

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## BRISTOL SS

At a meeting of the Bristol County Commissioners holden remotely via Go-To-Meeting within and for the County of Bristol on the seventeenth day of November A.D., 2020, by successive adjournments from the September 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, Facilities Superintendent Scott Aguiar and on-line, Business Manager Derek Costa.

Chairman Kitchen called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

An attendance Roll Call was taken.

Mr. Mitchell	Yes
Mr. Saunders	Yes
Mr. Kitchen	Yes

Received a notice from the Bristol County Agricultural High School regarding the following employment matters:

1. Emily Osra Burke	Science Instructor Termination	Effective 11/27/20
2. Linda Cestodio	Part-time Teacher Aide	Effective 11/09/20
3. Sheri Eikenberg	Part-time Teacher Aide	Effective 11/09/20

Received a notice from Administrator Gomes regarding the following employment matters:

1. Maria V. Gomes	County Admin-Wage Increase	Effective 7/1/20
2. Scott M. Aguiar	Facilities Sup. " "	Effective 7/1/20
3. Michael Vining	Computer Specialist Wage Increase	Effective 7/1/20

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

On the motion, Roll Call vote:

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

The following Warrants were reviewed:

Payroll Warrant	11/12/20	#21043	\$158,863.53
Payroll Warrant	11/19/20	#21045	\$157,910.99
AP Warrant	11/17/20	#21039	\$5,053,194.40
AP Warrant	11/17/20	#21038	\$173,339.95
AP Warrant	11/17/20	#21044	\$380,593.22

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

On the motion, Roll Call vote:

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to approve the minutes of November 4, 2020.

On the motion, Roll Call:

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

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted, in accordance with the rules and regulations regarding the Sick Leave Bank Enrollment for the Bristol County Agricultural High School Support Association/MTA contract, to increase the number of days by 8, bringing the total number of hours in the bank to 212 for the 2020-2021 school year.

It was further voted to notify the County Treasurer's Office of this action and to make the proper deductions to those who donated.

On the motion, Roll Call:

Mr. Mitchell             Yes  
Mr. Saunders             Yes  
Mr. Kitchen             Yes

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to change the next Commissioner's meeting date from December 1, 2020 to December 2, 2020 in order to certify election results for the County Treasurer position. This date change is in line with MGL Chapter 54, Section 121.

On the motion, Roll Call:

Mr. Mitchell             Yes  
Mr. Saunders             Yes  
Mr. Kitchen             Yes

Upon motion of Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders, it was voted to approve in accordance with the documentation received from Catherine Rutkowski and Lara Stone, Co-Executive Directors, **Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County**, 58 Arch Street, Fall River, MA 02720, dated November 2, 2020, and forward to the Treasurer's Office, an invoice for expenses related to the **November** rent only (all occupancy costs are included in the total rent cost) in the amount of **\$4,000.00**.

It is noted this is for vendor # **6891** and will be charged to **01000-54490**.

On the motion, Roll Call:

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

### County Administrator's Report

Administrator Gomes reported that current attendance responses are just over 74% attending in person and via Zoom. She also stated that she had gone to the BCAHS yesterday and a test Zoom conference was held to allow Chairman Pacheco to remote in to test the connection.

The Deeds Retainage authorization for FY '21 has been received by Registrar Amaral.

Administrator Gomes reported that the County has received more than 54 fraudulent unemployment claims. They have been responded to and all affected individuals have been notified. There are a couple of claims, one from a former BCAHS employee and another from a County employee. The DUA has still not corrected the invoice to reflect the correct valid charges and they are invoicing the County approximately \$33,000. In actuality, the proper invoice should only be about \$2,500.

The Commissioner's Office will be closed on the Friday following Thanksgiving but the staff will be responding to emails.

### Old Business

A communication dated November 10th was received from Superintendent Sands correcting a pay rate amount for employee Michelle Nogueira.

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

On the motion, Roll Call:

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

Administrator Gomes stated that employee Nick Dooley will indeed be retiring at the end of December. With that retirement, the County will be down two custodians. Administrator Gomes and Facilities Superintendent Aguiar would like authorization to post for two custodial positions—one Senior Building Custodian as a promotional posting and one Custodian position which may be advertised internally and externally.

### Unanticipated Items

A tax abatement appeal request was received by the County Commissioner's Office on November 16<sup>th</sup> from Jorge and Tammy Silva of 25 Flagg Swamp Road, Freetown, MA 02717. It came in just under the time restriction for filing the appeal, which is 90 days. Administrator Gomes will process the payment to the Treasurer's Office and then send out the certified mail to the Freetown Assessor's Office asking if they wish the appeal to be heard at the County or State level.

Administrator Gomes reported that Registry Receipts and Deeds Excise are both up over last year at this time.

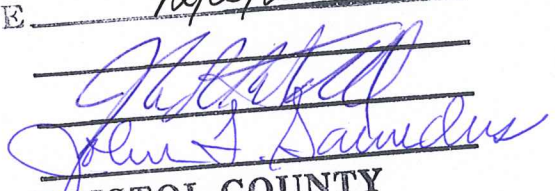
A motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell, seconded by Commissioner Saunders to go into Executive Session at 4:32 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to litigation which is necessary to protect the litigation position of the body. Commissioner Kitchen announced that the Commissioners would not be returning to open session.

On the motion, Roll Call:

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

APPROVED  
DATE

12/2/2020

  
BRISTOL COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS