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 twenty-eighth day of May A.D., 2024 by successive adjournments from the March term of the same year.

Present: Commissioner Paul B. Kitchen, Commissioner John R. Mitchell and Commissioner John T. Saunders.

Also in attendance: County Administrator Maria Gomes.

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

Received notices from the Bristol County Agricultural High School on the following employment matters:

1. Tara McCann Termination Effective 6/14/24

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

The following warrants were previously approved and/or reviewed and read into the record:

Payroll Warrant #24124	5/23/24	$226,843.25
Payroll Warrant #24125	5/30/24	$224,197.65
AP Warrant #24120	5/28/24	$6,662,011.55
AP Warrant #24121	5/28/24	$2,379,729.42

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell it was voted to authorize Chairman Kitchen to execute the Certificate of Authority on behalf of the Bristol County Commissioners for the Solect Energy documents regarding the solar project at the Bristol County Agricultural High School.

ARPA Applications

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 **Town of Seekonk** ARPA Application **#1236** in the amount of $**199,050.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor #**5540** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

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 **Town of Seekonk** ARPA Application **#1111** in the amount of $**224,240.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor #**5540** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

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 **Town of Berkley** ARPA Application **#1260** in the amount of **$89,441.41** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor #**5160** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Kitchen it was voted to approve and authorize the ARPA Director and County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to distribute funds related to the **City of New Bedford** ARPA Application **#1279** in the amount of **$1,090,000.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor #**590** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

On the Motion, Roll Call:
Mr. Mitchell yes
Mr. Saunders abstained
Mr. Kitchen yes

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, second by Commissioner Kitchen it was voted to approve and authorize the ARPA Director and County Treasurer Christopher Saunders to distribute funds related to the **City of New Bedford** ARPA Application **#1280** in the amount of **$130,000.00** as submitted and approved through the Bristol County ARPA Portal.

To be paid to Vendor #**590** from the **ARPA** funding as designated by the County Treasurer.

On the Motion, Roll Call:
Mr. Mitchell yes
Mr. Saunders abstained
Mr. Kitchen yes

Chairman Kitchen opened the **Priority Needs Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.**

Administrator Gomes introduced two proposals from RGB Architects to evaluate and/or manage construction projects at the Taunton Superior Court and the New Bedford Superior Court.

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders it was voted to approve the proposal from **RGB Architects** dated May 11, 2024, noted as RGB #305-2, in the amount of **$20,700.00** for the existing condition review of the water infiltration currently damaging the **Jury Room** on the second floor of the **Taunton Superior Court**. RGB will prepare a report, cost estimates and coordinate findings.

To be paid to Vendor **#8370** from **10610/52269**.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell it was voted to approve the proposal from **RGB Architects** dated May 08, 2024, noted as RGB #6767-2, in the amount of **$25,000.00** for the services moving forward including bidding, preparation, answers and clarification of any issues the contractor may

have issuing any addendums and bid review for the **New Bedford Superior Court Façade Restoration Project**. The funds for this project can be encumbered.

To be paid to Vendor **#8370** from **10611/52269**.

Administrator Gomes announced that the FY'23 Trial Court expense audit was just completed and the expected reimbursement to the County will be $2,232,882.70. This number is approximately $209,000.00 higher than the previous year.

A communication was received from Lisa Rogers, Director of Accounting regarding the Fund 001 Unreserved Funds of $1,717,022.00 available to the County to assist with the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

Administrator Gomes noted that the print shop need a new envelope printer machine. Commissioner Saunders wanted to know the lease cost versus the lease to buy cost.

The Commissioners discussed current revenues and percentage increases for non-union staff for the upcoming budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to recommend a 2.5% increase for non-union appointed staff. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Kitchen to recommend a 4% increase in salary for the elected Registers of Deeds and the County Treasurer. Commissioner Mitchell abstained.

At the time of this hearing, no building insurance numbers had been received. Administrator Gomes is waiting on those numbers to plug into the FY'25 budget draft. Building repairs should be entered with similar number to FY'24 at this time.

There being no public input, the Priority Needs Hearing was closed.

Unanticipated

The Attleboro Court has a broken AC unit.

Upon motion of Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell it was voted to approve the proposal dated May 24, 2024 from **SS Service Corp** for the **Attleboro District Court** to replace contactor and pressure switch on condenser unit 2 and Judge's office wall unit on right side in the amount of $995.41.

Tobe paid to Vendor #**5614** from **10619/52269**.

No other business.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to adjourn at 4:43 p.m.

APPROVED
DATE 6/11/24

BRISTOL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS