

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**

APPROVED Journal of Proceedings – October 17, 2012

Speaker BERGSTROM: Good afternoon. Welcome to the October 17th session of the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates.

I'd like to call this meeting to order. And portions of this meeting are going to also be recorded, so I'd like to make you aware of that.

And we will now begin the meeting with a moment of silence to honor our troops who have died in our service to our country and all those serving our country in the Armed Forces.

(Moment of silence).

Thank you.

We will now stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance).

Speaker BERGSTROM: The Clerk will call the roll.

**Roll Call (94.33%): Richard Anderson (9.15% - Bourne), Cheryl Andrews (1.36% - Provincetown), Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Spyro Mitrokostas (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Paul Pilcher (1.27% - Wellfleet), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Anthony Scalese (4.55% - Brewster), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth).
Absent (5.67%): Leo Cakounes (5.67% - Harwich).**

Clerk OCONNELL: Mr. Speaker, we have a quorum present with 94.33 percent of the Delegate's present and 5.67 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

I'll now need a Motion to Approve the Calendar of Business.

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Motion to Approve the Calendar of Business.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. Any additions or corrections to the Calendar? Hearing none. All those in favor, say "aye." Opposed?

(Motion carried).

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. You should have received a copy of the Journal of October 3, 2012. You've had a chance to review the Journal; does anyone have any corrections to the Journal? Amendments?

Okay. Hearing none.

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Motion to Approve the Journal of October 3.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. All those in favor say "aye." Opposed? (Motion carried).

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We now have Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners. I see the Chair of the Commissioners here.

It's going to take a few minutes to let the videographer set up. Apparently, he's had some other responsibilities this afternoon.

Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, I've been on the road since 7 a.m. I won't get home until 9. My dog is looking for a new owner.

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Your dog what?

Commissioner FLYNN: My dog is looking for a new owner because I'm never home.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We're going to recess for five minutes.

(Meeting stands in recess 4:04 p.m.)

(Meeting out of recess at 4:07 p.m.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We are about to continue the October 17th session of the Cape Cod Regional Government Assembly of Delegates. We are now on Item Number 8 on the Agenda, Communication from the Board of Regional Commissioners.

I have here Commissioner Flynn and Commissioner Lyons. Welcome. What have you got for us?

Commissioner FLYNN: First of all, I'm sorry that none of us were here at your last meeting. It turned out that all three of us had to be at the same place at the same time. And I know that happens occasionally.

So, you haven't had a report for a while, but I think I want to spend a little bit of time talking about the meeting we had this afternoon on Wastewater.

As you may remember, the Special Commission provided us with a recommendation that we consider a Wastewater District, perhaps, maybe perhaps one with taxing authority.

And we made it clear today for the record in more than one place, that when we reviewed those recommendations from the Special Commission, we voted to accept them. We did not vote to recommend them. And then we'll take each one in its term.

Well, we, obviously, did consider the Mosquito Control because we are working with them now to see whether or not it's feasible to bring them under the County umbrella.

But in terms of Wastewater, what we did was we asked -- we directed, although I don't like that term -- I don't like to be directed, but it's essentially what we did -- Director Paul Niedzwiecki and Andrew Gottlieb to develop a long-range plan for Wastewater planning for the County. And we asked them to come back periodically and report to us, and they've been in twice.

And today they came in with an update which is the prelude to the final report which will come in December.

And we made it very clear that a taxing authority, an MWRA-like taxing authority, or any kind of a district is not on the table. It has never been on the table. It was in the recommendation from the Special Commission.

But as we begin to learn and work through the issues, particularly with Andrew and Paul; they have visited every single Town. Boards of Selectmen and citizens group at least two or three times in the last three or four months.

Commissioner LYONS: It came out to 50 visits total.

Commissioner FLYNN: Fifty visits total. So they received a lot of input from the community.

We have had communications from the Town of Sandwich which we found very informative. And we asked the Selectmen to come and meet with us, which they did; two of the Selectmen Frank

Pannorfi and Linell Grundman, and they came in about a month ago.

And they went over where they are in terms of Wastewater Planning because it is a local issue. I mean it's each Town's responsibility to create their own Wastewater plan, but it gets to be expensive.

And there are some shared things that there was never any opportunity for Towns to do, particularly, say with consultants; you have to bring in consulting engineers because usually no Town has engineers on its staff that are able to do that.

And that was one of the recommendations from Sandwich that when it came time for them to develop their plan, they had to bring in those consulting engineers, and yet six months prior to that, the town of Barnstable or another town had engineers in working on the same type of a project doing almost the same kind of work. So there's this duplication of costs from town to town because the towns are not in the same sequence in terms of their planning. They're following different timelines.

So, anyway, I don't have the copy of the report to hand you today, but I will send it over tomorrow, and you'll get a copy of it. But they did give us a written report of where they are, but we spent almost an hour and we had a lot of people in the room from all different parts of the community and parts of the Cape.

And so what they laid out for us really was a big picture in terms of the role of the County, and, obviously, the responsibility of the Towns and how we could work together.

So I don't want to go into it because it's complex, but yet -- and it has to get -- it needs more -- what do I want to say?

Commissioner LYONS: More rewiring.

Commissioner FLYNN: Content to it that will help you understand, but you will get copies of this interim report.

Did you want to say something about it?

Commissioner LYONS: Yes. Actually, the report to date, there was a PowerPoint presentation and a letter to the Commissioners, you know, summarizing their findings up until this point. And Pat is right. What we asked for was a set of solutions, regional or Cape-wide solutions at a problem that we all share in varying degrees.

So, if you put that over on a map, what does it look like as a Cape-wide problem, and how are we going to address each of these different watersheds in areas that have been identified as critical.

So, they're going -- there are a lot of people that just feel that there was already a foregoing conclusion that this is all just a lot of breathing so that we can get to the ultimate decision, which hasn't been arrived to yet.

So that process is still going on. But if anyone wants to access those documents that were presented to us today, Andrew Gottlieb said that they would be on the Cape Keepers website by the end of this working day. So that is CapeKeepers.org. It should be posted there by this evening, and you will have access to that.

And I would recommend that you ask Andrew and Paul to come over and go over that with you because it was very informative and it's a healthy discussion to have. And the more we can have those discussions in a public forum like this, I think, is more beneficial to the general public at large and so that they can have an understanding.

I don't know if you're finished. But I had something else I want to say.

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, I just wanted to say that it creates a whole new dynamic in terms of how the County and the Towns can work together as a region; what things the County is able to do, and, also, how effective -- more effective we can be as a region in terms of securing funding.

And their report states that at least 50 percent of the funding for Wastewater on the Wastewater projects on the Cape will have to come from off-Cape and that 50 percent of it would be on Cape, and that mostly would be the Towns or the citizens paying whatever portion.

But the 50 percent of the cost truly has to come from off-Cape. And the way to do that is to have a plan like this, which is the big picture plan and which puts the County in a position as a regional government of going forward and looking for that kind of funding as a region. It is much more available as a region that it is individually for each town.

So the other thing I wanted to mention is after the election, whoever wins the election, there are - we are beginning to set the dates for the development of the Strategic Plan for the County for the next five years. And we are going to be inviting you to participate with us in stages of that plan and hope that you will consider doing that.

It will be a broken down year by year, but over arching, it will be a five-year plan with specific goals that we can accomplish as a County government over that period of time.

We didn't think it appropriate to begin those discussions in the last three or four months because there may be an entirely new Board, or at least there may be one new member. We don't know yet. And it makes sense to wait until that's over with and know exactly who the Commissioners are going to be for the next four years before we put the time and effort into creating the Strategic Plan.

I want to remind you also that tonight at six o'clock the Attorney General's Office is holding the Open Meeting Law, Educational Forum, at Barnstable High School, and I plan to go to that.

Anyway, I think that's about -- oh, you wanted to say something.

Commissioner LYONS: So, I just wanted to say it's really nice to see all of you. And when I walked in, Chris said, "Oh my God, you're here."

And I know that you've been -- I've been with you in spirit because you get something on me everyday probably in your e-mail. So you've been able to follow my whereabouts in some of these documents -- and I'm not sure, some stalker.

But I did want to just explain that the reason I haven't been here -- it's not that I haven't wanted to be here, but I did have to go out and get myself a real job. And in spite of what people say about County government, it really doesn't pay. And that job was Director of Social Service at the Pavilion Skilled Nursing Facility, where I was hired to come in as a sort of a revamping of their administration because they were facing a State survey.

I'm sure many of you read about it, that wasn't a good State survey that they received in 2010-2011. And I'm happy to report that we did get through our State survey and part of that team, management team, I was very proud that we got 100 percent State survey. So, if anybody's in need of rehab, the Pavilion's a legitimate and well-recognized facility at this point.

And since then, since the survey is over, I asked to step down as Director because it really was too much of my time, and I do feel an obligation to the County duties, so I'm back, and I'm sure you're all thrilled.

But I did want to say that it is good to be back, and it hasn't been that I haven't wanted to be here.

And the other thing I just wanted to say is that I actually felt -- I wanted to commend you for sort of picking up and trying to pick up the ball. I know it's frustrating that we've had this Special Commission Report, and it's not really been dealt with in the way that it's been handed over.

And I think that maybe after November, not only will we be looking at a Strategic Plan going forward, but to have that incorporation of all of you to go over that and to see, you know, what out of the Special Commission really does work for the County and what doesn't.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Commissioner LYONS: So I'm happy to --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Any questions for the Commissioners? John.

Mr. OHMAN: Yes, for Commission Flynn. I'm grateful that Andrew Gottlieb and Paul Niedzwiecki are working hard on this. It's definitely going to be a Watershed-based solution though.

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes, that's right.

Mr. OHMAN: Because I know sometimes Towns do find it difficult to coordinate expensive efforts, so I just want to -- so I prepare myself for dealing with the Towns near me.

Commissioner LYONS: You know, John, I think that what was discovered through many of these visits, you know, as I say there wasn't just with Boards of Selectmen that Andy and Paul went towards but Water Districts, Planning Boards of the Towns, you know, various different people who have a say in that Town, and people in the public who came to those meetings.

You know, there is a fear of the local control, but there's also recognition that it is so costly even just in the preliminary planning aspect of it that it would be nice to be able to share these costs.

And I think that's what is happening for many people here as we go through this exercise, it's a learning process as we go through it and it's very fluid. And as we hone in and really focus on this issue, I think everyone's beginning to realize where their role is and how that role interacts with their neighbor or several neighbors or even as part of a whole.

And it starts to look a little less scary to identify ourselves as Cape Cod in this particular instance where the cost and the stakes are so high.

Doing nothing, we will lose the Cape as we know it, which means we will lose the economy as we know it, and doing something individually we could, you know, a Town could put itself under and never be able to maintain the costs of that because of the restrictions of Prop 2-1/2 and never really being able to raise their revenues to cover the costs.

So, I think that it's been a good education for not only the County to hear from the Towns but for the Towns to hear from the County, and if the County is willing to listen and to see that this is more -- not of a top-down approach, but how can we work as partners and speak with one voice and have a greater impact on the larger community that we live in, which is the Commonwealth and then the United States.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Go ahead, John.

Mr. OHMAN: And one more on an ancillary basis too. I'd also like to know if the County -- I haven't heard anything since initial discussions with our County Administrator, but there's been talk about a second dredge, and I think that for Wastewater Management and for every Town on Cape Cod, a second dredge or additional dredging for maintenance and opening up some clogged waterways is very important.

I attended a Wastewater Meeting in my Town of Dennis yesterday, and their focus was on Swan River, which really desperately needs dredging.

And their question is is there going to be additional opportunities for the Towns to use that methodology to help with Wastewater Management?

Commissioner FLYNN: Yes. And we have had that discussion about a second dredge, and we were looking for the funding to be able to do that as well as the staffing.

So that is something we will have to get back to Mark about when he's back from his meeting in Springfield and talk about that.

There's one other thing I wanted to say and that's about -- in terms of the Strategic Plan, we need to address the recommendations in the Special Commission, and that will be part of the Strategic Plan.

And I know that you had on your docket a discussion that you have under the Charter. But I wanted to say that under the Charter, our powers are very different. The Commissioner's powers are really the Executive, and your powers are more budget-related in approving the budget and approving Ordinances that relate to different appropriations and other types of Ordinances.

And it kind of because of the separation of those powers, which checks and balances are really what it's all about, and that's why you were organized in a sense, but it sometimes puts us on opposite sides of the fence, and I find that to be very troublesome.

And I think it's so important for this government to be able to work together and to be able to find ways in which we can discuss issues and come to some agreement about what some of those issues are, rather than to find ourselves to be in opposing positions.

I don't think it works very well for the County, and it certainly doesn't work very well for us, and, in part, it doesn't work very well for you either. I mean, it's much -- it's much better if we can find ways to come to agreement.

So, I'm thinking that as the Strategic Plan moves forward, not so much in looking at the recommendations of County government, but for us to look together as sort of partners in a way in ways in which we can work together given the powers that we have under the current Charter.

Maybe those need to be changed, and maybe we can do something about that, because I think if we can come to agreement on those things, then it would work better.

I think the establishment of a County Executive is important. I think those administrative functions should be the functions of a County Executive. That leaves open the County Commissioners being in more of a policy role even in the current structure. That's something that we need to explore.

You know, what are some of the basic principles of the recommendations that could apply to the structure as it already is? I don't think we should just take that and use that as the point of discussion, but I think we should -- that the point of discussion should be around how can these two bodies of government actually work together and try to find ways in Agreement --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Mary Pat, I don't mean to interrupt you -- We've been told before that we can't wander too far off of what you actually discussed -- because otherwise this gets all --

Commissioner FLYNN: I wanted to plant the seed.

Commissioner LYONS: And I have to leave anyway.

Speaker BERGSTROM: You planted it.

Commissioner LYONS: But thank you so much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Hopefully it grows.

Commissioner FLYNN: Okay.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. But one thing I'd like to ask before you go. Word has gotten to me that there's been some communication on the ARC purchase that a letter was sent out to Yarmouth or somebody saying that various scenarios are under discussion. Is there anything there new that I don't know about?

Commissioner FLYNN: Well, the proposal has come to the Commissioners.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Commissioner FLYNN: And we are in the process of looking at the options that are presented to us.

One is to buy the property outright; one is to buy the property and lease it back, and the third is to buy the development rights.

So we have to look at that from the proposal of a successful operation from the legal issues related to whatever that purchase might be, and the environmental considerations that we have to make in terms of the property. That is under review right now by the Commission and by the Commissioners, and within 2 to 3 weeks, we will probably have a decision as to how we plan to move forward.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Just so that -- because if Mark -- if there's communications between the County and the various Towns and so on on these issues, just send us a copy so that -- otherwise, misinformation gets around.

Commissioner FLYNN: Sure.

Speaker BERGSTROM: That's all.

Commissioner FLYNN: You're welcome.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We now move on to Communications from Public Officials.

How about Communications from Members of the Public? Any members of the public wish to speak?

Assembly Convenes

Report of Committees

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. The Assembly will now convene.

We don't have a lot on this, but we'll start with Committee Reports.

We had a meeting of the -- well, I'm going to leave that to Item 13 on the Report of the Governmental Regulations.

The Governmental Regulations Committee discussed the Proposed Ordinance 12-06 and voted after about 45 minutes of discussion, it's basically concerns -- it was submitted by Delegate Mitrokostas. It concerns the separation of the County Administration functions from the Office of a Finance Director.

And I think it was the consensus of the Committee today that they were in support of that Proposed Ordinance with certain changes, and we'll make recommendations on that to the full Assembly when the Proposed Ordinance is brought up at the next meeting.

Ms. ANDREWS: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. ANDREWS: So was there a vote from the Committee?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. ANDREWS: And it was?

Speaker BERGSTROM: The vote was to recommend approval with certain -- what's the word?

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Amendments.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Amendments.

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. So we're not -- I guess what I'm understanding is that are we going to get a written report? We're not going to get a written report today; are we going to get a written report before our meeting?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: That's why I don't want to tell you specifically why unless it's printed up and sent, but basically there's a sense of the meeting.

So, I don't think there was any other Committee Meetings.

Do we have a report from the Clerk?

Report from the Clerk

Clerk O'CONNELL: Yes, we do. A couple of items I wanted to go over with you. As the Commissioners mentioned, there is an Open Meeting Law training session tonight, Barnstable High School. And because I'm not from Barnstable, I needed to know exactly where I needed to go.

Ms. ANDREWS: You can follow me.

Ms. O'CONNELL: So, it's 744 West Main Street, and it will be in the auditorium. I didn't want to circle the whole school and wonder where it was going to be held. So it's in the auditorium.

And the next item is --- we have a couple weeks before our next meeting. Our next meeting will be the 7th of November.

If any Subcommittees or Standing Committees, rather, are planning on meeting before the Assembly meets on the 7th of November, please let me know that no later than the 30th of October at

noon time.

I will be out of the office from the 31st of October through the 7th. I won't be back in the office until the day of the Assembly Meeting.

So in terms of posting Notices and Agendas, I really need to get those done on the 30th of October.

And, also, as a reminder, I already know that the Finance Committee will be meeting on the 7th of November with Mark Zielinski to review the Treasurer's Report.

And my last item is just a reminder that the second meeting in November will fall on the eve of a rather large holiday, a holiday that a lot of people travel over.

And if you know that you will not be able to attend the Assembly meeting on Wednesday, I think it's the 21st of November, we would appreciate it if you would let us know because we want to make sure that we're either going to have a quorum or not have a quorum because it could affect some of your other Delegates in terms of their travel plans.

So, as soon as you've made any decisions that might have an affect on that date, we would appreciate knowing that.

And that's it. That's all I have.

Ms. ANDREWS: Do you have a time for that Finance Committee meeting?

Clerk O'CONNELL: Yes. It will be at 3 o'clock.

Other Business

Speaker BERGSTROM: The last meeting we had, we discussed taking a look at the recommendations of the Special Committee on County Governance, specifically the Government's recommendations. I brought up the possibility of reforming a Charter Review Committee to look at those recommendations.

I've since looked at the Charter and the language specifically in the Charter that has to do with Charter changes. And to go to a previous discussion we just had, the Charter changes are clearly within the authority of the Assembly. That's how it's set up in the Charter.

Setting up a separate Charter Review Committee opens up a couple of issues. The Charter says that at least once every five years the Charter Review Committee should be formed to look at County Governance, and it should include representatives of all the regions involved.

Now we are sort of representative of all the regions involved, but the language has traditionally meant that we bring in people from outside. I looked at that. I looked at it carefully, and I said, "Well, as long as we do that every five years, we can do anything we want in between.

But I thought and said, "Well, you know, that's kind of a stretch." So, the point is that if you read the Charter, the recommendations that go to the Legislature come from the Assembly. Okay. It doesn't say you have to have a Charter Review Committee. It doesn't say you have to go through a process. This Assembly could decide tomorrow to recommend changes to the Legislature and then go on to the ballot.

So, the easiest way to do it is simply have, I think, to have the Governmental Regulations Committee look at those recommendations on governance and make recommendations to the full Assembly.

The Governmental Regulations Committee is made up of the Chairs of the other Committees. There's myself and John and Julia and Chris and it would be Paul, but Paul has agreed to let Teresa do it since he's going on to other things and also to Dick.

So that's the path that -- I think that's the easiest path to take. I'd still think it's a good idea. I don't need authorization to do this, but I thought I'd throw it before you and see if you're all against it, I

won't do it. What do you think? Yes Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure I'll have a number of questions, but just for clarity, so there would be six people on that Committee?

Speaker BERGSTROM: There are six people currently on this Committee.

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. And I guess my first question is the obvious one because it's been asked of me. If that's the way it went forward, you'd form a Committee where two or basically 33 percent of the Committee has already voted on the recommendations, which are you and Ms. Taylor from Falmouth.

And I'm going to put that out there. I'm not going to say whether that's a good thing or a bad thing, but if we ask six members of the Assembly to look at something and two of the six have already voted on those things, what does that mean?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, there were 25 people on the Special Commission of County Governance but --

Anybody else having to think on that? John.

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually asked Ron to do this as well. I think it's a great idea. And I think that just because there are six members on the Governmental Regulations Committee, we are charged with looking at issues like this, that doesn't mean we don't open it up to the rest of the Assembly.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Right.

Mr. OHMAN: Anybody that wants to participate in this, I would encourage everyone to think about it because these are very major shifts in County Governance. They suggest, many of which I wouldn't vote on with a gun to my head, but that's for a little later discussion.

But I think that the entire Assembly should be involved because I'm actually quite disappointed the Commissioners haven't done this. They've said it's too close to an election. God forbid there's a change, then they'll have to have a couple more months before they reorganize and do anything.

But I think we should be thinking about this right now. I think we should give it our own serious discussions, long time due.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And another thing is that one of the defects of the report of the Special Commission on County Governance, and I think Julia can correct me if I'm wrong, is they did take votes on the recommendations. They didn't tabulate the votes for and against; did they? Did they say X number of people are for it and counted the naysayers? It's not in the Minutes. So there may have been --

Ms. ANDREWS: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker. When Senator O'Leary gave us the report, he said, indeed, of course they voted, and, indeed, they wrote it down; they just didn't give us a copy.

So we said, "Would you please," and we're still waiting for the copy. It was a spreadsheet.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yeah, Julia. The question is not whether they voted on it. We voted on it. The question is whether or not the votes that were taken have the names of people who were for and against.

Ms. TAYLOR: I think that -- I've been on these Committees -- I've done quite a bit of Charter Review and the Special Commissions, etcetera, etcetera.

And I'm happy to be on this or happy to not be on it. I think though that Ron and I made a big effort to bring forward, every week really, we gave a report on what the discussion was like, what kinds of positions and things that we were pointing out.

In the end, are the one -- the two issues that have been the most, you know, exciting to people, some people.

I think my vote on the Assembly issue was I'm not going to -- I made quite a lot of discussions at the meetings over and over again. I said, "This is really not the direction that's going to be doing what

you think it's going to do for the County, and I don't think this is something that ought to be a top priority."

I'm not opposed to the concept of regional representation as opposed to town representation, but I didn't think it was something that needed to be pushed. And I think I reported that many, many times.

In the end, I was happy to vote with the rest of the people because I didn't wish to be voting to preserve my job essentially.

So, I have always -- I was there when we created it this way, and there were good reasons for it. There are reasons in the other direction as we've known since most of the time I've been on the Assembly. All small Towns have wanted a change because they felt that it was unfair that they didn't have as much of a vote.

So, be that as it may, on the question of Wastewater, I think it's clear that the people on the Special Commission felt very strongly that they wanted to send a message that this was the top priority on Cape Cod, and that the County ought to be seriously involved.

And they believed that there could be advantages, financial advantages if there was some sort of regional set up. I don't disagree with that, but that's what that vote was about. It was not about creating an MWRA or a taxing authority because the County doesn't have one iota of power to do that and you all know that.

The only way that could happen would be if the Towns' begged for it, and begged their State Representatives to do something like that. It's not something we can do.

So, that's -- and it's clear from the Commissioners that the Town -- and we've had no outcry in favor of that, so that's pretty much dead in the water and has been since the report came out.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, I don't anticipate that the Governmental Regulations Committee is going to look at all of the recommendations. If you remember how I tried to deal with this with the Commissioners -- when I saw that they weren't immediately looking at this, I said, "Well, at least separate out the recommendations."

And we, the Assembly, have a critical role in changing any of the governmental structures. As a path of least resistance, I said, "Maybe you'll get support in the Assembly for, you know, any kind of changes that have to go through the Charter process."

And so tell us, and I didn't say "Tell us," but I said, "Let's separate these things out, things that are none of our business, things that you need our cooperation, and things where you need to go through the Assembly."

I said with the anticipation that we -- that 25 people worked very hard on this; I said, "We should give them an answer yes or no." And it is within our power to say that. We should address the issue and we should make a decision.

That hasn't been what happened. So now I'm recommending, and John seems to agree and a couple of people agree that we're going to have to do this.

And I think it's, you know, if the Commissioners talk about that cooperative process, well, the easiest way to get these things achieved would be go through the process to set up a new Charter. And the Charter doesn't necessarily need a Charter Commission. So the Assembly is the one that makes the recommendations.

I'm not going to make a recommendation on Wastewater. I mean, that's something that they're going to have to do, but I do think that we can look at the governance recommendations and either decides to proceed or not.

And I think that, you know, it's time. It's time to take these recommendations and to either say that we're in favor of them or not. I mean I'm not worried about the election. I think it's our responsibility; we should do it when it comes in front of our plate. That's how it is.

Anybody else on this? Have I rambled on enough? Yes, Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Just a question, Mr. Speaker. I think, what was it, the total recommendations was something like 17; right? Something like that; 17? And certainly the two big ones were Governance and Wastewater.

I guess my question is what do you plan to put in front of the Governmental Regulations Committee; all 17? It sounds like one --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Putting in front of recommendations that have to do with governance because those are the recommendations that have to go through us. In other words, they changed the government structure; it has to go through the Assembly.

Now, they've hinted that they might not do that, but I read the Charter, and as it stands now, if they want to change, let's say, the make up of the Assembly; they want to change the powers and duties of the Administrator, and they want to add or subtract to the number of Commissioners, it has to go through a Charter change, and those Charter changes have to go through the Assembly to the Legislature.

So this is what we're supposed to -- what I'm saying is we're not butting in here. We're doing what we're supposed to be doing. We're helping them. They have to come through us anyway; let's see what we think.

So, I'm not going to make a speech here, but I think that the time is right to do this.

So, are we happy with that or not happy? I don't see anybody objecting too strongly.

So, ultimately, it will be up to the Assembly to decide whether you want to go forward with any of the recommendations of the Special Commission, and we could do that with or without the approval of the Commissioners. Although, as Mary Pat said today, it would be nice if we worked together.

Okay. Is there any other business to be brought before the Assembly? Quiet.

Deputy Speaker ANDERSON: Motion to Adjourn.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor, say "aye." Opposed? (Motion carried).

Whereupon, it was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates