

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL SS

At a meeting of the Bristol County Commissioners holden at Taunton within and for the County of Bristol on the twenty seventh day of February A.D., 2018 by successive adjournments from the September term of the previous year.

Present: Chairman Paul B. Kitchen, Commissioner John T. Saunders and participating remotely by telephone Commissioner John T. Saunders joined the meeting remotely upon approval of the chairman..

Also in attendance were Maria Gomes, County Administrator and Scott Aguiar, Facilities Superintendent, Registrar Barry Amaral, Superintendent Adele Sands, Business Manager Wendy Irons, Mike Vining and Ken Rapoza from the Print Shop and Alex Stylos from 15 Court Street.

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Payroll warrants for week ending February 24, 2018 were reviewed and approved.

Received a notice from the Taunton Registry of Deeds regarding the following employment matters:

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|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mary M. Wojcik | Termination-PT Tech Fund | effective 2/15/18 |
| 2. Theresa Poirier | Tech Fund Position | effective 3/5/18 |

Received a notice from the Fall River Registry of Deeds regarding the following employment matters:

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| 1. Bernard J. McDonald III | Address Change | effective 2/12/18 |
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Received a notice from the Bristol County Agricultural High School regarding the following employment matters:

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| 1. Laurie Cassidy | Substitute Senior Clerk | effective 2/26/18 |
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Received a notice from the Commissioner's Office regarding the following employment matters:

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| 1. Norman J Tessier | on FMLA | effective 1/29/18 |
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A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the CP's as presented.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Saunders to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Received a letter dated January, 2018, from the US Census Bureau asking for an update of any changes to legal boundaries, names, and governmental unit status. County Administrator Gomes has update the information.

Said correspondence placed on file.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, it was unanimously voted in accordance with the recommendation of Peter Carreiro, Benefits Coordinator, and the approval of Treasurer Christopher T. Saunders, to forward to the Treasurer's Office for payment, invoice dated March, 2018 from the **Mayflower Municipal Health Group**, P.O. Box 3390, Plymouth, MA 02361, in the amount of \$409,627.11 for the County of Bristol Monthly Membership Premiums.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

It is noted this is for vendor 6819 in the amount of \$409,627.11 which will be charged to 01-21581.

Received the financial statements for the Mayflower Municipal Health Group for years ending June 30, 2017 and 2016.

Said correspondence placed on file.

There was discussion on House Bill 4000 which involved legislation to retain 20 per cent of all deeds excise.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following correspondence to send to the Bristol County State Representatives in support of House Bill 4000:

Dear Representative

We are writing to respectfully request your support of House Bill #4000, An Act Relative to Deeds Excise Receipts which has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. This legislation would increase the counties' share of the Deeds Excise Tax, creating a more stable revenue stream, thus allowing the counties to continue providing regional services to their cities and towns. It will also aid in the counties' efforts to address OPEB and retirement liabilities, establish and maintain stabilization funds, and repair and upgrade long-neglected buildings and infrastructure.

This proposed legislation does not increase any tax or fee. Rather, it recalculates the percentages of the existing tax shared between the state and the counties. Between 1989 and 2010, only 50% of the Deeds Excise Tax went to the state's General Fund. Today, that figure stands at nearly 90%. House Bill #4000 seeks to partially restore the balance between monies remitted to the state and monies retained by the counties for regional purposes.

It is important to note that while county expenses such as healthcare, retirement assessments, and energy costs have grown at rates exceeding inflation, county revenues have, in real dollars, stagnated in the past several decades. Registry of Deeds recording fees retained by the counties have not increased since 1981. The county tax is limited by Proposition 2½ to a flat 2.5% increase each year. (Unlike the cities and towns, the counties cannot account for new growth in the county tax.) Courthouse rent payments from the Trial Court rarely meet the true costs of maintaining the courthouses. Additionally, the implementation of GASB 74 & 75 has created a new sense of urgency for the counties to prefund OPEB liabilities that are in the tens of millions of dollars.

We believe that regionalization is the future. With each passing year, it becomes more and more apparent that our cities and towns cannot continue to go it alone. The counties stand by as a resource for our municipalities to act on a cooperative, regional basis. House Bill #4000 gives the counties the means to not only meets their basic

obligations, but to thrive and to be of greater value than ever. We ask that you join the over two dozen legislators from both parties who have signed on to support this bill.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Maria V. Gomes, Bristol County Administrator at 508.824.9681. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Paul B. Kitchen
Chairman*

*John R. Mitchell
Commissioner*

*John T. Saunders
Commissioner*

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, it was unanimously voted to offer two employee health care premium month holidays to any employee that is currently enrolled in the PPO individual or family plan and switches to a County individual or family HMO product effective July 1, 2018. Said employee premium holidays to be given in **November 2018** and **June 2019**.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to change voluntary dental insurance carriers from Blue Cross Dental Blue to Altus Dental, 10 Charles Street, Providence, RI 02904 effective July 1, 2018. Authorize the County Administrator to provide notice to BCBS Dental Blue provider.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Registrar Amaral asked for clarification on the health insurance premium holiday, asking whether those individuals on the HMO would also have the holiday. Commissioner Kitchen and the Administrator Gomes stated that this was only being offered as an incentive to current PPO subscribers. HMO subscribers were being given a break in premium.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to authorize County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to bond pursuant to the Bristol County Advisory Board vote of February 8, 2018 and the Special Legislation for the Bristol County Agricultural High School building and renovation project. Said project to be bonded up to an amount of \$103,750,000.00 for a term not to exceed thirty (30) years.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Ken Rapoza and Mike Vining were in attendance from the Bristol County Print Shop. Mr. Rapoza updated the Commissioner's on some outreach that he has been doing. Mr. Rapoza explained that the web-page for the print shop went live last week. He asked about new signage for the front of the building. Mr. Rapoza will begin to do a weekly run for the NB Registry next week.

Mr. Vining discussed the difficulty with the engine search for the Print Shop. He was going to contact Google to see if there was a way to get the webpage to appear when you do a simple search of Bristol County Print Shops.

Mr. Vining will also be putting together a pdf file as a marketing tool that could be emailed to customers.

Alex Stylos, the owner of 15 Court Street was present to discuss a proposal to the Commissioners regarding the installation of an elevator between 11 Court Street (Taunton Registry of Deeds Building) and 15 Court Street. Mr. Stylos stated that he had a plan on file with the Taunton Building Department showing a plan with an elevator but it was at a different location in the building, located at the back rear corner.

The proposal that Mr. Stylos wanted to discuss with the County Commissioner involved installing an in common elevator with access to the 1st and 2nd floor of the Registry Building and the 15 Court Street Building. Mr. Stylos wanted to know if the County had any interest in the design of a common elevator. The approximate cost of the elevator installation is approximately \$175 thousand dollars with a final number of \$350-400 thousand dollars.

Another option to splitting the cost would be for Mr. Stylos to incur the cost of the elevator installation in exchange for assuming the space on the second floor of the Registry Building. For security purposes, a key fob system would be installed to secure access to the entrance doors on the second floor. If the County had plans to use the second floor then this option would not work.

Commissioner Kitchen explained that the second option would involve disposing of public property and that would involve a great deal more, specifically requirements under the law for the disposition of public property. The County would have to allow everyone to equally bid on the use of the second floor. It would have to be a public process.

Mr. Stylos indicated he is in the process of getting some extra time from the State Architectural Access Board so that he is essentially ready to open the building in a couple of months without an elevator. He estimates that design implementation for the elevator will get started by the end of the summer.

The County will take the matter under advisement.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, it was unanimously voted to table the proposal for further discussion.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes

Commissioner Kitchen Yes

Received a letter dated February 26 2018, from Attorney John T. Murray of Aleixo and Murray,P.C., representing a client named Kathleen Correia who was involved in an accident on Route 79 South in Fall River.

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Saunders to accept and place on file.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

Administrator Gomes brought up a phone call received from a former employee at the Bristol County Agricultural High School. This individual left employment in December of 2004 and is inquiring as to whether or not he is benefit eligible. Administrator Gomes was unable to locate a policy on this question. She indicated that allowing this could open up quite an unknown future liability for the County that is not captured. She suggested that the Commissioner look at establishing a policy on the issue. She noted that she will also continue to look for any prior policy that addresses this.

County Commissioner Mitchell wanted to know if it was lawful for the County to make a motion to not allow people who leave the employment of the County to rejoin insurance.

The matter would be researched and information provided to the Commissioner's within the next 30 days.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Saunders to adjourn at 4:44 pm.

On the motion, Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Mitchell	Yes
Commissioner Saunders	Yes
Commissioner Kitchen	Yes

APPROVED
DATE

3/20/18

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~~_____~~
John J. Saunders

**BRISTOL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**