

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 23, 2021, notice of said meeting having been posted as required by law.<sup>1</sup>

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 on Thursday, March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, Section 20." That Order was effective immediately until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated. On Wednesday June 16, 2021 by action of the Legislature the order was extended until April 1, 2022.

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

Rick Fitzpatrick, Business Manager, Norfolk County Agricultural High School, led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

VOTED: To approve the Minutes of the Open Session Meeting of June 16, 2021 as submitted

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 reported on the Registry of Deeds. Mr. McGowan stated Facilities Maintenance ordered a replacement boiler. He stated IBS will remove the damaged boiler and prepare the site for a new boiler installation. Mr. McGowan stated there is a wait time of approximately 20 weeks for delivery of the new boiler. Mr. McGowan stated Facilities Maintenance will save usable parts when the existing boiler is removed.

Mr. McGowan stated he spoke with Chris McQuade and Scott Arnell of the Trial Court regarding Courthouse air quality. Mr. McGowan stated Mr. McQuade and Mr. Arnell are concerned about air quality in Superior Courthouse because the building has split fin air conditioning. Mr. McGowan stated he is working with the Trial Court to acquire 25-30 HEPA air purifiers and will install 1 unit in each courtroom and jury room in each building. Mr. McGowan stated Facilities Maintenance is in the process of installing air handlers on the flat roof at Superior Court.

John Cronin, County Director, stated if the new boiler is not installed prior to the heating season, portable heating units may be used. Mr. McGowan stated portable units cost about \$15,000 a month.

Commissioner Staiti asked how many boilers are in the Registry of Deeds. Mr. McGowan stated there are 2 boilers in the building. Commissioner Staiti asked if the building can be heated with 1 boiler. Mr. McGowan stated the building may be heated with 1 boiler in early fall but requires both boilers after early fall. He stated the boiler manufacturer may indicate the boiler damage was caused by the water from the building's pipes.

Commissioner Staiti asked for an update on Stoughton District Court. Mr. McGowan stated he has no update from the structural engineer. Mr. Cronin stated he will direct Nancy Rockwell, CPO, to follow up with the structural engineer.

Commissioner Collins asked about boiler insurance. Mr. McGowan stated the County may only receive insurance funds if the boiler is cracked and may not receive funds if the boiler has a hole. He stated the new boiler purchase was funded from the FY21 budget. Mr. McGowan stated the manufacturer is testing water and if the manufacturer claims that water caused the boiler failure the County may have to seek a legal remedy.

Chairman Shea announced there is a 1:15 pm appointment with The Abrahams Group to review Regional Services. Mark Abrahams joined the meeting. Mr. Abrahams stated he is pleased to submit the Phase 1 Draft Report on Regional Services. Mr. Abrahams stated the Abrahams Group sent a Regional Services Survey to Norfolk County cities and towns. He stated County services are well received throughout Norfolk County and many constituent communities submitted favorable comments. Mr. Abrahams stated communities expressed significant interest in continuing receipt of County services. Mr. Abrahams discussed Norfolk County Regional Services as Detailed in Exhibit C, "Draft Regional Services Review."

Chairman Shea stated he is impressed by the positive comments from cities and towns. He commended the Engineering Department for their services to Norfolk County communities. Chairman Shea stated increased services and regionalization is important for the future of Norfolk County.

Commissioner Collins asked when the final report will be ready. Mr. Abrahams stated the draft report will be complete in July. He stated the final version should be available in August.

Commissioner Staiti stated regionalization is important to move the County forward. He asked who received the survey. Mr. Abrahams stated The Abrahams Group sent the surveys to town managers, mayors, and service recipients. Commissioner Staiti stated Canton did not respond. He recommended that Mr. Abrahams create a simpler survey form. Mr. Abrahams stated he followed up with survey recipients who did not respond.

Mr. Cronin stated The Abrahams Group's work is invaluable to Norfolk County. He stated the Financial Policies are keystones to moving the County forward.

Commissioner Shea stated Mike Dennehy, Town Manager of Milton, thanked the County for their services to Milton. Commissioner Shea stated Norfolk County has participated in some regular monthly meetings of Norfolk County Administrators.

Chairman Shea announced there is no old business to discuss.

Commissioner Staiti asked for an update on the Superior Court Dome. Mr. Cronin stated the bond was issued and the project is in the beginning stages.

Chairman Shea discussed personnel matters. He stated the Commissioners will consider the NCAHS Special Education Director last.

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 Employment for Emma M. Conway of Weymouth, MA 02188 as Student Worker (AS) JG: Flat Rate \$14.50/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Julia T. Janovsky of Braintree, MA 02184 as CEC Student Worker JG: Flat Rate \$13.50/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Danielle C. Larson of Bellingham, MA 02019 as CEC Student Worker JG: Flat Rate \$13.50/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Nicole A. Reichort of Whitman, MA 02382 as Student Worker (AS) JG: Flat Rate \$15.00/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Elise O. Ware of Auburndale, MA 02466 as Student Worker (AS) JG: Flat Rate \$14.50/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

Notice of Contingent Employment for Lyla W. Tillinghast of Walpole, MA 02081 as Student Worker – Summer Camp (AS) JG: Flat Rate \$14.50/hr. effective 7/5/2021.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice of Resignation of Derrick C. Stokes of Burlington, MA as Athletic Director JG: Flat Rate \$9,987.36/yr. effective 6/30/2021.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice of Change of Address for Samuel M. Stupak to North Easton, MA 02356 effective June 14, 2021.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Commissioners' Office

Notice of conclusion of Out of Grade Pay for Michelle Labadini as Interim County Director JG: Flat, \$100,000.00/yr. to HR Personnel Manager JG: Flat \$81,600.00/yr. effective 6/11/21.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Registry of Deeds

Notice of Resignation for Paul J. Bonda of Plymouth, MA as Head Clerk, JG: 13-7 \$53,518.09/yr. effective 6/18/21.

Chairman Shea discussed the NCAHS Special Education Director position. He stated the position was held over from last week's agenda. Chairman Shea reported the new NCAHS Superintendant is in favor of moving forward. Chairman Shea stated the Special Education Director is an important position. He stated the County Commissioners have oversight of personnel decisions. Chairman Shea stated the position starts on July 1. Commissioner Staiti stated there is a resignation from the Registry of Deeds on today's agenda. He stated the Register may need to backfill vacated positions. Commissioner Staiti stated he spoke with the incoming NCAHS Superintendant and he is comfortable moving forward with the Special Education Director position.

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

VOTED: To execute personnel matters as follows:

Agricultural High School

Notice of Appointment for Kim F. Cattan Skelly of Sharon, MA 02067 as Director of Special Education JG: Flat \$108,000.00 replacing Heidi Black effective 7/1/21

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

VOTED: To execute payroll warrants as follows:

21-51	Payroll – County	144,091.37
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A motion was made by Commissioner Staiti, seconded by Commissioner Collins and

VOTED: To execute expense warrants as follows:

06-04-21	Expense – County	121,690.76
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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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Mr. Cronin discussed the May 31, 2021 Trial Balance. Mr. Cronin stated the Trial Balance shows receipts and expenditures and the County is in a \$2.145M positive position. He stated the Trial Balance does not include \$1M owed for DCAMM leases or 2 months of Registry of Deeds receipts.

Chairman Shea announced there are bid openings at 1:30 pm as detailed in Exhibit A.

Chairman Shea stated new signage for Wollaston Recreational Facility (WRF) arrived on site and will be installed shortly. Ms. Rockwell discussed WRF. She stated the 15<sup>th</sup> hole stairway project at Presidents Golf Course is being revised. Ms. Rockwell stated contractors are completing tennis court resurfacing.

Chairman Shea discussed a transfer request within the FY21 WRF Budget.

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

VOTED: To execute a transfer within the FY21 Wollaston Recreational Facility Budget as follows:

001.200.5221.00.0000.00	Electricity	(\$5,000.00)
001.200.5490.00.0000.00	Misc Current Charges	\$5,000.00

Chairman Shea announced there are no contract awards as detailed in Exhibit B.

Mr. Cronin discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. He stated Plymouth and Bristol County voted to opt in to ARPA. Chairman Shea stated he would like to get all the Counties together to discuss ARPA. Mr. Cronin stated on Monday he and Assistant Director Buckley met with Plymouth County Treasurer O'Brien to discuss ARPA and the program's impact on Counties. Mr. Cronin stated he asked Mr. Buckley to prepare a risk/reward analysis of moving forward with ARPA. Mr. Cronin stated the County is not currently staffed to handle a \$137M program. He stated Treasurer O'Brien has a game plan for ARPA.

Commissioner Staiti asked if there is anything in the risk/reward analysis related the County. Mr. Cronin stated the analysis is strictly based on services to towns. He stated if the County sends ARPA funds to the state the County may apply for funds subsequently. Mr. Cronin the Abrahams Group identified approximately \$1M of programs that could fit within ARPA. He stated the broadband intent of ARPA is to benefit broadband expansion in households. Mr. Cronin stated he discussed a shared ARPA administration contract with Treasurer O'Brien. He stated there are not many systems able to handle a program the size of ARPA. Mr. Cronin stated a Tri-County dialog would be beneficial. He stated Plymouth County delegated ARPA administration to the Treasurer's Office. Mr. Cronin stated Norfolk County is not required to do the same. Commissioner Staiti stated the Commissioners may narrow ARPA categories. Mr. Buckley stated Treasurer O'Brien does not believe County Commissioners may restrict categories.

Commissioner Staiti asked if most towns see ARPA as revenue offset. Mr. Cronin stated he spoke with a local official who mentioned a 7 figure revenue loss. Mr. Cronin stated aggregate revenue loss is important regarding ARPA.

Mr. Cronin presented the Report of the County Director. He stated Milton Town Administrator Dennehy can contact MassDOT regarding signage at Wollaston Recreational Facility. Mr. Cronin discussed the Administration Building. He stated electronic access is important and he is obtaining a quote for electronic access and security cameras.

He reported on Stoughton District Court. He stated there is a meeting to discuss the air handler project. Mr. Cronin stated topics will include a preliminary examination of strengthening trusses on the right side of the building.

Mr. Cronin discussed payroll. He stated employees' last check of the fiscal year will include 8 days' pay and the first check of FY22 will include 2 days' pay.

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 2:28 pm.

ATTEST:

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Recording Secretary

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Clerk