Swearing in ceremonies held for delegates-elect to the 14th Session of the Assembly of Delegates at 3:55 PM.

Immediately following swearing in ceremonies and official photo the regular Assembly is called to order by Acting Speaker Julia Taylor.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: I’ll call the meeting to order.
We’ll have 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.)
Let’s rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.
(Pledge of Allegiance.)

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Before we call the role, I will say that we do have two people attending the meeting by long distance because they are very far away. They’re calling in on the phone. One is in Florida, one, as we heard, is in California. So this is allowed that they can do that. They are participating remotely due to their great geographic distance. The remote participants are Mashpee Delegate Marcia King and Dennis Delegate John Ohman.
So the Clerk will call the roll now.

Roll Call (100.00%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Edward Lewis (4.55% - Brewster), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Edward McManus (5.67% - Harwich), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O’Malley (1.36% – Provincetown), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

Clerk O’CONNELL: Madam Speaker, we have a quorum present with 100 percent of the Delegates present.

Committee of the Whole

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: All right. In that case, we will proceed with electing a new Speaker.
Do I have any nominations for Speaker?
Ms. MCCUTCHEON: I nominate Ron Bergstrom.
Mr. KANAGA: Second.
Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Ron Bergstrom. Okay. And seconded. Are there any other nominations?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. In December, the Assembly of Delegates had
talked about having a conversation about Speaker or the candidates who wanted to be Speaker. And they -- I would like to put Jim Killion’s name in for consideration.

And perhaps the Assembly can hear from the candidates to see why they want to be Speaker and what their plans are. And then we could have at least an opportunity to either discuss or just have an optional choice for Speaker.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Is there a second for that nomination?
Ms. ZUERN: Second.
Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Okay. We have two. Are there any other nominations?
So far we have Ron Bergstrom and James Killion.
All right. Is there any discussion before we vote? Jim.
Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I’d just like to thank the Delegate from Yarmouth for the nomination.
I think this is a good discussion to have, although I know we have a lot of new members here who probably are not familiar with myself or perhaps even Mr. Bergstrom. This isn’t so much a popularity contest, if you will. It’s just a general discussion about the future of the Assembly.
I’ve expressed my interest and my concern about business of the Assembly over the last -- oh, probably before I preceded -- before I arrived here at the Assembly.
But some of the goals I think what I would like to have at this time is some discussion about what we will be working on going forward, not just as we discuss who will be the Speaker but some of the things we’ll be working on.
Like, for instance, one of the areas I believe that’s important to the Assembly is communication with other areas of the County government. I found --
Acting Speaker TAYLOR: All right. Jim, I’m going to interrupt now. I’m happy to have discussion if you what to speak about your personal qualifications. But I don’t really want to talk about general plans for the County. If you want to be specific --
Mr. KILLION: And you’re limiting this based on what, Madam Speaker?
Acting Speaker TAYLOR: I’m limiting it on the basis that we’re electing a Speaker. And so I think the discussion should be about personal qualifications of the Speaker but not about general plans for the future for the County, which I think is definitely something worth discussing but I don’t think this is the time.
Mr. KILLION: So speaking about the interaction between the Assembly of Delegates and the County government is not applicable to the Speaker?
Acting Speaker TAYLOR: I’m not saying it’s not relevant, but if you have brief comments you would like to make about your candidacy, I think its fine to proceed but not a general discussion of County government and how we would be changing it or continuing it.
Mr. KILLION: No, that wasn’t my discussion but that’s for the comment. What I was going to discuss is the lack of communication that I think that the Assembly has had with various bodies of the County as well as the Executive branch. And I think it’s important for this body going forward that we improve upon that. Also, communication with the Cape Cod Commission as well.
So I think that those are the issues that we should be discussing at this time to see how we’re going to move forward and hopefully advance the overall opinion that the public has for the Assembly because it appears to me that some of our responsibilities and duties have eroded over the years. It would be my plan as the Speaker to improve those and strengthen those and sort of begin to look at the separation of powers between the Executive branch and the Legislative branch and make sure that we’re all very clear on those moving forward.

Thank you.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Thank you. Keeping in mind my thought that we might only want to speak about qualities for the Speaker rather than have a general discussion, which I think would be very much something we might want to schedule, is there any further discussion?

Ron.

Mr. BERGSTROM: I thank the Delegates for putting my name in nomination. I’m certainly willing to serve another 2 years if you’re willing to have me, if the Delegates would have me.

I’ve learned how to run a meeting. I’m not always the best at it but I think I do pretty well. And I think as Speaker, my job is to see that the work of the Assembly is conducted in a fair way and in a way that’s impartial and in a way that allows every Delegate to have his or her say, and to solicit the input of the Delegates in creating policy and submitting Resolutions and Ordinances and seeing that those go forward.

As far as people voting for me, if you don’t vote for me -- if you don’t think I should be Speaker, don’t vote for me. Believe me; it’s not going to make a difference. It’s not going to put a big X on your forehead. I believe everybody here has good points and bad points, and I appreciate the support I get. I certainly don’t resent anyone who would not support me.

I agree with Jim. We have to raise the profile of the Assembly. Insofar as that’s the Speaker’s responsibility, I certainly intend to pursue that. That’s all I have to say.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Any other comments from our points for discussion before we have a vote?

Now, how do we vote?

Clerk O’CONNELL: Roll call.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: And we then say who we’re voting for?

Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes.

Acting Speaker TAYLOR: Okay. Did everyone get that? When your name is called, you will give your vote. Okay. We’ll call the roll.

Roll Call Votes for Nomination of Ronald Bergstrom (Chatham) as Speaker (11):
Ronald Bergstrom (Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (Wellfleet), Christopher Kanaga (Orleans), Edward Lewis (Brewster), Teresa Martin (Eastham), Deborah McCutcheon (Truro), Edward McManus (Harwich), John Ohman (Dennis), Brian O’Malley (Provincetown), Patrick Princi (Barnstable), Julia Taylor (Falmouth).

Roll Call Votes for Nomination of James Killion (Sandwich) as Speaker (4):
James Killion (Sandwich), Marcia King (Mashpee), Suzanne McAuliffe (Yarmouth), Linda Zuern (Bourne).

Clerk O’CONNELL: Madam Speaker, Ronald Bergstrom is elected Speaker for the 14th Session of the Assembly of Delegates receiving 11 votes; James Killion receiving 4.

