

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**

APPROVED Journal of Proceedings – January 15, 2014

Speaker BERGSTROM: Good afternoon. Welcome to the January 15th, 2014 session of the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates.

I'd like to call this meeting to order. And we will begin with a moment of silence to honor our troops who have died in 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: Before we go any further, is anyone recording this session besides – Okay. We're having someone other than our normal recording procedure.

The Clerk will now call the roll.

Roll Call (65.31%): Richard Anderson (9.15% - Bourne), Cheryl Andrews (1.36% - Provincetown), Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Leo Cakounes (5.67% - Harwich), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% -Orleans), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% -Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Anthony Scalese (4.55% - Brewster), Julia Taylor (14.61% -Falmouth).

Absent (0%):

Clerk O'CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, we have a quorum with 100 percent of the Delegates present; 0 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

We'll now need an approval of the Calendar of Business.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So moved.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Moved and seconded. All those in favor, say "Aye."
Opposed?

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Now you should have received a copy of the Journal of December 18th, 2013. That seems like a long time ago. That was our last meeting. Any additions or corrections to the Journal?

Hearing none.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Move to Approve.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Moved and seconded. All those in favor say "Aye."

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: As has become practice, the Regional Commissioners are not here.

Mr. KANAGA: One abstention. (Journal of Proceedings) Sorry.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And one abstention. Okay. So we'll pass by Number 8 on our agenda.

And we'll go to Communications from Public Officials. Are there any Public Officials who wish to address the Assembly?

Hearing none.

Communications from Members of the Public

Speaker BERGSTROM: Communications from Members of the Public. Do we have any Members of the Public?

I see a hand there and another hand in the back so we'll start with you. Just identify yourself.

Ms. KATHY SHERMAN: Okay. This is Kathy Sherman from Brewster, and I wanted to address you on the 18th and didn't get to.

But what I wanted to say was that I felt like the issue you're addressing today about change of governance and what you addressed then about CVEC and CLC and your relationship with the Commissioners is sort of all tied together in my mind.

I had spoken to the subcommittee and I said, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

Well, I amend, first of all, a transcription error. I had said about the example of the Cape Cod Commission Director, Mr. Niedzwiecki, apolitical, in other words nonpolitical. I am going to be opposed and I guess I get to do my little vote sometime. I'll be opposed to having apolitical Executive.

And I will also be opposed to losing my voice because I hear lots of voices that represent me from Provincetown to Chatham at least here. So, I'm not really enamored of the plan that's going to be put before you today.

But what's broken is and has been for the whole time that I've, and it's a small amount of time relatively speaking, that I paid attention to politics on Cape Cod and the County on Cape Cod and that is the division between the two branches, the Commissioners and you. And a lot of that division does seem to be over the idea of doing away with the Assembly and also about energy-related issues.

I would like you to go back to the plan that you voted for and put forward with a little, tiny little change that would be that the Commissioners would increase in number and they would be the ones that were delegated to the little regions.

I do have a lot more to say because I've spent a lot of time coming here, and I appreciate the time that you all have spent in the activities that you've done.

But you sort of agreed with one little -- I think you were agreed about whether the Assembly should be done away with, and I don't think any of you -- and some of you weren't here, but I have to say Yarmouth has spent -- has sent some of the best Delegates here.

And I do -- I mean I appreciate and I look forward to hearing what you're going to say about this plan because I do appreciate your input.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Yes, hand in the back.

Mr. PETER KENNEY: Good afternoon, Members of the Assembly. Peter Kenney from Yarmouth. Good afternoon, high-quality representative.

I'm going to start with a little story, a little history. In 1994, I raised a petition for a Town Meeting Warrant Article for Yarmouth to leave the Cape Cod Commission. It passed pretty well at Town Meeting and didn't do badly at the polls but not well enough.

But we had a very spirited conversation about that matter during that Town Meeting, when

Ms. McAuliffe, in fact, was a member of the board.

And a woman rose during the public comment and came to the microphone and said, “This” -- and said, and this is in the written transcript of that meeting, “This is too important a matter to leave to the voters,” which was curious because she had identified herself as a member of and for that evening’s purposes the representative of the League of Women Voters.

I submit this is too important a matter to leave to the League of Women Voters. Not one town on the Cape, Board of Selectmen or Town Meeting or the Barnstable Town Council, has passed a Resolution asking for this; not one.

The only advocacy for this in its very beginnings is the League of just Women Voters. So I’m out right off the bat, and so are you and you and you. I’m curious where this idea got its legs.

I’m doing a large construction project in Provincetown right now, and I am struck every day with the political fervor of the extreme Outer Cape towns and the smaller towns generally in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Do you know what a Commonwealth is? The four Commonwealth’s in the United States were organized according to the will of the people expressed through plebiscite, not according to the laws, boundaries, and rules of the original British colonies.

The basic unit of governance was the individual, the citizen, the one person, not the man/woman representing the biggest town. There was no numerical qualification for your population in order to have a voice.

So now we’re told in the spirit of let’s think regionally; can somebody tell me what that means? We like Truro, they’re okay. Brewster. These little towns are charming. You know, they’ve avoided the urban stuff of Yarmouth and Barnstable but we don’t want them to have a voice because they might not think regionally. They might think in terms of what their citizens want. And isn’t that a really disturbing thought, said he thinking of Afghanistan and Iraq and Iran and Egypt and you name it.

This is obscene on its face. This is wrong. If there are matters wrong within County government, identify them, study them, fix them, but don’t tell me that it is in anyway fair to deny elected voice to this body based on the fact that a town is too small. That just doesn’t work. It’s not fair, it’s not right, it’s not American, and it is certainly not in keeping with the tradition of the Cape. We are a fiercely independent crowd here.

We believe that we have the right to speak, to participate. This is too important to be left to the League of the Women Voters.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Would anyone else like to comment? Yes, a familiar face, Mary Lou. I hope you’re not speaking for the League of Women Voters after that.

Ms. MARY LOU PETIT: It does seem appropriate that I should follow up that particular speaker.

However, I am speaking today, although I would be extremely proud to be speaking for the League of Women Voters, which also includes intelligent men.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Is that a limiting factor in the membership?

Ms. MARY LOU PETIT: That’s the one criteria, yes. I just wanted to -- I want today to speak as a 14-year member of the Assembly of Delegates, as a community organizer, as the head of the Lower/Outer Community Coalition and as a resident of, which was just mentioned, one of the smaller towns on the Cape, the Outer Cape.

You do know that there’s a difference between Lower and Outer. Outer is the four towns, and I am one of those, Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro and Provincetown.

And for 14 years, I represented the town of Eastham on the Assembly of Delegates, and was

for most of those 14 years the Chair of the Human Services Committee.

I have also worked in County government in Bergen County, New Jersey, which sort of has been in the news lately, as a part of the Bergen County Housing Authority scheduling housing meetings, working on housing legislation, and working for the Department of Community Affairs.

For many years, as what I'm trying to say in my introduction of myself, is that I've had direct experience with County government in more than just here. I am presently a member of the Regional Committee to End Homelessness on Cape Cod and was the original co-chair when we first started that.

So I have had a background in regional and county issues, always living on one of the smaller towns on Cape Cod.

But I want to stress as you decide today on your vote, and I hope that it is a decision that you take carefully and perhaps work over time to consider all the aspects of it.

I was also a member of the Special Commission on the County Government which included many people who had been interested in the progress of County government who think it needs to be changed and they aren't just members and were not just members of the League of Women Voters. There were business community, some town managers, and a huge number of people, and you have seen their letters of support for change in your own Charter Review Committee, which I don't think had League members on it, also spoke in favor of changes.

But I would like to just highlight I think something today that hasn't been part of your discussion. It may be coming out, and I hope that would make me give you something different to think about.

I've heard as a member of a smaller town a lot of comments about how the small towns, you know, that very core of democracy, are going to be hurt in a new change of County government.

Well, as a resident and as a member, an elected member of the Eastham's Housing Authority, I've served in Eastham for years, I think to not change will be a disservice to those small towns.

So I think the Delegates who are speaking so strongly about the role of the small towns will see their towns more at a risk, more damaged under the present system than it would be under a system which united districts together, which gave those towns a stronger voice.

My 14 years here as a member of the Assembly proved to me that it's great to have a discussion group; I don't think the Assembly of Delegates is a discussion group. I think it should be a group that acts. But when you have two meetings a month and you come in for two hours and then you go home and then you come back the next -- in two weeks unless you have a committee meeting, there isn't a long strain of continuity there as there would be under this new form of government.

The small towns when I was a member of the Assembly got the most bang for their buck for their town when they banded together and supported legislation that benefited all of the Cape.

And I made sure that my town, Eastham, got those benefits.

When I was first elected to the Assembly, it is the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates. My thought was I'm elected first as a County person. My first duty, my first responsibility is to Barnstable County because that's the title under the voting booth that I had and I was elected without competition as probably most of us were all those 14 years.

Secondly, I was elected to represent my town as part of the County, to bring the thoughts of Eastham to get the benefits of the County back to Eastham, to make sure our voice was heard because singly a Truro, a Wellfleet, a Provincetown or a Truro, they don't make that kind of an impact. Together, making the voice heard for needs and shared values, for shared needs, for

economy, for the environment that looks the same, and also for the differences. No one respects those differences more than I do.

When I chaired and founded the Lower/Outer Cape Community Coalition, the reason we got the Homeless Prevention Council, the Children's Place, the Lower Cape Community Development Corporation, now called the Cape Cod Partnership, the Ellen Jones Dental Center and the Flex Bus all directly benefiting Lower Cape communities was because we banded together. We had a united voice. Never has that been more important than it is in today's complex world.

The issues are so complex, so interrelated, you don't just deal with housing. You deal with housing, economics, environment. You have to bring those altogether. One town/one voice doesn't answer that need. It really truly is the working together, maintaining the uniqueness. I would never want to do away with the uniqueness of that community.

But the reason we moved forward and got those other major aids to our citizens and to our taxpayers was because we spoke with the united voice.

The reason they even listened to us when we asked for the Flex Bus is because we already had that structure in place. We never would -- and the Flex Bus was needed, still has problems, still going to be working on it, but that was the first time that happened was because all of the Cape, Lower Cape towns worked together.

The Housing Program that I had proposed when I was a Delegate here did the same thing.

We proposed a housing program, first time proposed, passed because I got all the Lower Cape towns to speak together and support it as one. You're not going to lose your voice; you're going to enhance it.

And I really regret as a Lower and small-town resident this constant danger to the Lower Cape towns. You can run for office if you want to in the 11 districts that were proposed. You make sure your voice is a part of your district, and you make it sure by working together first in getting your agenda in order and all of that. That does do much more for you than just a single vote.

We also recommended to the Special Commission that there be an advisory board of town managers working with the new County -- with the new structure, the new districts.

We had two members, two town managers on the Special Commission. They could not have been more valuable. Having an advisory board of town managers insures that your town will hear what's going on and will get it back.

And, lastly, this hasn't been stressed either, I don't think. We are going through today in today's world what has been called a revolutionary transformation, and I think it is true that it is. We're going through a completely different time that affects our culture, our social standards, our healthcare, our environment, our government. We've got to be sure that our government is ready and able to take on the challenges that this new transformational period is bringing.

And this is the time to be talking about change, not to be frightened about it, to participate in it, to make it reflective of your concerns, your towns' concerns.

With the new technology that's going on which we don't know even the dimensions of what that will be, with all of the changes in global issues that affect you at the local level as an individual, does this kind of government still work?

I hope you ask yourself that question. I hope you didn't make up your mind before you got the reports from the two, I think distinguished, boards that looked at it, that you keep an open mind and listen to discussion and realize that times really have definitely changed and systems need to change to meet those challenges.

Now I think the proposals that you have seen make those changes. They may need small changes; they can be changed, but I think they meet the challenges and they reflect the concerns I think as a small-town resident that will benefit my community more than the present structure does.

Thank you for your time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Is there any other member of the public that wishes to address the Assembly? George, I'll start with you.

Mr. GEORGE BRYANT: Good afternoon. I'm not enamored to the idea --

Speaker BERGSTROM: You've got to identify yourself

Mr. GEORGE BRYANT: Oh, my name is George Bryant. I'm sorry. I'm not enamored at the idea of combining the Lower Cape towns into one district. The Lower Cape of course hasn't grown because of the seashore that came in over 50 years ago. The situation would be quite different now had not the seashore come in. And I'm, of course, very much in favor of the seashore but it's a very special place now, but we do deserve to be represented individually.

Can you imagine someone elected to this combined district from Orleans knowing anything about Provincetown except that there's whale watching there, there are drag shows, there's theater, there are good restaurants. That's about all they'd know.

And I can't imagine that one person would be able to absorb all of the information from the other towns that he or she would need to know in order to function as a representative here.

There are other changes, of course, boundary changes in the other parts of the Cape, but the most significant change would be the combination of the towns on the Lower Cape.

I think that -- I was on two Charter Commissions. The first one was set up by the Commissioners and that included a member from every town on the Cape and that was in 1982, and it came up with a proposed Charter that was very similar to the one that was enacted when Julia and I were on the proper Charter Commission later in the 80s.

If you ask people if they want to be represented, I'm sure they'll say yes. The idea that a combined Lower Cape group would be more efficient is possible, but how much would you have to pay that person to go from one town to another on a regular basis and talk to the selectmen and town officials?

A letter from the League of Women Voters to the Cape Cod Times a few weeks ago suggested that, "Oh, it's very similar to the Lower Cape House Districts in the state, and oh, yes, Sarah Peake can handle it very nicely." But she gets paid \$60,000 a year or so and she has representatives in other towns and she has people she can deal with in Boston. It's not the same and it never will be the same because the end of the Cape is isolated.

And the business of the Outer Cape, that's a term that was invented by the real estate agents.

There is no such thing as the Outer Cape. There's a Lower Cape and the real estate agents wanted to make it sound very special so they came up with Outer Cape about 20 years ago. But we have problems out there, of course, that are very similar to the problems up here.

There's always been an attitude, people up here. Remember those two recent Charter Commissions only had one representative appointed from Provincetown and he never came to the meetings. It's not the person I would've picked knowing his background.

I understand everybody wants to make things more efficient but you need representation. This is the way things work. You have to have someone here who knows what's going on in an individual town. And you won't get this with a combined situation.

Thank you, very much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you, George. Okay. Yes, there's a hand there.

Ms. JUDY THOMAS: I am Judy Thomas from Chatham, and some of you know me as the

League of Women Voters. I'm not speaking for the League of Women Voters. It would be awfully tempting to defend the League at this point, but I know from the work that I've done there that when most people when they join the League, they join because of the high respect the League has.

And I think whether you agree with all of us on our positions, you respect us. So I'm just going to leave it as that. And also say that my husband is a member, and there are other members, some who are on the board and on our committee.

What I would like to address, first of all, I want to thank the work Ron or Mr. Speaker through you and I know there are some members on the Assembly who were part of the Charter Review Commission, and I just want to thank you for the job that you have done. You have taken it seriously. You've put time into your work. You really looked at it from many angles I think in giving it your best thought.

And that's exactly what I want to encourage now of the Assembly that you also take a good, serious, hard, long look at it, not rush. I'm hoping you will vote today because I think it takes more time. Even though you've had inklings of what's going to be presented for some time, I would like to really see a very good discussion and to take more time.

I find I actually agree with the previous speaker from Yarmouth who said, "It's too important a matter to be left just to the League." I think it is too important a matter. It should be given to many -- the citizens of the Cape. I think you need to hear or I would hope that you would want to hear from many more of your constituents their own feelings about it. And the time frame -- I think this was only, I'm not sure of the exact time, but I think it was the final report -- well, it's being presented here today. It was reported in the paper a little over a week ago, that's not much time for you to get any input from the public. And then there's not a huge amount of people here today either.

I think that would be important work to do if you are truly Delegates, that means you seek to represent your people, not just the feelings of the Board of Selectmen, not just a few others, but really take the time to seek the opinion of other people to see what their thinking is.

The League -- the only thing that I will emphasize from the League's point of view is we really encourage one person/one vote. And otherwise with that, I agree with everything that Mary Lou said. I think she hit a lot, some very important points.

Thank you for your time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Thank you. Is there anyone else from the public who would like to speak?

Mr. PETER KENNEY: Point of information, sir.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, you can ask -- what do you need to know?

Mr. PETER KENNEY: Do you want me at the microphone?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Go ahead. Yes, as long as you're not repetitive, not to pick you out but just as a matter of policy.

Mr. PETER KENNEY: I understand. Parliamentary term for this is a point of information. It's just an insertion into the record of information or observation.

We heard from Mary Lou a very compelling listing of accomplishments through times when the Assembly was constructed exactly as it is now.

So as a point of information, I fail to see a demonstration that change is necessary.

Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you or whatever. Okay. Yes.

Ms. KATHY SHERMAN: Very, very quick question.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I've heard you say that before. This time I'm going to hold you to

it; okay?

Ms. KATHY SHERMAN: Yes. After you decide, this still is going to be a matter put before the voters?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Not necessarily, no.

Ms. KATHY SHERMAN: Well, I mean that's where I read the article --

Ms. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. TAYLOR: It could not go into effect as passed here or not without going to the voters. Whether it will go that far, I don't know, but it cannot go into effect.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We don't make the final decision.

Ms. KATHY SHERMAN: Okay. Just one other thing. You know, citizen, one vote is great, but there's also taxation without representation which we have a lot of on Cape Cod. We depend on it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Thank you.

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: The Assembly will now convene. Do we have any Committee Reports that we'd like to -- I'm not going to give a report from the Charter Review Committee because that will be part of our later discussion.

Report from Clerk

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have a report from the Clerk?

Clerk O'CONNELL: Nothing to report.

Other Business:

Assembly Decision on Proposed Charter Changes Related to Governance

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Assembly decision on proposed Charter changes related to governance.

You should have received the latest copy of the petition which is the form in which we would have to present to the Legislature any recommendations coming from the Assembly. It was drawn up by Michael Curran who did the original Charter and is a recognized expert in Home Rule Charters throughout Massachusetts. So I hope you all got a chance to peruse that.

Do we open the discussion? Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. I move approval of the petition prepared by Attorney Curran, the latest draft that you should have before you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Do I have a second on that?

Ms. TAYLOR: Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. TAYLOR: Or Suzanne. Are you moving the two different articles as one or are you moving "Article 2, the Legislative Branch," and then later you might move Article 3, the Executive Branch"?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Why don't I do it separately. I'll move the Legislative Branch, which is the 11 districts.

Ms. TAYLOR: I'll second that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. So now it's on the floor. All right. Do we have any other further discussion? Who would like to take a lead on this? Suzanne, since you moved it.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, I just wanted to make a couple of statements and one is that this is just the first step in a process.

If the Assembly does vote to approve this, then it would go as a petition to the Legislature – excuse me --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Commissioners.

Ms. TAYLOR: Commissioners.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: To the Commissioners, sorry. It would have to be -- there's a couple of steps that it would have to be approved along the way every step of the way and then eventually get to the ballot for voter approval.

So this is just sort of the first step. This is not the final. The vote here is not a do or die vote. It just allows it to go forward.

And that would be one of the arguments I would make in terms of allowing this to go forward for further debate, further discussion, and also perhaps getting to the voters for their discussion.

I would like to address the issues of can a person act for a region? I sat on a regional school committee for 16 years as a town representative to a regional school district, and I can tell you that an individual can act for a region when they come from a specific town or an area.

So I think that, yes, there may be challenges for districts in terms of if one representative or one person who's on the Legislature has to represent several towns but it can be done. You can represent your constituents in a fair and reasonable way.

The reason I do support this is this is County government. This is the best of people coming together and trying to do things that they can't do as individuals. It is not individual towns. It is County.

And that's one of the reasons why I think we need to change a 30-year-old or 26-year-old form of governance to be a little bit more current, a little bit more effective, a little bit more modern, and a little bit more responsive to County issues. The town certainly will have a more representative vote, a fairer vote. Each citizen will have more of a voice in the smaller towns than they do right now.

And, right now, the larger towns can vote something through and not permit those smaller towns to have their say. As Ms. Petit said, "You can have a discussion but you might not have a vote or a voice."

So I see it right now the current system as having a potential to shut out smaller towns.

And I would like to also say everyone says it isn't broken. Well, I've only been on the Assembly a little over a year, and I have in 25 years of government not experienced as much conflict and consternation and ruffling of feathers and difficulties of governmental bodies working together as I have on the Assembly.

So from my position, I would posit it is broken. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Well, I respectfully disagree but I won't go there. Be careful what you wish for. I've been asking for a year for this to be brought forward and here we are. I do not agree that this is just a vote and we're just going to, you know, agree to do it, move it on, and we'll have another chance at it. I don't agree with that statement at all.

This is it. It's fish or cut bait time; okay? We are going to decide whether we think that a set up of 11 districts is better than the one that we are under right now with each town having a

representative here. That's what we're voting for. Please remember that.

I certainly respect the speakers that came here today to give us their opinion. I think it's kind of funny that no one, including up to and including today, has given an example of why this system that we are presently operating under doesn't work.

As a matter of fact, what we did get was the exact opposite. We got a recap from a 14-year veteran of this board on how wonderful the County works and how wonderful the system has worked for these smaller towns. I won't repeat the actual things that were voted and passed but you all remember them. It was just five minutes ago, four or five major things that this County brought forth to the Lower Cape.

This system works. No one stood up and said we need to change the system because I wanted to bring housing down to the Lower Cape and it wouldn't pass this board. That's not what was said. What was said was the system works.

For some ungodly reason, people think there's this cloud waiting and big change of government that we need to be ahead of it and we need to approve what you're asked to being voted on today. It's silly. It's absolutely silly.

Someone else, one of the other speakers said, "That I need to listen to the opinion of the people." I have listened to the opinion of the people. This is not new. I referred to this subject as the elephant in the room almost a year ago.

I've been approached by many people, not only from the town Harwich, of which I'm elected, but other towns. Not one of them told me that they wanted to see this body changed into the 11 districts.

Listen to what I'm telling you. Not one came up to me and said "I think you should vote for this change." Not one. Yet many told me, "I hope you're not going to allow this to go through.

I hope Harwich isn't going to lose their voice and lose their seat."

Some of them, as I said before jokingly, "Harwich likes to have Leo here." They like to have my opinion and their opinion expressed here. The system works.

The only other thing I want some of the Delegates to consider is that they personally are not in favor of this, yet they believe it should be given to the voters. I'm not agreement with that statement either. We're elected officials here to lead. And, quite frankly, no one has given me enough reasons to vote in favor of this because of any negative way that the government has worked in the last 20 years.

So I have no reason to support this. And I certainly am not going to vote for this and then go around Harwich and say, "Oh, by the way, don't support it when it comes to the polls because it's not good for Harwich. That doesn't make sense.

We have to stop this here, and I'm going to go back and say, once again, almost a year ago, when I asked this board to vote for a Resolution that created a five County Commissioners, I think is what needs to be changed if we're going to change something.

I ask all of you to support me and not vote for this. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. Teresa.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: So I have three points that I want to make. But first I want to say that I actually wish both of things were up together because I think the issue of the structure of the Assembly, the Legislative and the Executive, are two interwoven issues. And I don't think they can be neatly separated out and looked at separately.

And this is the reason. There are three things that I think are really core to the question.

The first is a voice and representation.

Second is checks and balances, and, third, is accountable leadership. I think that both voice and even representation matter.

But the truth is that the Cape is not evenly distributed with population and we can't change that.

The other truth is that the way that this is currently structured is that the members of – members of Barnstable County are individual voters within the County. So we've got those two things.

That means that we have three options, and we have to pick one of them unless someone's got some other creative way versus the way we have it now. We have geographically divided things by town boundaries, and then we've done another mathematical equation on top of that to get to equal representation by having weighted votes. That gives us voice, which I think is really important. Some people feel that that perhaps may not be quite fair in terms -- because the weighted voice gives unequal voices to the people sitting here but it meets the criteria.

The second is that you could continue to use the town boundaries and say the smallest town has one person and then you scale it up from there so the bigger towns have more physical warm bodies. That still gets you the same balance. You have voice, you have a lot more people, it's not as effective but you have the equal one vote sitting here.

Or the third way is to say don't use town boundaries, take this blob of population and use some metrics to split it up into zones of some sort. You lose voice but you gain balance and vote.

Those are your choices. You can't have it both ways. You've got to pick one of those, and you can argue a lot of different ways about all of them.

I think this is saying we're going to look at a different approach; is that better or is that not better?

The second is checks and balances, and I think this is really, really important. And another reason these two issues are woven together is that there needs to be a balance between the regulatory agency, like the Commission, between the Executive, and between the Legislative, between how do we -- what do we decide to do? How do we pay for it? And how do we regulate it? That thing needs to be in balance, so you need a strong component of each of them to keep them in order. So any proposal that comes forth does it do this?

That's one of my issues actually, Leo, with what you're proposing with the five Commissioners is I think it actually weakens that balance because it creates more and more. I don't know what the solution is.

The third piece kind of suggests that and that is accountable leadership. One thing that I have heard people complain about with the County is that we don't know you're there; there's no strong leadership. Where does that come from?

I think that having three people play one role is part of how you get to not having one strong voice, and that may have been intentional when it was set up and I'm not passing judgment one way or another. But if one does want to have a strong voice, one needs to have one person whose job it is to have that voice.

And because this is government, not a company, I believe that person has to be responsible to the members of that entity which are every voter in Barnstable County. So that would suggest an elected single Executive who is paid to do this full-time would get the best solution to accountable leadership.

I don't like losing voice on the Outer Cape. I really hate that. But I think that because this involves everybody that it's our responsibility to allow it to move forward and let the process continue because I think process matters.

Food for thought. Thank you.

Ms. MCCUTCHEON: Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Deborah.

Ms. MCCUTCHEON: We sit here today just about to take a vote that was the result of which was ordained, oh, a couple years ago. This was all decided. The railroad has moved carefully along. And now tonight we're going to have a discourse, a reason debate on the provisions in this draft?

Now I note that this draft was first provided to us on the 10th of January. By my account, that was five days ago. The draft we're expected to vote on was provided two days ago. Okay.

But this railroad is going to run because this result was ordained years ago.

Now let me ask you a question. There has been reason debate about all these provisions in here. Right now, it takes 20 signatures to get to be a Delegate -- to get to be on the ballot as a Delegate. This proposal changes -- it says it's 10. Look at your page 7. It says it takes 10, which is not true, and we put it at 100.

Now maybe that's reasonable, but has it been debated? Has it been discussed? Is it something that this Assembly is going to put in front of the voters and say, "Yes, we worked on this. We understand what the ramifications of it are."

There's a provision in here that just freely lets the Assembly raise some additional money for the additional costs. Has anybody here heard how much this will cost to pay everyone the salary that was earned before? Do we know? Have we debated that? No, we haven't. Do we want to? My sense is no.

And that's because this result was ordained and we're going to have this result no matter what the town's and their communities say about it. Not a single town on this Cape has endorsed this. I don't see why we should.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Julia and then Cheryl.

Ms. TAYLOR: I didn't want to speak very long, but I would want to know later after I finish who it is that ordained it because I'm certainly not familiar with that and I resent the implication that I would be -- either I ordained it, which I don't think is accurate or that I would be following someone else's lead, that's not correct.

However, I do want to point out that I think Teresa was very good in pointing out there are kind of three ways to set up a Legislative body and we have one. I have not felt that that was ever the best one because I am not familiar with any other Legislatures where the different individual elected officials have different powers. There may be some but I don't know of them, and I don't think it's the best way.

If this does pass here, it could pass by a vote of 4 to 11 depending on who the Delegates were that voted for it. I think if it does pass it's more likely in this case to pass by 5 to 10. It doesn't sound right; does it? That it would pass with 5 to 10 but that's the system we have.

And the risk of that system I think is very great. And frankly, I'll take credit for not having it have been too big a problem because I decided I wouldn't try to make a deal with Barnstable over the years and see what we could do for ourselves but I certainly could've and some people would and will if it stays this way.

So we'll see. I don't think it's the best way. And you've heard this over and over again, but I definitely resent the implication that there has been some sort of railroad. This, in fact, is not at all what the Special Commission on County Government wanted, and the leaders of that, in fact, have wrote an article against this.

So maybe those aren't the people that were railroading it. I don't know who you had in mind, Deborah, but that isn't the way this has developed. And I think that the other people on the Charter Committee are with me.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last 20 minutes have convinced me that most of the Delegates, probably all of the Delegates, have made up their minds on how they want to vote on this.

So attempt to redebate something we have been debating for, what, two or three years, I think the time has come and I'm happy to see a vote taken.

But I want to mention -- I want to tell a very short story and then I want to ask a question. I don't want to repeat things that I've said before, but in case someone's listening that didn't hear me before, it's important that you know where I'm coming from.

I represent Provincetown. I've lived in Provincetown almost 30 years but I grew up right down the street. I went to Barnstable High School. And what I want to comment on is identity.

When I went to dental school, I lived in Philadelphia. And when the class of 1986 came in, which was a year younger than me, I realized there was a fellow from Cape Cod in the class. So

I went over to meet him, and I asked him where he was from and he told me. And I said, "You're a Dolphin." And he looked at me and said, "You're a Red Raider," and we have joked about that ever since.

Peter Theoharidis is a wonderful dentist and I love working with him, but we didn't get together and talk about how we were Cape Codders. We talked about our rival high schools.

My point is town identity is very strong, and it is extremely strong still today on Cape Cod and that's one of the reasons why we're sitting here representing towns. And I think that's going to be the fundamental thing we spend a lot of time talking about when we talk about this idea.

So my question to any of you thinking that this is a good idea to move away from our town identity and to instead do it by regions, I'm going to challenge you, specifically on the heels of the Lowe's decision, and say if this is so great, why isn't the Cape Cod Commission doing it the same way? Why aren't the Commissioners of the Cape Cod Commission representing equal number of voters on Cape Cod by district?

I'd like someone to explain that to me. It's what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Now someone will say bicameral and now we'll get into a debate.

Ms. TAYLOR: No I --

Ms. ANDREWS: I'd like to finish my statement -- because the debate time is done.

Nobody's going to change their vote today.

But the point of the matter is is that we have different ways of doing things and thinking about things. I think the issue of population versus town is fundamental here.

There is no right or wrong but I'm going to challenge any of you who intend to sell this to the public. Do your work because what may seem in the short run an efficient model is not necessarily in the best interest of the long-term health of County government.

Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Marcia.

Ms. KING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just find it ironic that today -- I've been on the board for 14 years, I never once have the three towns which -- the large towns which will vote for this today have ever done this. And as Julia said, it will probably be 10 to 4. And so that's funny that -- that's ironic that this is what's going to happen.

I haven't heard one human cry for this, and everybody knows how I feel about this. I made it quite plain. And I will say who I think is behind it -- who started all this, the Business Roundtable and the League of Women Voters, which I think the League of Women Voters I think was trying to look at it in a different point of view.

But what I've also felt was if there's such a problem, then let the people who feel that we are such a problem and such a hindrance for the Cape to obtain the amount of signatures and do a petition. There is another way to do this.

I'm just saddened that the large towns will vote to, excuse my French, screw the smaller towns and my town will get screwed.

I'm divided into three districts. You know, it was my understanding that the Assembly was set up to represent the towns. I know people in my town. I don't know people in Falmouth, and I'll have to go over to Falmouth. I know people in my town; they know me.

Prior to this meeting even Patrick and I chatted about this and, you know, Barnstable could have an increase amount of power and that seems to be the argument here is that the towns are too big, yet Barnstable could have three representatives.

So I find it just a little disconcerting that this has become a -- that we are such a problem. I do feel that someone said we are a problem and we're looking for a solution and the solution is the Charter.

And I'm the one that feels this was ordained a couple of years ago. I don't think it went the way some people wanted it to go, that's why they're not happy. They want the least amount of people to have to deal with.

In my town, not one person has said to me in my town that I'm a problem or anybody on this board is a problem. They're very happy that I sit here, like probably Leo's town, and that I can chat away.

And I'm actually very proud that Truro was sitting here at the board and represented -- and the small towns represented. I wouldn't want it to be three representatives from Barnstable, two representatives from Falmouth, and a couple representatives from Yarmouth because that's what you're going to get out of 11 people.

And I just really feel that if you're talking about the Cape as we know it and as our member from Provincetown just said we are very town-centric. I mean if you want to get rid of the towns, fine. Let's get rid of the towns and we'll go and do what they do in the south and have counties. But we are not going to do that. Orleans is not going to give up their township. My town is not going to give that up.

So I'm just disappointed that I think the vote is going to go to send this forward and I, as you know, will vote against it. I'm very just saddened that of the 14 years I've been here this is the first time that Falmouth, Yarmouth and Barnstable are going to push a vote through.

Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: John.

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also against this and for a lot of reasons. My mentor Mary Lou Petit and I happen to be on the opposite sides on this after 14 years.

This is my 18th year on the Assembly. But my question -- I'm just going to get rid of this prepared statement. I just want to ask are we really today going to vote on a draft that's absolutely flawed? Which map were you going -- are we going to do that with no map? It says "Attached map." It's not there.

May I speak -- finish, please, Julia. Thank you. What flaws remain in this? We don't know. Is it 10 votes? Is it going to be 100 votes? This is a very flawed document that needs work and it needs to be discussed.

And as one of the members from the audience said, you know, "What's the hurry? Why are we voting on this today?" I don't have any intention on voting on this today either way.

What citizens have seen this? What is the document three days old? What citizens of Cape Cod have seen this? Are we going to make their decisions for them without any opportunity

should they care to weigh in?

This is a very untimely vote if it's taken today. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I think I understand what you're saying, John, and I think that to some extent we're trying to take a vote in response to Leo's points of several or maybe a year, let's get a vote on the principle. And I agree with that.

Now to take a vote on the principle, you still need some paper in my view. And so this is paper that I don't consider written in stone or blood. I think its paper that could be changed.

It's definitely not being sent tomorrow to the State House. It will go to the Commissioners. I could envision changes.

So the question is really not are you signing up for every single provision but whether you want to know what the general idea is and then would you want to work on that?

Mr. OHMAN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Mr. OHMAN: Just -- Mr. Speaker, is this not our first, last, and only opportunity to vote on this?

Ms. TAYLOR: I would consider that it would not be the last. It's not being sent by us to the Legislature.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Let me interrupt. This is, you know, in the past, I mean I'm not a lawyer here, but in the past --

Mr. CAKOUNES: Why don't you just read the motion back? The motion was to approve that draft.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. KING: Yes, that's what the concern is.

Mr. CAKOUNES: That's what we're voting on.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: We moved the petition.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We're voting on -- if that's what you want, Leo, then that's what --

Mr. CAKOUNES: I didn't make the motion, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: No, no, no, I agree with you. We're voting on that draft and every word in it; okay? So that's settled.

All right. Now here's the story. This is going to go to somebody who knows how to draft language. I mean it's not uncommon to, you know, we can vote on resolutions and ordinances that have language in them. But when you send a petition to the Legislature to do something like this, somebody's going to draft it who knows what they're doing and that was Mike Curran.

And yes, it may have some inconsistencies in it.

If this were to pass, he's going to have to sit down with the council for the municipalities committee up there and go through the language and make sure it's consistent.

But, you know, it would mean if we brought a draft -- if I or whoever moved this brought a draft in front of you that was just in generalities, you'd have the right to say, "Well, gees, how do I know what's in the final draft?"

So I mean you're damned if you do and damned if you don't. This is as close as we can possibly come to what would be the final draft sent to the Assembly.

But let me just get into this for a minute. My voice is a little peaked, but you know, Deborah asked is this part of a, you know, a rush to judgment?

The fact is the reason -- I'm the reason we're here. I'm the reason we're here. I mean the Commissioners, sure, they made a big splash with appointing the Special Commission on

County Governance and they -- even though we objected at the time because we knew it would require Charter changes which are in the purview of the Assembly, but they had the power to appoint any committee they wanted and they chose to do that. And I sat on it, Julia sat on it, and so did 25 other people. And that report was given, oh, I think probably two and a half to three years ago and there it sat for a year.

Meanwhile, letters written to the paper and discussions said that the Assembly or that the -- the Assembly was somehow standing in the way of progress, but meanwhile the Commissioners were silent. They didn't take a vote on any of the recommendations. We prompted them to do that; they didn't do it.

So at some point, I put in a Resolution to form a committee and basically as a challenge to those who say there's a groundswell of support for changes and, you, the Assembly, are standing in the way. This is what we're hearing.

So in a way it was self-serving. I said, "Okay. Let's see if there's a groundswell. Let's see if there's a big popular clamor for changes in this body."

And I agree with a lot of what Leo said, but I don't agree with everything he said. One of the problems that we had was that under most Charter provisions in places like Barnstable and we had the same thing in Chatham, the people who are directly affected by the Charter changes are not the ones who make them. Usually they're elected from outside the government. All right?

But in our Charter, the people directly affected, namely us and the Commissioners are the ones who make the decision on whether or not there should be changes in our electoral process and how we act and what our votes are.

So that criticism has arisen right off the get-go. I don't believe that there's any support for this to be honest with you among the people in the towns because having come from town government, I know how committed people are to their communities. I know the Wellfleetians love to be Wellfleetians, and I know the people in Provincetown certainly think of themselves as people from Provincetown.

And so I am willing, despite what Leo says, and I'll just state I'm willing to put that challenge out and say, "Okay. Let's see if there is any support for this because I'm confident there isn't." And I don't want this body to be categorized as the one who's saying, oh, we're just protecting our own turf. We're just holding onto our own jobs. So I'm going to vote to support this.

And even though it's possible that it could pass with just a few towns, it's also very possible that it could pass by a small percentage, in which case the argument could be made that the vote of the small towns is very important.

So I've already said more than I was going to say but Pat.

Mr. PRINCI: I'll be brief. To me it's the process here. I've only been on this Assembly for a short time. And when I had first come in, part of my education was to look through past meetings and past budgets from prior years. But also I took a close look on that special recommendations on County government.

Now, I understand it was an appointed committee and some folks may say it was an elite group, but it was an extremely experienced group of individuals that have been around since the whole inception of County government.

And at this point, you know, we didn't just, as an Assembly, we didn't just -- as the Commissioners were more or less doing just take that report and say, okay, this is what we're going to go forward with.

We went through a process. We discussed forming a Charter Review Commission, which

the Speaker was very helpful in getting set up and took a strong leadership role. He went around to every single town and in the public to get the sentiment out there and the information out there that we were doing this.

And here we are at the final stage of it to put something forward to the voters. And we do this job because we're not here to self-serve each other in our positions. We're here for the people, the residents of Barnstable County.

And if you look back at the history of the County, a lot of matters, the Cape Cod Commission Act went to the voters and they supported it. There were other votes on, way back, the Land Bank. That went to the voters.

And you can't underestimate the voters. They're very intelligent. When there is a ballot question, voters will read up and do their research. And it might even help voters have a better understanding of what County government is and what County government does.

You don't see many people at these meetings. We hardly had any public comment on the whole Charter. I'm not necessarily in favor of the Charter as its written and to be changed.

However, as I look at my town, it doesn't affect Barnstable so that's my main focus and objective, the residents of Barnstable in this position.

However, I feel it very strongly that the voters should have a say in the matter and that's why I will be supporting it.

Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: A while back, Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Rauschenbach came here and they were telling us that they were going to form this committee. And I then stated my opinion on it and I want to also restate it again.

I put very little weight in the Special Committee which was created because of the individuals and how they got on that board.

At that time, they compared it to the review of the Cape Cod Commission. That board was not formed anything like the Special Committee was formed.

The review of the Cape Cod Commission towns submitted names to the County Commissioners. Then they picked representatives from each town to form on that review board, entirely different makeup.

This review board was made up by two individuals who went out and secured people that said that they would serve on that Commission with the. That list was submitted to the Commissioners and then those people were appointed.

I had a problem with it then. I stated that I had a problem with it then, and I have a problem with it now. I want to get that on the record because I think it's important. That's where this began and that's how it began.

Now the other thing that I think is really important, and I do want to ask the Speaker to read the motion because I really want to make sure you know what you're voting here today.

It is not a white page. It's not what I requested a year ago.

It's not a concept. We are voting a document, and I think that's important because with changes to this document we will not be asked to revote it again no matter what happens. If one paragraph changes, if a number goes from 10 to 100, we will not be allowed to vote it again.

That's my understanding.

We are voting a document. If that's true, I would wish that the Speaker would repeat the motion so that we can understand what we're voting on.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. Leo, I'll have Suzanne repeat the motion. But before I do, I -- sorry I get upset but the fact is is that it's a complicated document. There's going to be

no substantive changes.

In other words, there may be word changes. Maybe we'll change that original assessment that it takes 10 to 20.

But as far as humanly possible, we're trying to get the legal document written that lets everybody know exactly what its intent is and what its effect is going to be. There may be typos and stuff, but it's basically what you're voting on.

And another thing I'd like to say is that we don't know where this is going to go from here.

If this were to pass, it goes to the Commissioners. People are assuming that the Commissioners will either vote up or down, but it's also likely that they'll come back with something else in which case it will be bounced back to us.

So I don't know where it's going to go from here. But I'll ask the Clerk -- do you have a copy of the motion or did she?

Clerk O'CONNELL: No. The motion was not written and submitted, but my recollection, Suzanne, was your motion was to approve the Legislative changes for Article 2 as separate from the Executive piece, and I guess you're going to do that one separately.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, as submitted by Attorney Curran.

Speaker BERGSTROM: That's submitted. Yes. All right. Well, there's no -- yes, John.

Mr. OHMAN: Well, in this document submitted by Attorney Curran and currently in the discussion on page 7, paragraph 1, 2, 3, 4, it says, "The attached" -- "Depicted on the attached map." I have no map.

Ms. MCCUTCHEON: I have no map.

Mr. OHMAN: I would like to know how many districts that Dennis would be in as it was. I would like to know those types of details. Details, details that we'll vote on for the first and only time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I think the map is not changed from the one that you did see before. Also, it is important to know that the map was created by the GIS at the Cape Cod Commission with no further instruction other than it had to be as close to equal districts.

The Charter does allow for the Legislative branch to draw its own boundaries. These boundaries would be for the initial election. After that, Legislatures can draw their own boundaries.

Mr. OHMAN: And that would be a very small insignificant part of this document; is that what we're --

Ms. TAYLOR: No. I'm saying the map is not changed from the one that you saw but neither is it permanent. It would be the map for the first election. After that, the Legislative branch, whatever it was called, would be empowered to district itself.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. TAYLOR: Yes, or gerrymander, or however we wish to call it but.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I want to make -- I actually just want to kind of make sure -- I'd really like to know exactly what I'm voting on because I'm a little confused.

So we're not just voting on -- because we're literally voting on the text, we're voting that we agree there should be 11 districts, and we're agreeing that those should be the districts to start out with?

Ms. TAYLOR: To start out with.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I just want to be clear.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Right. And then after that the -- well, yeah, Suzanne and then Marcia.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, just to comment. We did go back to the Cape Cod Commission a couple of times because they have GIS capability to do these maps.

And the impression that I think the committee got is that because these by law have to be as close in equal population and it has to be done by current voting precincts.

So it really kind of doesn't leave a lot of leeway for changing these districts. That's why they were set up initially because this is the way it sort of came out based on voting precincts and equal districts.

So, yes, the Legislative branch will have the ability to change it. It may not change much because I'm not sure how much variability they had.

And the reason we came up with 11, just to remind everyone, is we went through or the Cape Cod Commission went through everything from 5 to 15 districts and ran the numbers to see what it would look like. And, ironically, 11 just turned out to be the one that has less than 4 percent variability between the districts. I think it was 5 and 15 were the two, and 5 was just too big, frankly, for each district for County purposes. And so 11 was the decision.

It was part of the process. We did not go in there saying, oh, we're going to do this and we're going to go do that. It happened, well, let's try and give everyone an equal vote. Let's see mathematically how it works out, and that's why the map that you have seen before with 11 districts is the starting point and may, in fact, be the ending point because I'm not sure to meet both criteria there's a lot of wiggle room.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Marcia.

Ms. KING: So let me understand this. We're voting on this document because I have a problem on page 7 "Filling the Vacancies." Has anyone read that piece of it?

Ms. ANDREWS: Yes.

Ms. KING: Okay. I found that kind of an odd way that we're filling vacancies. So, are we going to start pulling this apart? We've already found that the 10 votes should be 20. There's an issue of I think vacancies and we should talk about.

You know I wish we would not be voting on this today because I think there's too many issues going on with it. And then we can even get into the Executive branch, but I guess that would be a separate vote.

Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Chris.

Mr. KANAGA: Real brief because I wasn't going to say anything, but I think I've heard enough sugarcoating that I'm feeling a little sick to my stomach. So I just want to put my oar in the water because I think this process and the short notice itself is antidemocratic. I think the result is antidemocratic. And I think it consolidates power at the expense of the small, and as a result I can't vote for it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. All right. Well, I guess we'll take a vote.

Roll Call Vote on Motion to approval the petition prepared by Attorney Curran, "Article 2, the Legislative Branch," which is for 11 districts.

Voting YES (49.39%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth).

Voting NO (50.61%): Richard Anderson (9.15% - Bourne), Cheryl Andrews (1.36% - Provincetown), Leo Cakounes (5.67% - Harwich), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% -

**Truro), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Anthony Scalese (4.55% - Brewster).
Absent (0%):**

Clerk O'CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, the motion failed to pass with 50.61 percent voting "no", 49.39 percent voting "yes", and 0 percent absent.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So, Mr. Speaker, that makes the second part of the petition moot. So now the Charter Review Committee can go on with other language.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I think so unless somebody wants to move the second part.

Ms. TAYLOR: I would move the second part. Why not?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Because it only fits with the Council. It doesn't fit with the current structure.

Ms. TAYLOR: You could have -- I think it could fit perfectly well. You could just have a single Executive. But if we don't have a second, it won't --

Mr. CAKOUNES: Move it.

Ms. TAYLOR: I did move it.

Ms. KING: She did.

Mr. CAKOUNES: I'll second it for discussion.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. So who will take the lead on this?

Ms. TAYLOR: Well, I will speak first. I think Teresa's arguments are good ones. We have a lack of accountability because we have a lack of visibility with a three-person part-time Executive.

We haven't been able to get citizens of the County to be interested in County government, to understand the difference between the three Commissioners and the Cape Cod Commission.

I'd say that's completely unknown to the average voter. And I don't think we've had leadership that has been as effective as could be possible.

I think instead we have seen some nice turf battles between the Assembly and the Executive branch, and whether that can be improved by a single Executive, I don't know. But I think that we could possibly save money.

We could have one elected official instead of three part-time elected officials with benefits.

And we could have an appointed person that would also be involved, but I think you'd be down to two instead of what we have now as three plus an Administrator plus a Finance Director.

I think that's quite a lot of people, and I think we could get -- do quite well with an elected official and a professional Administrator.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Thank you. The Delegate from Falmouth has put a proposal on the table that I certainly hadn't given any thought to. It's intriguing.

And so I would love to make a motion to table this at least to our next meeting so that we can give this some thought. I don't want to flexibly vote no because I voted down the previous motion.

So I'm not -- I just think out of fairness to it, it would be nice to at least table it to the next meeting.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well you can't table a motion unless you get people to agree to it. In other words, a motion on the floor right now is --

Ms. ANDREWS: Right. I recognize that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: -- is moved and seconded. Does anybody have a comment? Leo.

Ms. TAYLOR: But Ron, doesn't a move to table have to be voted?

Mr. CAKOUNES: It wasn't seconded.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. It's been moved and seconded. You're right. So I guess we'll take a vote on the motion to table this until indefinitely or?

We have to look at where we have time to fit this in. Or we can table it to the next opportunity or --

Ms. ANDREWS: The other option is for the folks that made the motion --

Mr. CAKOUNES: It's not debatable.

Ms. ANDREWS: -- they could -- well, point of information.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. ANDREWS: The person who made the motion could withdraw their motion, withdraw the second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I understand that, but right now we have a motion on the floor that's been moved and seconded to table.

So if you're going to leave it up to my -- table -- what I'm saying is that it has to be my and the Clerk's discretion as to when it comes up again because we have to fit it in so that's all.

Okay?

So, anyway, all those in favor of -- do you want to take a -- I guess --

Clerk O'CONNELL: If someone requests it, you could do a roll call. If not --

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor of tabling this say "Aye."

Opposed?

Mr. CAKOUNES: No.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. So it passed.

(Motion passed.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Where does that leave us?

Yes, other business. Anybody else have anything else to bring up?

Okay. In that case --

Ms. TAYLOR: Oh, I did. I did have something under "Other Business."

Speaker BERGSTROM: Wait a minute.

Ms. TAYLOR: Sorry. I had an interesting meeting in Falmouth on Tuesday. This won't take long but you need to listen, Richard, because it's about you.

I went to a meeting of the -- our Economic Development Committee that's a town operation in Falmouth, and it was to consider whether Falmouth might want to do some research on trying to complete the connections between the fiber-optic highway and people's businesses and houses in Falmouth.

Maybe if Falmouth -- I went there as a county person thinking maybe if Falmouth could get that kind of feasibility study done that would become a model for other towns. I was thinking maybe the County might want to get involved in that kind of feasibility study.

So, unfortunately, the Falmouth town economic -- with David Vieira there who was tremendously knowledgeable about this issue, tremendously passionate about how important it was for now that we have the super fiber-optic highway to actually be able to use it, and we certainly see no change.

It doesn't look like Comcast or Verizon have any interest in taking on something that they don't see as a quick moneymaker.

At any rate, Falmouth's Economic Development Group was I would say chicken, and Vieira said, "Okay. Well, I'm representing Bourne now, so I'm going to take it to Bourne."

So I think he's having a meeting soon. But at any rate, I do think this is a very important – if there's any chance for economic development on the Cape that's meaningful in terms of well-paid work, it would be connected to this connectivity issue.

So I think this is something that we ought to be thinking about as a County, as an Assembly, and I think the Executive branch should be thinking about it.

So I'm just saying you're going to have a chance to get your town maybe -- because Vieira's going to get the money from the state Legislature for this.

So, I just think -- I just wanted to put it out there that this is an issue we ought to be thinking about.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. I've got one other thing to say quickly. Some of us who will be going to the MMA conference next week. I think Teresa; are you going? I'm going and John and Marcia and, of course, Janice, and we'll see a couple of -- who's going? Pat's going? Good.

So I think MMA is literally a lobbying group. They lobby the Legislature and the Governor for funds for the municipalities. I don't know if we, as a County organization, have really done much in that regard and maybe it's best that we might get together at some point during the conference and decide what County government -- how County government fits into the scheme of things as far as MMA and what we can ask for and what we can hope to receive.

So maybe I'll see you guys up there, okay, and do what we can for the County.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Motion to Adjourn.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor say "Aye."

Opposed?

**Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates
at 5:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates