

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## BRISTOL SS

At a meeting of the Bristol County Commissioners holden in Taunton within and for the County of Bristol on the seventh day of February A.D., 2023 by successive adjournments from the September term of the previous year.

Present: Commissioner Paul B. Kitchen, Commissioner John R. Mitchell and Commissioner John T. Saunders (called in remotely).

Commissioner Kitchen called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

Also in attendance at the meeting Maria Gomes, Scott Aguiar, Brian Moniz and Derek Costa.

Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Notice was received from the Bristol County Agricultural High School regarding the following employment matters:

- |                    |                                 |                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Scott A. Rose   | Placed on Worker's Compensation | Effective 1/25/23 |
| 2. Scott A. Rose   | Off Worker's Compensation       | Effective 1/26/23 |
| 3. Holly Santos    | New PT Food Service/Utility     | Effective 2/8/23  |
| 4. Kathleen Reilly | Regrade-Educ. Step              | Effective 2/6/23  |

Notice was received from Register of Deeds Barry J. Amaral regarding the following employment matter:

- |                        |                  |                   |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Sharon J. McCracken | Reclassification | Effective 3/01/23 |
|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the CP's as presented.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

The following warrants were reviewed/previously approved and noted for the minutes:

Payroll Warrant #23072	02/02/23	\$194,094.89
Payroll Warrant #23074	02/09/23	\$200,317.38
AP Warrant #23073	02/04/23	\$155,597.19

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders to approve the warrants as presented.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes



Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell to receive and place on file the a surety bonds received for Barry J. Amaral, the Register for the Bristol County Northern Registry of Deeds.

On the motion, Roll Call  
 Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted, in accordance with the recommendation of Peter Carreiro, Benefits Coordinator, to forward to the Treasurer's Office for payment, invoice dated January 23, 2023 from the **MIIA Health Benefits Trust, One Winthrop Square**, in the amount of **\$383,335.54** for the County of Bristol Monthly Membership Premiums for **February 2023**.

To be paid to Vendor #7778 from the following accounts:	<b>Account #01-21581</b>	<b>\$383,055.24</b>
	<b>Account #13420-54437</b>	<b>\$ 280.30</b>

On the motion, Roll Call  
 Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell, it was voted to approve the request from Register of Deeds Sherrilynn Mello, dated January 20, 2023, to declare **7 computer monitors, 12 PC's, 1 small desk printer and 4 computer keyboards** as surplus property with no value and authorize her to recycle/dispose of these items. All hard drives have been removed.

On the motion, Roll Call  
 Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Administrator Gomes made the County Commissioners aware that there was a water pipe break at the ***New Bedford Superior Court*** boiler that was undetected during the month of December holiday week period. The invoice for water and sewer for the December month period was \$5,331.30. It usually is about \$490 per month. Administrator Gomes called the City of New Bedford. This invoice cannot be appealed due to the fact that the water discharged into the sewer system. The account will be in a deficit at the end of the year due to this issue.

A communication dated January 23, 2023 was received form the City of New Bedford Assessor's Office regarding Bristol County ***Abatement # 754*** for a Jeremy Fuller of 1056 Forbes Street, New Bedford. The County had sent a letter to the City of New Bedford on July 13, 2021, 1.5 years ago. The City failed to take action due to



“department staffing issues” and asked that the County Commissioners consider moving the matter to the Appellate Tax Board in Boston.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders to receive and place on file.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

Administrator Gomes noted that the health insurance increase costs from MIIA will be in a range between 1% and 10.5%, with the Trust average falling at 5.6%.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders to receive and place on file.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

A new notice was received for a New National OPIOID Settlement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell to receive and place on file.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, second by Commissioner Mitchell, it was voted to approve issuing the monthly travel allowance of **\$200.00** to the Interim Facilities Superintendent Brian Moniz, retroactive to January 2023 until such time that the position is filled permanently.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to approve and authorize the ARPA Director and County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to distribute funds related to the ARPA Application **#1076** from the **City of Attleboro** for **\$4,305,000.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor **#1264** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes



Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to approve and authorize the ARPA Director and County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to distribute funds related to the ARPA Application **#1124** from the **Town of Freetown** for **\$35,460.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor **#6829** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to approve and authorize the ARPA Director and County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to distribute funds related to the ARPA Application **#1130** from the **Town of Westport** for **\$20,000.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor **#5171** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*

Commissioner Kitchen asked that there be a discussion related to application submission deadline and surplus funding.

#### Old Business

Commissioner Kitchen asked to have an email sent out to the Registers regarding the air purifiers asking whether or not they have any interest in moving forward with the installation of air purifiers.

The matter of Judge Darnbrough's request to have a door installed for the Interpreters at the New Bedford 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court was revisited. Administrator Gomes stated that she has both called and emailed Mr. O'Brien and received no response from him.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders to receive and place on file Judge Darnbrough's letter dated January 9, 2023.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders                      yes  
 Mr. Mitchell                      yes  
 Mr. Kitchen                      yes  
*Motion carries*



Administrator Gomes announced that Christopher Boudreau had contacted her regarding the expected rate increase from Boston Mutual for the required Life and Accidental Disability policy. A spreadsheet will be forwarded to the Commissioners. He should be invited to the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Unanticipated

There was a water pipe break on Sunday at the building that the County leases to the Fall River Children's Museum which flooded areas of the building. Servpro was contacted to address the water damage, Lemieux was called for the pipe repair, three carpet quotes have been received and Gorman Construction was also called to address the rook damage caused by the same storm.

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to authorize the emergency replacement of carpeting at the Fall River Children's Museum, damaging das a result of a water pipe break. Bid to be awarded to **Joe's Carpet Inc**, 333 Bank Street, Fall River, MA 02720. Cost not to exceed **\$1899.35**.

**To be paid to Vendor # \_\_\_\_\_ from 13420/52269.**

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to authorize the emergency repair of roofing at the 441 North Main Street Fall River (above the Fall River Children's Museum), caused by damage from a storm over the weekend. Repairs to be performed by **Gorman Construction, Inc.** PO Box 195, Raynham, MA 02767 in the accordance with the proposal dated February 6, 2023 in the amount of **\$6,200.00**.

**To be paid to Vendor #7947 to be paid from 13420/52269 when work is completed.**

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Saunders at 4:39 pm to go into executive sessions for the purpose of pre-screening applications for the position of facilities superintendent. The Commissioners would be returning to open session.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*



Chairman Kitchen called the open session back to order at 4:48 pm. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion, second by Commissioner Saunders to have the next Commissioner's Meeting on Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in Taunton. The February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting is cancelled.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

Commissioner Mitchell made a motion, second by Commissioner Saunders to adjourn at 4:49 pm.

On the motion, Roll Call

Mr. Saunders	yes
Mr. Mitchell	yes
Mr. Kitchen	yes

*Motion carries*

**APPROVED**

**DATE**

2/16/23

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

**BRISTOL COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS**