated the Commissioners have worked with the Abrahams Group on personnel. Commissioner Staiti stated the Commissioners should not consider personnel papers if a hiring freeze is possible. Chairman Shea stated several of today's personnel matters have been ongoing considerations.

Commissioner Collins stated pandemic pay will be addressed next week. He stated a hiring freeze would be similar to last year. Commissioner Collins stated he was prepared to make a motion to initiate a hiring freeze for all non-essential employees excluding seasonal employees.

Mr. Beckerman stated he is in favor of moving forward with positions that are already in the budget. Commissioner Staiti stated if there is a position in the budget, the position should be filled. He stated the County should not consider new hires until the Abrahams Group submits their report.

Mr. Connors stated he supports Mr. Reardon's letter. He stated if there is no hiring freeze there could be concerns.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Wollaston Recreational Facility

Notice of Contingent Employment for Michael A. Brown of East Bridgewater, MA as Seasonal Grounds Crew JG: Flat \$14.00/hr. effective 5/26/21.

Agricultural High School

Notice of Appointment for Carolann DeLuca-Killinger of Rockland, MA02370 as 184 Day School Nurse (replacing Ann M. Gove) JG: 1-5 \$62,729.70/yr. effective 8/30/21.

Notice of Appointment for John E. Martin of Marion, MA 02738 as Superintendent-Director JG: Flat, \$153,000.00/yr. effective 7/1/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Emma M. Webb of Walpole, MA 02081 as Student Worker JG: Flat \$15.00/hr. effective 6/3/21.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Jan J. Davis of Plainville, MA 02762 as CEC Student Worker JG: Flat \$13.50/hr. effective 7/5/21.

Notice of Hourly Increase for Daniel M. Delorey of Westwood, MA 02090 as Substitute Worker from \$13.50/hr. to \$14.50/hr. effective 6/1/21.

Commissioners' Office

Notice of Appointment for John J. Cronin of Holliston, MA as County Director JG: Flat, \$128,500/yr. effective 6/14/21.

Notice of Change of Address for Cristopher Goldsmith to Newtonville, MA02458 effective 6/2/21.

Commissioner Staiti stated the Commissioners are making 2 noteworthy appointments in Mr. Cronin and Mr. Martin.

Members of the Norfolk County Advisory Board Finance Committee joined the Commissioners for a jointly posted meeting of the Finance Committee via Zoom Teleconference.

Chairman Joseph Reardon of Milton called the Meeting of the Norfolk County Advisory Board Finance Committee to order at 1:58 pm. Chairman Reardon called the roll and Mr. Balduf, Mr. Beckerman, Dr. Childs, Mr. Connors, and Mr. Reardon responded "present." Chairman Reardon declared a quorum.

Mr. Reardon discussed his letter. Mr. Reardon stated his concern is if the County hires someone and then that position is merged with another position based on the Abrahams Group report. Mr. Beckerman stated he agrees with Mr. Reardon's position on new hires but believes funded positions in the budget should be filled. Mr. Connors asked when the Abrahams Group report will be ready. Ms. Labadini stated the report it expected in July. Dr. Childs stated she agrees with a hiring freeze. She stated backfilling any non-essential positions deserves a critical examination.

Commissioner Collins stated his motion would be that the County Commissioners initiate a hiring freeze excluding seasonal positions until after July 1. Mr. Balduf stated he supports Mr. Reardon's letter.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Beckerman and

VOTED: To support the letter of Mr. Reardon regarding a hiring freeze and pandemic pay and to recommend the support of the County Commissioners

On the roll call vote,

Mr. Balduf voted "yes"

Mr. Beckerman voted "yes"

Dr. Childs voted "yes"

Mr. Connors voted "yes"

Mr. Reardon voted "yes"

Mr. Buckley thanked Rick Fitzpatrick, Business Manager, NCAHS and Ms. Labadini for their work on the FY21 Closeout. Mr. Buckley stated the FY21 Fourth Supplemental Appropriation includes previously approved transfers within the Registry of Deeds budget for printing and binding and miscellaneous equipment and within the IT Budget for Infinite Visions. He stated just prior to the meeting he received notification from Joseph D'Auria, County Accountant, indicating the employee health insurance account is running a negative balance. Mr. Buckley stated this matter requires a necessary transfer from the FY21 Unappropriated Balance and must be added to the proposal. He stated the account requires a transfer of \$250,000. Mr. Buckley stated the shortfall may be due to employees unexpectedly choosing the most expensive health insurance plans.

Dr. Childs asked about the Registry of Deeds transfers. Mr. Buckley stated the transfers are for necessary printing and binding due to increased volume and for necessary high density shelving. Register O'Donnell stated the request is a routine request and is a reflection of significant document volume. He stated shelving was destroyed in a fire and a tremendous amount of books need to be bound. Dr. Childs asked if the shelving is covered under insurance. Register O'Donnell stated the former County Director pursued an insurance claim which included the shelving. He stated he is not aware that the claim has been settled. Dr. Childs stated she wants to make sure any insurance claim funds are put back in the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Beckerman and

VOTED: To approve the FY21 Fourth Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$375,458.00 and to place any insurance funds related to Registry of Deeds shelving into the budget

On the roll call vote,

Mr. Balduf voted "yes"

Mr. Beckerman voted "yes"

Dr. Childs voted "yes"

Mr. Connors voted "yes"

Mr. Reardon voted "yes"

Register O'Donnell stated is not concerned about insurance claim funds being returned to the Registry of Deeds Budget. He stated he does not have an issue with the funds being returned to the General Fund.

A motion was made by Chairman Shea, seconded by Commissioner Staiti and

VOTED: To approve the amended FY21 Fourth Supplemental Appropriation in the amount of \$375,458.00 and to place any insurance funds related to Registry of Deeds shelving into the budget

Mr. Buckley stated Mr. Fitzpatrick is working tirelessly but does not have a supplemental appropriation at this time. He stated a July Advisory Board Meeting may be necessary to consider NCAHS needs. Mr. Buckley stated factors continue to evolve and a school district may not finish the year in the red.

Commissioner Staiti asked if there could be a tentative motion. Mr. Buckley stated he is unsure if the Advisory Board can pre-approve funds. Mr. D'Auria stated such an action would be unprecedented and it is not in any statute. He recommended recessing the June Advisory Board Meeting and any vote would be retroactive.

Mr. Balduf stated he read Mr. Fitzpatrick's material and the situation is understandable. He recommended the Advisory Board meet on or around June 30.

Mr. Buckley discussed the Capital Budget. He stated the Capital Budget is transitional and in the future would be considered in the fall. Mr. Balduf stated \$5,000 is a small amount and he does not want to handcuff department heads and a timeframe should be associated with capital items.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckerman, seconded by Mr. Connors and

VOTED: To approve the FY22 Capital Budget as presented

On the roll call vote,

Mr. Balduf voted "yes"

Mr. Beckerman voted "yes"

Dr. Childs voted "yes"

Mr. Connors voted "yes"

Mr. Reardon voted "yes"

A motion was made by Mr. Connors, seconded by Mr. Beckerman and

VOTED: To table the Minutes of the Finance Committee of May 19, 2021

On the roll call vote,

Mr. Balduf voted "yes"

Mr. Beckerman voted "yes"

Dr. Childs voted "yes"

Mr. Connors voted "yes"

Mr. Reardon voted "yes"

A motion was made by Mr. Balduf, seconded by Mr. Beckerman and

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting of the Finance Committee

On the roll call vote,

Mr. Balduf voted "yes"

Mr. Beckerman voted "yes"

Dr. Childs voted "yes"

Mr. Connors voted "yes"

Mr. Reardon voted "yes"

Meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.

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

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-48	Payroll – County	134,284.60
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-48(24.1)	Payroll – School	57,207.27
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-48	Payroll – School	335,609.81
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-12	Expense – School	83,730.10
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

06-01-21	Expense – County	20,250.37
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

05-04-21A	Expense – County	41.88
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

6-1-21	WRF – Credit Card Pymt	40,910.00
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Chairman Shea announced there are no bid openings.

Chairman Shea announced there are no contract awards.

Mr. Buckley reported on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Mr. Buckley stated he had a conversation with a Town Administrator regarding the Commissioners' ARPA Letter. Mr. Buckley reported the Town Administrator appreciated the Commissioners' handling of ARPA. Mr. Buckley stated he had a discussion with State Administration and Finance officials regarding the transfer of ARPA Funds. He stated the Commonwealth inserted language indicating that the state share of ARPA Funds is subject to approval. Commissioner Staiti stated he would like to look into using ARPA Funds for broadband at NCAHS. He also recommended segregating ARPA Funds to address lost revenues.

Chairman Shea discussed a transfer request from NCAHS. He stated the transfer is for year-end payroll and was approved by the Board of Trustees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Chairman Shea and

VOTED: To approve the request for transfer of funds within the FY21 NCAHS Budget in the amount of \$154,686.00

Chairman Shea discussed the FY22 Capital Budget. Ms. Labadini stated the total capital budget amount is \$1,109,895.00. She stated items were removed at the request of the Finance Committee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Chairman Shea and

VOTED: To table the FY22 Capital Budget until June 9, 2021

Chairman Shea stated the Commissioners will discuss a return to regular meetings next week. Commissioner Staiti asked if the Commissioners could discuss solar at next week's Executive Session. Commissioner Collins stated there are 2 separate attorneys for labor counsel and solar issues.

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

VOTED: To initiate a hiring freeze for non-essential employees, excluding seasonal employees, until July 1, 2021

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 3:09 pm.

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary

Clerk