Acting Speaker Ms. TAYLOR: Thank you, very much. I will now turn the gavel over to Ron Bergstrom.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Are we ready? Okay. I guess the next order of business would be nominations for Deputy Speaker. Yes, Mr. O’Malley.

Mr. O’MALLEY: It would be my pleasure and my first official act to nominate Deborah McCutcheon for Deputy Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do I have a second on that?

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: It’s moved and seconded. Are there any other nominations? No other nominations? Well, then, we’ll close the nominations for Deputy Speaker. And I guess -- do we have to go through a vote?

Clerk O’CONNELL: No because there are no other nominations.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We’ll go by acclamation.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Your opponents failed to raise enough votes.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: I want to thank you all. Thank you, very much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. And next we have nominations for the Clerk. Do I have any nominations?

Yes, Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I nominate Janice O’Connell.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Moved and seconded. Any other nominations? Hearing none. All those in favor of Janice O’Connell as Clerk, please say "Aye."

Speaker BERGSTROM: Once again, it’s unanimous.

Well, I’d like to welcome, of course, our new Delegates and looking forward to a productive session, the 14th Session.

John Ohman is connected remotely. Are you remaining with the meeting or are you disconnecting?

Mr. OHMAN: I’m disconnecting and leaving the meeting (4:20 pm).

Speaker BERGSTROM: And, Marcia King is connected remotely. Are you remaining with the meeting or disconnecting?

Ms. KING: I’m disconnecting and leaving the meeting (4:20 pm).

Clerk O’CONNELL: All right. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The next order of business is to approve the Calendar of Business. Do I have a motion to approve the Calendar?

Mr. HITCHCOCK: So moved.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Any additions or corrections? Hearing none. All
in favor say Aye. Opposed?
  (Motion carried.)
Speaker BERGSTROM: You should have received a copy of the Journal of December 17, 2014. Are there any additions or corrections to the Journal?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move the Journal.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. All those in favor say "Aye."
  (Motion carried.)

Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

Speaker BERGSTROM: And now we have our favorite item on the agenda, the Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners.
  And we welcome the new Commissioner and former Delegate Leo Cakounes along with Mary Pat Flynn.
Commissioner FLYNN: Well, good afternoon. I’m certainly pleased and want to welcome the new members to the Assembly of Delegates and congratulations on your election, and also to the election of the new Speaker or the continuing Speaker and the new Deputy Speaker.
  I would like to report that the Commissioners had their reorganization and election of officers last week at our first meeting of the year, which is by Charter, the day after the first of the year.
Sheila Lyons is the Chairman of the Board of Regional Commissioners; I’m the Vice Chairman, and we want to welcome Leo Cakounes.
Commissioner FLYNN: No you’re not. He’s more than a seat warmer. We have had two meetings, last week and this week. And Leo’s been absolutely great. We’re so glad to have him. We think he’s going to be a great addition to our team.
  Today we began our first discussion of the budget for the coming year.
Commissioner LYONS: I am so sorry. No, continue. My apologies.
Commissioner FLYNN: We actually took up today the Department of Finance and the, would you believe I can’t remember what we did today?
Commissioner CAKOUNES: Finance Facilities and --
Commissioner FLYNN: Yes. Finance Facilities Department and the Health -- Department of Health and the Environment. So it was a very long morning. It was about three hours of discussion on the budget.
  And I think that -- what we do know that we are going to be very conservative this year that we’re going to get an update on our revenues. I think it is next week.
  We know for this year that it is probably going to be somewhat sustainable, but for next year we are not looking at a very positive outcome in terms of our revenues for the County.
  So we’re going to be very conservative and we’ll probably have to cut back in certain departments.
  As you know, we did deduct the two-and-a-half percent from this budget which was about 77,000. Going forward into next year, we will very likely again
request that two-and-a-half percent. But we will have the budget ready for you on time, which is I think February 15. We’re going through all the departments.

The other thing I want to tell you is as you know that we have had Bob Lawton working with us since the first of the year since Mark, of course, has not been there, and he has just been amazing. I think the other two Commissioners would agree, he’s been enormously helpful. He has, from his own municipal experience, that translates very well to County government even when it’s different but it is been extremely helpful. He’s gotten down into the weeds very well, and we’re working with him and we’re very pleased so far with the work that he has done to help us.

Madam Chairman.

Commissioner LYONS: I just want to state my apologies. I thought I’d be here for your swearing-in and I’m sorry. So I want to congratulate all of you and welcome new members and just let you know that I really look forward to a good working year this year. And I think there will be lots of information to share.

I think the budget’s going to be a very interesting one. I think it’s, as Pat said, Bob has been very, very helpful.

And I think that there will be sort of structural changes in the budget in the way it’s being presented that will make all of us, even us Commissioners, much happier so that it will be a little bit more in English that we can all understand if we can call numbers in English.

So I’m looking forward to this year. And, again, I just want to welcome you and thank you and wish you all luck.

Leo.

Speaker BERGSTROM: You don’t have anything to say; do you?

Commissioner CAKOUNES: No. Welcome to our new Assembly members.

The only thing I would like to add is that the budget season is the budget season. Those of you who have been here before know how it works and there will be plenty of ample time to go through it and understand what we’re forecasting for revenue and what we’re going to be forecasting for expenditures.

But on a personal note, this has not been a vote of the Commissioners but we’ve certainly talked about it at our meeting, the current fiscal year that we’re in, it does not seem that our -- and I had said this when I was on the Assembly, that our revenues are going to be matching what we had budgeted.

And as you all know, we passed an Ordinance last December 17 which is going to now require that either the budget that we’re currently operating in either be reopened and relooked at in order to make some savings and some cuttings or we’re going to have to either go out for some bond issues or go out for some transfers of monies from savings accounts.

And I just want to make you all aware of that because I think, as a new Commissioner, that I will be looking forward to working with the Finance Committee from the Assembly on this so that we can move it along kind of quickly to not keep our department heads or anybody who may be having a budget cut in this season out on a limb, if you will.

I think we’re going to have to do our due diligence and move relatively quickly. We’re already second week of January now and it’s going to go quick. So I
just want to give you a heads up on that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Any questions? Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. Did you have any discussion about trying to nail down your revenue projections a little bit to be a little bit more within what is actually coming in? I know that’s been an issue the last two years, and that’s one of the reasons I think why we passed the Resolution last year.

So are you making any concrete changes to how you do revenue projections?

Commissioner LYONS: That has been mentioned from Bob Lawton that he’s looking at things, but he is still taking in information. So he has no recommendations to make as of yet but I do expect them.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Any other questions? Yeah, Leo, and the rest of the Commissioners, in reviewing this year’s budget, the second quarter ended I think at the end of December; is that right?

Commissioner LYONS: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have any second quarter numbers generated?

Commissioner FLYNN: Next week.

Commissioner LYONS: They will be revealed to us next week, although --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: We didn’t get them officially --

Commissioner LYONS: We didn’t get them officially.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: -- officially from Bob Lawton but he has talked with the -- especially the Registry of Deeds and the larger revenue sources.

And I believe his statement was it appears to be running about the same as it was last year at this time, which means in projection, if those of you that want to project, we could be running between 7 and $800,000 shy of projected revenue in the actual budget. And I think that’s what kind of concerns me.

We do have actuals -- actual incomes, and I would hope that some of that documentation would be shared with the Assembly that we’ve gotten and it’s up-to-date.

But as far as projection goes, some of the stuff is pretty relevant but some -- I mean, pretty easy to project but some of its guesswork.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The only other question I have is do you anticipate having to come before the Assembly in the immediate future with any transfers or any kind of compensation?

Commissioner LYONS: That hasn’t been discussed yet. So today we reviewed the Finance Department’s budget but not the finance. So that’s why we don’t have all the answers to your questions.

Commissioner FLYNN: I just wanted to make one clarification on revenues. The revenues from the Deeds Excise tax are coming in as expected. They have not decreased. What has decreased are the Business Tax revenues. What that means is there are not the same numbers of foreclosures and there are not the same numbers of people refinancing their mortgages. So those are the numbers that are down.

And that is what the number that Leo quoted is exact in terms of where we’re seeing the decrease.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Doc.
Mr. O’MALLEY: I’m sorry; Mr. Speaker through you, can you clarify a little bit more about the business revenues that are down?

Commissioner LYONS: Okay. So the major portion of our budget is through deed transfer tax. So that is -- but there is -- and we get a portion of every transaction from the Registry of Deeds. So their transaction isn’t just -- their business isn't just a house sale; it’s a refinance of a house.

So during the time when we were having the crash in the market and everybody was refinancing and there were the foreclosures and the banks were foreclosing, all of that revenue went up.

So it’s sort of like this is why it’s an unstable revenue source because at one time all the house sales were going up and that was in excess. So now there was a portion where the house sales were down but the business of people refinancing to keep their home, you know, bankruptcy, whatever it may be, was going on the upside, where the house sales were going down. So that’s now kind of coming back to where it was probably in a normal year.

Mr. O’MALLEY: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: You mentioned that you’re running about the same revenue as last year but it seems like the distribution of the income profile is different?

Commissioner LYONS: Yeah. We’re not sure is it going to, you know, where is that going to even out. I mean right now the house sales or the Deeds tax itself is running as predicted now that we increase as the other didn’t -- that might rise above.

Mr. KILLION: So is it going to be the same as it was last year or are we just sort of having a flip-flop of the income?

Commissioner LYONS: No. It’s sort of a flip-flop.

Mr. KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: We also did our -- we had an opportunity to look at other revenues too, not just the Registry of Deeds.

For instance, there was a projected revenue in the budget of I want to say $80,000 at the Board of Health and our Health Department because George had anticipated that a couple of towns were going to use some services that we provide and that just did not come to fruition.

So there are other areas of projected revenues that are also reflecting not a downward trend, but certainly we aren’t going to make what we projected. And I’m concerned when we add those all up, you know 80 here, 100 there. It’s something that I just want to make sure you’re aware is on the table.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. The only reason I asked about any immediate request is because we’re going to -- as you’re going through the budget cycle, we’re obviously going to have committees going through the budget and your submissions from now until the budget passes in early spring.

If, indeed, there’s going to be some reorganizing of the current fiscal year’s finances, that’s also going to have to go through the same committees and stuff which could create an issue.
Now I’m not anticipating what’s going to happen. You’ll know when you get the official numbers. But we’re going to have to schedule meetings on both fiscal years which could be a little bit -- take a little bit of organizational skill.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: The only thing, Mr. Speaker, if I may, one other thing that you may see and in May came up and we are just beginning the discussions, we don’t have anything formally in front of us not to give you, but there may be a bonding anticipation coming forward for some of the things that we approved in the budget.

And, again, when I was on the Assembly, we approved them assuming that we had money to do it and now we’re appearing that we’re not going to. So that discussion is also going to be had. And, again, I want to just give you a heads up on that so you’re not -- where did this come from?

There are some things that we may be bringing forward to you as the Commissioners as a request for bond issue as opposed to not doing it at all and just out there on the table.

Commissioner LYONS: And I’m going to just ask that we all agree so that we don’t have any issues at the end of next -- after this budget period that when you’re coming out of a committee and something isn’t answered that has to get written down, we have to know what your questions are that you need answered, and we have to know if you haven’t gotten that information. All right?

Speaker BERGSTROM: We’ll presume that we’re going to get all the information.

Commissioner LYONS: Okay. But when there is a request, you know, people might think they’re giving you the information and during that discussion more information is asked for; if you don’t get it, we need to know that before the end of the cycle before the budget’s submitted.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Anybody else have any questions for the Commissioners? Well, thank you, very much.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Thank you.
Commissioner LYONS: All right.
Speaker BERGSTROM: We look forward to a good session.
Commissioner FLYNN: We do too.
Commissioner LYONS: We do too and good luck to all of you, and I hope you have a great time because it’s a good time. Okay. Thank you.

Communications from IT Director William Travers

Speaker BERGSTROM: Next on our agenda is communication and presentation from Information Technology Director William Travers. He’s going to give us an update and a status report. I see you’ve got a PowerPoint.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: A little presentation actually, not a PowerPoint.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.
Commissioner CAKOUNES: Is this what the Commissioners already saw?
Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: It is. So this all started --

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: So about one
month ago, as you can see, I haven’t updated this first slide here.

On December 3, I went to the County Commissioners and provided a status update along with the other department heads. And everyone thought it would be a good idea to come do the same thing here. So here I am. Introduction. So that’s out of the way.

Without further ado, let’s see if my remote works here and it does. So the starting point for this was the Strategic IT Plan which was a draft that I put together with help from several departments. It went really well. It was really great, great information came out of it for the IT Department because we got kind of insight into what everybody’s goals were and what they wanted to do going forward and help with the whole budget quest and all that.

But we actually -- we placed ninth -- or actually, the Commissioners can correct me, in the top 10 in a Digital County Survey which was a national survey sponsored by NACo and the Center for Digital Government and got to go to a conference in New Orleans to accept it and got to network with a lot of other individuals in the same position as me. So that was good.

So moving right along, we go through some technical updates. This section I’ve titled, “More with Less” and it’s all about efficiency.

So, virtualization is a word that’s -- a lot of people don’t know what it means so I’m not even going to try to explain it. We’re just about completely virtualized and basically, in a nutshell, that means we have more capacity and more computing power, more ability to create servers and provide services with less equipment. So we’re using far less electricity and less floor space, less management. It’s just -- it’s really just efficiency gains.

And it’s been kind of an underlying goal where the entire industry is moving. It’s really this is a private Cloud we’re talking about. So we’re just about there with all our critical stuff.

Consolidating Services. This is more in line with webhosting consolidation instead of using multiple vendors/service contract consolidation. So consolidating our phone service and support contracts with different vendors to individual ones, basically to save money and it’s also easier for us so it saves us time, which is money.

In-House Videography; this was kind of a no-brainer for us. We are already doing the editing and providing the equipment and we were paying for the streaming contracts and doing all the leg work behind the scene, which is most of it. And just treating the meetings as though they’re trouble tickets where you go and you set up your camera and you film a meeting. We kind of integrated it with our just general technical support model.

Next, the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. This is a service or it’s an agreement or a contract with the software company to commit to their platform for an extended period of time in exchange for big savings in the long term. And this is based under the logic that we have been using Microsoft products extensively for 10 years. And going back, it doesn’t seem to be -- the momentum isn’t shifting there at all. So a commitment 10 years out is not unreasonable to that platform.

And when you project out traditional purchasing versus this agreement, the savings are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars over the period of seven years. So
there are other opportunities there but we’ll get into those in later slides, I believe.

IT service desk ticketing system. This is just our basic trouble ticket platform that we use for day-to-day operations in department. And we hadn’t had anything really slick that could give us some good metric setup, so we made a push to do this over the last year and we’re finally getting some really good results out of it as far as tickets outstanding and things that, you know, backlogs in various places.

So next up, some Major Technical Upgrades. Microsoft Exchange which is our email platform here. We have Microsoft SharePoint which is content in collaboration platform, and those are all going on actually as we speak. And I’ll bring this up to speed and give us some more flexibility to -- and SharePoint isn’t used widely across the County yet whereas Exchange is.

But some of the upgrades we’re doing will extend its capability to make it more accessible is the right way to put it, easier to use. And I’ll get into how it applies later with the business end of it.

Unified Communications/Phone System. I put phone system because that’s really the root of what it is. But Unified communications is what we have here. The back end of it we recently upgraded and the unified part of it means that it’s voice and video and basically delivering your voice and video calls to any device, not just a handset or a traditional phone on a desk.

And coming soon, we’re actually -- another project ongoing currently is pushing out the capabilities. So we got the leg work done behind-the-scenes which was the big part of it. As done, we’re going to be pushing out the bells and whistles for the people to actually utilize.

Microsoft Office 365. We have a deployment in progress currently where -- we start with the IP Department, of course, because we’re not going to complain about ourselves to ourselves. We worked out all the bugs for the most part and we started to have volunteers from departments come on board.

And I’ll define it first. Microsoft Office 365 is basically the final Microsoft Office, if you want to call it that. Its Microsoft’s Office delivered as a subscription.

So this goes in line with the whole Enterprise Agreement, which is what they want you to do. They’d rather have a stable amount of money from an organization every year than rely on people buying discs like in the old days. But that’s ongoing and that will deliver some good productivity benefits.

Private fiber to off-campus departments. This has been quite a labor-intensive project, a bit more than we were expecting mainly because of the agreements with the utility companies in the town of Barnstable. And I talked with the IT Director for the town and he said he had a nightmare of a time putting that stuff together for his offices.

But we got through half of the Pole Attachment Agreements with Verizon and we’ll see what comes with NStar. We had to replace a few poles along the way but we’re about halfway there I’d say.

And the end result will be we’re going to patch-in the Cooperative Extension Farm House down the road and the Children’s Cove office. We couldn’t make it to Fire Training. It just was cost prohibited. But those offices will be patched-in to the main campus here as though they are on the main campus.
Oh, the last bullet here, we had just gone through the fiber to off-campus departments.

Internet Connectivity. We have a number of projects underway that will just basically make the campuses consolidated Internet connections here more reliable and faster. And that’s -- I don’t want to be technical but that’s the moral of the story.

So we’re going to have several Internet connections bonded together and -- there I go. I can’t even help it.

Anyway, Operational Section. This is all about outreach and collaborations. So we’re getting more into the business end of things here and how the IT Department has been working with other departments in the region.

IT Working Group is a group of select individuals that we were meeting more often early on especially with the draft of the IT Strategic Plan that we were doing. We ratcheted back to quarterly and actually I think we missed the last quarter by a couple weeks but that’s completely my fault.

But it’s a subset of users from across all departments that get together and we go over, you know, what the department’s been trying to do from the technical perspective and they’re designees from the department heads. And it’s very helpful for us to keep our fingers on the pulse of what’s going on.

And on top of that, we use them as kind if guinea pigs for these initiatives. So with Office 365, we might use that group as the pilot group because they’ve done all the stuff to begin with.

The CATMAN Group; this is the Cape and Island Technical Managers Group, and it’s a fun acronym and it doesn’t exactly make sense but that’s my only (Inaudible). It’s been really successful. We had great attendance from all the towns just about, and it’s great for just the department directors, the IT Department directors to get to the other end and go over their issues and their outstanding problems and try to figure out where we can share knowledge and resources. And it’s been very handy.

Public Safety Technology Group is basically the same concept of the CATMAN Group except applied to just public safety in a lot of towns that are completely separate technically. So it made sense to cover them too. There’s been a good success. We had help from the RPC with Sean O’Brien on that as well.

Taxonomy and Development. This goes back to the SharePoint upgrade. Taxonomy is basically just categorizing and classifying various objects of any types, in our case, documents and files, you know, tagging them appropriately and storing them.

And an issue that comes up across all departments and there’s been several in particular that’s a real headache, the Cape Cod Commission is actually kind of helping us spearhead an initial run at getting things digital but in an organized fashion.

So that’s up and coming pretty soon. In a summary, it’s going paperless I guess you could say so that you can easily find information without having to rummage through file cabinets and whatnot.

Joint Communications; this was a joint initiative spearheaded by the Cape Cod Commission and we participated in that primarily from a social media policy and website development, just basically auditing what the County was doing for their communication strategy in those areas and we’ll continue to do so over the next year.
Regional Wide Area Network. We participated -- the IT Department participated in the RFP for this project which was awarded to CapeNet, who is the business arm of Open Cape, we’ll call that section.

But the end result is that we now have a lit fiber-network that is exclusive to community care institutions up and running. And we’ve tested it; it’s working, so we can now actually share services over it and deliver resource-intensive services over it. You could always do that but it was expensive and slow sometimes going over the Internet.

So that is a very big, positive thing. And that was completely funded actually for as long as we can fund it through the Cape Cod Commission budget.

Regional Procurement Efforts; hard drive disposal. I noted here because that was just a good example of a group buy on disposing hard drives. We found out through the CATMAN group that there were many people who had boxes and boxes of hard drives from computers that they took out because they didn’t want to just chuck them because that’s where all the important information is so they’re all waiting for something to dispose them properly.

So we got an industrial shredder to come in and chop everything up for us, and we got documentation of where all the pieces went. So securely destroyed. So that was a success. We’ll probably continue to do that every now and then just so we don’t end up with backlogs of that equipment.

The next bullet we have Development of Regional IT Services Offering to Delivery. This kind of goes hand-and-hand with the RWAN, which is really what makes it deliverable. We’ve been working through the CATMAN group recently and I’ve been talking to a lot of the IT Directors and some of the Town Administrators about the difference services that people would be interested in that we have.

So we have our phone system for instance is highly scalable, far more than what we’re utilizing it at and it’s now connected to a regional fiber-optic network. So it just makes sense instead of someone duplicating that effort, just seeing what works and what doesn’t but we’re trying all of that separately.

County Internet Portal. This is something internal facing that we’ve been working on to basically replace the employee handbook and the forms that get handed out and updated, and no one knows if they have the right form or the right anything. So this is basically just an internal phasing website, SharePoint based, that is just a good resource, I imagine, primarily for new employees, people that are just on board so they can just hit a link, log in, and have all these resources at their fingertips.

Department Staffing Attendance for IT. I just threw this in here because we try to operate, you know, try to get in everybody’s business, so-to-speak politely. But we’ll sit in on department staff meetings generally and have maybe a 15 minute section at the beginning of it since I started in IT actually over 9 years now. I started the Cape Cod Commission meeting -- I sat in on many of their staff meetings for most of them, you know, just in case they had technical thoughts. And we currently do that with RDO and a few other departments I think. We have different designees that go to them. So that’s been a good success.

Regional IT Services. I already kind of touched on here. The town of Wellfleet, we renewed a contract for support. It’s the all-inclusive support for them
for the third consecutive year now. It’s going well. It provides -- well, I’ll just say all-inclusive support on an annual basis, and all-inclusive means we basically act as their IT department. Luckily, we have Harry Terkanian with an IT background who’s able to do the budget stuff for us. So that model in Wellfleet specifically really works well for us.

We’ve done a lot of cool projects out there. We’ve run a town-wide fiber network that we’re lighting up soon and it’s a lot of stuff just to make it easier for us to manage then -- and we’ve started to move some of their services preemptively over there as we’re getting the connections up over here to our data center.

The town of Truro, we’ve contracted in the past for just per diem support and its gone well so they renewed it the last fiscal year, last July, and they’re very happy with it. Their IT director really appreciates the support and appreciates having some extra hands around from time to time. That’s a very simple model there. We do help him out with some project work and some higher level stuff on an as needed basis just because, you know, we’re all neighbors and we’re all municipalities. So it’s not really a business we’re trying to run.

Now many other towns interested in service. This is a scary one a little bit just because it’s a little overwhelming is there’s a lot of interest in the stuff we’re talking about and sharing services, and it makes sense provided that, you know, provided that financially it makes sense. I don’t want to recommend anything that’s -- if they do it themselves it’s cheaper than they should try themselves. It’s kind of a lot of money there but in most cases it makes sense to share things.

Vetting potential service offerings with CATMAN. I mentioned that and the SIO Governance Committee, which is due to the Cape Cod Commission Strategic Information Office, which has been great. And Kristy Senatori has been moving me in on those meetings and it’s great from my perspective because I get to see both the technical management and then the town administration side. So I get a full picture of what people are actually interested in, you know, what would work; what might not work.

Now we’re going to plan ahead. Challenges and I originally titled this slide “stumbling blocks” but that was a little too negative. So challenges make sense. These are all good things. These are good challenges to overcome again, if possible.

Increasing needs for Web and application development support. This is just something that originally we tried to outsource a lot of this, and we find in some cases with smaller departments that can have dedicated individuals for Web development, it’s sort of boomeranging back on us and they need a lot of help with just basic development.

And not getting too much into content management, that has to be the entire department, but we find ourselves involved in a lot of Web projects and, unfortunately, it’s kind of become a bottleneck for us.

And even when we try to involve outside contractors or vendors or other parties, it still takes a lot of care and feeding between the customer and those individuals. Whenever we try to connect them directly, it usually doesn’t work out that well. Again, a challenge, not an impossible one.

Major projects increasing in quantity and scope. That kind of goes in line
with that but it’s a side effect of deploying new tools and new software and new systems is that people like them and they actually really use them well and then they want to do all these cool things with them. So we’re making the struggle to stay ahead of the curve there and keep up to speed on how these things are being used and the best way to use them and the more elaborate things that people what to do with them now. It’s getting complicated but good.

Security Risks. This is going to be a huge theme of this entire year is mitigating security risks and identity management. I think you get that later slide as well. But its passwords, policies, and just general security intrusion prevention. I’m getting too technical again.

Resource Contention. This just means having enough capacity to store things and that’s always going to be an issue. And I should say security risks are always going to be an issue. Nothing is ever completely secure. It’s just going to be a constant issue to stay on top of and the same thing with capacities. There’s always going to be more and more data storage needed. Luckily it gets cheaper but it’s, you know, something to always keep in mind. There’s always going to be investments needed there.

On the Horizon; we have expanded regional service offerings which I already touched on.

Desktop virtualization. This is getting rid of the old school standard desktops in favor for the little thin clients and things that -- it basically runs your desktop off in a data center someplace and it takes care of many of problems simultaneously and it’s a good thing. I’ll end it there.

Security Improvements and Identity Management. Identity management is kind of the core of what I’m really trying to drive home with cyber security in general. It’s just making sure that we have human beings with keys and we can always know who’s using what keys. And they should only know what keys they have or I’m talking about passwords in this case.

In the future, hopefully soon it will be biometrics, but right now we just need to make sure that no one knows anyone else’s password and that we rotate them semi-frequently and that we can always -- if there’s a breach someplace, we can always have an audit trail back to where it came from.

I’m not saying anybody would do anything bad but it’s just you never know when you need to be able to narrow it down. You can’t have groups of people all using the same account. It’s just a recipe for disaster. But that’s something that we’re actively working on now.

IT Policies and Standards. It ties in with all this because the policies will kind of dictate the rules that we go by and the standards are the pieces therein. So the standards are the technical things that are going to change more frequently. The policies will be the general, the usage compliance part of it. So what you can do, what you can’t do, what you shouldn’t do and the standards will be the technical acronyms. And that’s something that’s a priority of mine as well. Seems like all of these are priorities.

Strategic IT Plan Update. It will be a year in March since the draft was presented, so it’s a little overdue but not a lot needs updating. It’s still pretty pertinent
but that’s another thing I’m going to plea is to just revise that generally.

And that looks like it’s it. Any questions at all on anything?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. Just for the new people, one of the reasons we want IT updates is aside from cutting edge this side of the County, that there was a -- one of our biggest budget items this year, and part of the concern was that it’s a big budget item this year, next year and the third year. So it was about a million-dollar project over three years. So we wanted updates to see how the money was being spent and what was going on.

So I really appreciate the comprehensive report that you gave. I mean it really gives everyone I think a very good handle on what IT’s doing and what’s going on.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Thank you.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: And then going forward, not today necessarily, but going forward is the majority of that money going towards your Microsoft contract or are there other areas that you can pinpoint that might be part of your bigger, you know, $300,000-plus increases every year.

I don’t want to put you on the spot today but going forward maybe at your next presentation you could just say these are the new things, or the fake things or the money things or whatever just so we can kind of understand that. Or maybe it’s just $300,000 to do all this in general.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Well that lump sum of money, a lot comes with it. It’s a little more than -- oversimplifying it is to say it’s just Microsoft Office.

Eventually, 15 years from now we’ll probably be -- if it were still in this Enterprise Agreement we’ll actually have all of our stuff hosted externally with Microsoft in the Cloud because our strategy right now is to kind of hybridize so that we don’t have all our eggs in one basket as any Xbox or PlayStation fans would know if there’s denial service attacks and -- that’s just the nature of the beast with Cloud services sometimes.

So there is a little bit of danger there but that’s why right now we have both covered and eventually we can migrate completely on one side. But that’s -- the Enterprise Agreement, the level that we’re at currently and actually it comes with all the trimmings with Exchange online and SharePoint online, all those system host it.

But I think a general priority list wouldn’t hurt I think would be a core of what you are mentioning. So with whatever money we have, what are really the big critical things that need to happen out of it and, logically, we’ll do the stuff that can deliver the most.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yeah, thank you, Mr. Travers. You discussed a little bit about virtualization and your own Cloud that you created for yourself. Is that a service you consider scalable that you could offer to other towns in the near future?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: That’s actually -- that’s one of them. It was one of the easiest ones to suggest initially. So we have our data center where -- we have a lot of equipment up in the data center, the Open Cape Air Center actually that has fiber
running into it for the regional network, and we’re running our phone system on there virtually we’re running all of our other servers on there, virtually a hundred of them.

And we have enough overhead -- we have enough room there where we can spin up servers on the fly and we can do chargeback for them as people need them. And there are a number of towns that are very interested in that.

So, yes.

Mr. KILLION: Even so, you’d be out working on some type of a price model that you could be able to --

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes.

Mr. KILLION: Do you foresee a time in the near future where you’ll be able to offer this service?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Oh, it could be offered immediately, and we’re sort of doing it already as needed just because I think there was an issue with Truro Police Department had a server that was having problems and it was easier for us to just make one for them here to just do a conversion virtually than it was to order parts or fix the hardware that they had.

So it’s immediately available; it’s just formalizing it, I guess you could say.

Mr. KILLION: Now along that line, have you looked into what liability you would have to assume if you take on that service and what any cost would be associated with that?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: That’s an excellent point. There isn’t -- I haven’t given it too much thought I have to admit just because it’s running on the same platform as all of our critical systems. So if they have issues, we have issues here and they’re kind of lumped in with us with we have to keep our systems running 24/7 and by being part of our private Cloud here. Then inherently they’re -- an SLA will come with this. That’s another piece of the formal -- the formality that will have to come out of this is actually having a Service Level Agreement so you know exactly or they know exactly what they’re getting and what to expect and we’re bound by it. I’ll look into that further for you.

Mr. KILLION: Good.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: That’s a very good thing to hit on.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Did you have a question, Deborah?

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Yes, I did, if I could? I note from your last budget submissions, your income, and your revenues primarily from County general funds to include the Registry and bond funds.

Have you made any contingency plans or have you done anything for any declining revenue this year?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: I’m working on a priority list actually to -- if the money’s not there, the money’s not there. There are non-appropriation clauses in the Enterprise Agreement that we signed with Microsoft.

So worst-case scenario if, you know, fining the clients that much then we can -- we don’t have to worry about being sued or anything like that. That’s not possible. We’ll just be able to do less.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: I guess my question is do you have any projection as through the end of the year about how your department’s going to be
affected by that?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Not yet. We’ve been talking with Bob Lawton
a bit about it starting now.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: All right.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Teresa.

Ms. MARTIN: I just have a related question to that. I noticed in one of the
-- with one of the items you noted it was being paid for by the Cape Cod Commission
and you said you didn’t know how long that was going to continue.

What’s the planning around that and what happens when it doesn’t continue?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: That was the Regional Wide Area Network and
that is something that -- I guess that was a little cryptic. I apologize.

There’s a bit amount of money and when we were picking out the anchor
institutions it will only -- the money will only go so far for so long. But I think we’re
at a level right now and, actually, I have to touch base with Kristy Senatori on that,
whose been bringing all that together with the towns or did that already.

How long the money will actually last, I think we’re over two years for it. So
it will be fully funded. And after that, then the towns will fund it themselves. But at
that point, it’s going to be a lot cheaper because this allows them to network all their
buildings together or a good subset of their buildings in most cases.

So by the time that they need to pay for this connection, they’ve canceled
several other connections that they don’t need anymore, so it kind of evens out.

Ms. MARTIN: And a follow-up question to that is I know in this project
there’s 72 anchor institutions, so does that mean this County network that you have put
in place is now connecting 72 anchor institutions from that grant or at least some
subset of those?

And I know a lot of those in all of our towns have schools; we have libraries;
there are all those kinds of things that are anchor institutions in that grant.

So I just kind of want to know should I be going back to my town and saying,
“Hey, are we getting this free service that the Commission’s paying for?”

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: We’ve worked with the Town Administrators in
this, again, primarily the Commission and Kristy to get the priority list of what
buildings they needed. And, again, the idea is it wouldn’t make sense to fund all of
the buildings and get all of the buildings connected up to the 72 just because some of
the buildings that were flagged, and I believe this holds true across several towns, but
some of the buildings that were flagged as community anchor institutions that would
be entitled to it, theoretically, then they’re already connected with their private
network. And it would be kind of just a waste of resources.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Go ahead.

Ms. MARTIN: I’m sorry to hear this again but I know this grant fairly well
and I know that 72 institutions already have fiber running to them as part of this grant.
So you’re saying only some of those are part of this other regional network? I’m
really kind of confused.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: This goes back a ways, the misconception I
guess you could call it. But the fiber was delivered under the grant, dropped off. The
customer premise equipment and the service and actually lighting the fiber and
providing service across it, that was not.

So we’re talking about connection fees here. And that was a little bit of heartburn for everybody initially where it actually wasn’t free service. It was a free connection. The network was built and delivered but there was no service running across it. And that’s where the connection cost comes in because people have to run it. It’s equipment that has to be maintained and what not.

Ms. MARTIN: One last question about this because I know our towns want to know this; right?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes.

Ms. MARTIN: So when the Commission stops paying for it in two years, then what happens? The towns pick it up or are you going to be coming -- should we be looking two budget years up for some large sum of money you’re going to come looking for. Just thinking ahead with this.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: It can go -- if a town doesn’t want to pay for it after the funding is there, if they’re not getting a service over it or they don’t need the Internet connection, then they’re not obligated to.

But if, for instance, I can use the town of Wellfleet as an example, they have their private network altogether. They have a single connection point which we’ve cancelled maybe 6 or part of it. We started to cancel Comcast accounts across the town because they’re using one connection point now.

So by the time that they have to pay the bill, it’s going to be less than the cumulative cost of paying all of those Internet connections at each town department or each building. That’s the idea behind it. But, if -- it’s not obligatory. It’s just kind of the model that makes the most sense.

Ms. MARTIN: Okay. Sums it up.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Let it ride.

Ms. MARTIN: Promises. Because we have a history here of organizations that come and get some funding through the County and they all say, every time, “We’re never coming back again. This is just to get the project started, this is just during this phase,” etcetera over and over again.

So when I hear you talk about somehow magically the towns will decide to pay for this, my little Spidey-senses go up saying, “Huh, this sounds real familiar, haven’t we heard this before?”

So I guess what I’m asking you is in two years you’re saying we will not be getting the request for more funding or we might be getting a request for more funding?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: I honestly haven’t even given it too much thought yet other than if there isn’t funding, it won’t be the end of the world because the towns that would be using it or leaning on it are doing so for a reason. They’ll have things delivered over it or they’ll be using it as their Internet access or their secondary Internet access, and they will have canceled other Internet access accounts that they don’t need anymore. So it won’t be as much of an issue there to just reallocate the funding to maintain that connection point.

But if they’re fine without it, it’s -- so if the funding isn’t there, it’s okay, I guess, is the worst-case scenario for us, but I can’t comment on whether or not --
haven’t really talked about it that much with anyone else.

So thank you for putting me through the paces. I appreciate it.

Ms. MARTIN: No, I’m just -- thank you very much for answering. I appreciate it. I just feel like it’s a conversation we’ve had so many times over and over again, and I guess when we’re talking about coming for the budget and thinking about better ways to manage things, I just sort of want all of us to think more than a couple months out and to not -- and if it’s not going to be a happy, rosy scenario, think about it now.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes.

Ms. MARTIN: Because over the last, you know, six years, I’ve seen this cycle over and over again, and I know we all have.

So I don’t mean to put you through your paces but it would be -- I just want to encourage all of us to not keep falling into the same budget traps over and over again.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Let me ask -- let me switch subjects. You know, we all go through County email and as various departments do have County email addresses; we have to access that with a password.

But in actuality, anything that I communicate to anyone of these Delegates or anybody in the County is a public document. So someone could request it. Someone could say, “Everything that Ron’s ever said about so-and-so to everybody else, I what a copy of it.”

Now, who would they go to to get that? Would they have to go to me or the person I communicated with or could they go directly to you and get it?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: I think that would have to go through the County administration via an information request formally.

Speaker BERGSTROM: But you would have that information?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: We would do it. Yes, we would do the leg work underneath it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: So if I sent a communication to, let’s say, to Teresa discussing some area of County business and somebody wanted a copy of that, they could get it from you?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Now what is the protocol for access to that information?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: The access to the information is that this actually -- this road leads back to the Microsoft contract.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Because one of the reasons that we liked this agreement, the hosted services that we’re kind of using intangible to what we have now, one of the things we’re actually going to use completely is their perimeter, their edge network where all the SPAM filtering is and whatnot.

So all of the mail is going to be going through their equipment first, their stuff and it’s going to get scrubbed and then they have an archiving component and they have a nice easy-to-use dashboard that you can log into or have designees log into that can then do these requests. We can do it all now, it’s just a little more --
Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, what I’m looking at is let’s say that someone wanted -- we communicated over some bitter County business and someone wanted access to that communication. If they were someone outside the County, they would just file a Freedom of Information request and it would go to you.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: But suppose somebody walked into the office and said, you know, “I think that Ron and Deborah are conspiring against Suzanne and I want to know what they said.” Now could they get that information from you?

Well, is that at your discretion?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: I would definitely throw that upstream from me for --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well who’s upstream?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: You guys and the Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator would get --

Speaker BERGSTROM: It will be nice if we have a policy in place.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: It would.

Speaker BERGSTROM: It would determine who has access to the information.

That’s all I’m saying.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Yes, no, that’s a good one.

Speaker BERGSTROM: So be warned -- have the Delegates be warned anything you say on the County Internet could follow you to your grave.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Exactly. A public record but I make it a habit not to -- take anybody who walks in asking for anything that isn’t -- that they don’t have access to, there’s a certain protocol there where we’ll go to their department head or we’ll go to the County Administrator depending on who they are. But we definitely -- we never give out anyone’s -- we don’t have access to everyone’s password. That’s one of the things we’re trying to move away from but we don’t grant anyone access to something that they already don’t have access to without getting some sort of verification.

Speaker BERGSTROM: From somebody?

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: From someone above them preferably.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Anyway, anything else to ask on this? Well, thank you, very much. It was very informative.

Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS: Oh, no problem.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We now have Communications from Public Officials? Speaker BERGSTROM: How about Communications from Members of the Public?

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. The Assembly will now convene. We’ll start with a Report from the Clerk.

Report from the Clerk
Clerk O’CONNELL: I don’t have anything to report today.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Nothing to report. Okay.

Other Business

Speaker BERGSTROM: How about other business? Now we’re going to put her on the spot because she’s going to have to -- our erstwhile Clerk just recently reelected in that position is going to have to actually schedule the meetings, the subcommittee meetings when we discuss the budget next -- there’s sort of an issue over the last few years because we all have different schedules and we all have different committees. We may have conflicting committee meetings.

So I’ll leave this up to Janice. She talked about it briefly but --
Clerk O’CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a conversation that I started with the Delegates of the 13th session, if you recall back in November and December.

And what I kept hearing was the fact that the budget review model wasn’t working as well as you would like it to work. And when something’s not working you don’t really have very many options, or one of them being, well, you’ve got to make a change.

So what I did was I put together a schedule. It’s my attempt. It’s a suggestion. It’s a draft on how you may want to consider handling your budget reviews this budget season.

Keep in mind that there are laws that you have on the books that dictate when you have to do certain things. The schedule that I’ve provided you with doesn’t conflict with any of those laws or those timetables. What it tries to do is consolidate some of the reviews that you’re doing with departments or entities or agencies and accelerate that review process.

One thing I continued to hear repeatedly over the last 2, 3, 4 years was the fact that there are some reviews that you are doing that committees felt they had no control over. You’re reviewing a budget that you have no say in.

What I have suggested with several of these is to consolidate them or place them under the umbrella of the bigger entity that supervises it.

And the other issue is there are some agencies that you review that are contractual in nature with the County but yet you don’t control the contract. I think some Delegates found that a little bit frustrating last year, that people are coming in to review their budget, but, yet, again, it’s another example of you not having control over it or say over it.

So I would suggest that those particular agencies get reviewed again with the department that is awarding the contract or has control over it. What it does is it helps to consolidate and manage the time that you have to review budgets a little more economically, if you will.

I’m also suggesting that you seriously consider the two dates that I have suggested. They are off-Assembly meeting days. I mean it’s pretty tough to expect to come in here at one or two pm, roll through budgets and be ready for the Assembly meeting at 4 o’clock. I just don’t think you have enough time to give everything it’s
just due.

So if you did it on an off-Assembly weeks starting at say one in the afternoon and we schedule everyone through until 5 o’clock, that’s all that you’re doing on those afternoons.

And as the Speaker has pointed out, there are going to be ordinances coming through those committees are going to have to meet and review. You can’t do it when you’re already scheduled to do budget reviews.

So that leaves the opportunity on Assembly meeting days to do things other than just budget reviews. It also leaves you with an opportunity to allow a committee to come back if you haven’t had enough time to review a budget on the two dates that have been specified.

Now I’ve given the Speaker today a list of committee choices that Delegates have submitted to me. And once the Speaker identifies members for those committees, I’d like to be able to send notices out immediately letting everyone know when the reviews will take place.

One of the suggestions that the Speaker made was to perhaps wait and talk to the chairs about the consolidation piece. For example, Elder Services coming in separately versus having the Board of County Commissioners discuss their budget and the same with Human Rights because the Commissioners are the department that’s controlling those contracts or those divisions or agencies.

So I guess that’s it from my perspective. And the best I would hope to get out of today from you all would possibly be a commitment to February 25 and March 11 and then I’ll deal with the scheduling. It could mean that some Delegates are going to have to come in both of those dates, maybe only one date, maybe just at the beginning part of that timeslot. I don’t know yet because the committees have not been selected.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. Let me just jump in here. I will look at this list and I will appoint committees as soon as is practical. Today’s Wednesday. I hope to have it to you by Monday.

If, and you know there’s obviously a lot of people want to be on committees and work so that can serve on those committees, after the list is finalized and I sent it out, if you have -- if you can find somebody on another committee and you say, “You know, I’d rather be on your committee and you’d rather be on my committee,” feel free to do that, but I’ll try to get the committees out as soon as possible. And I’ll try to accommodate everybody as is practical, but not everybody’s going to be on the same committee. So we’re going to have to farm it out.

And we’ll try to get -- as Janice says, it’s important that we get a schedule down because we try to inconvenience people as little as possible and try to get as much done in a short timeframe that we have an Ordinance or Resolution or Ordinance that deals with the timeframe on which we have to rule on the budget, which it goes -- if there’s a difference with the Commissioners, it has to go back to them; it comes back to us and maybe reconciliation. So time and energy is important.

It’s also important and just premature because we haven’t even had a committee yet, it’s important that the committees not punt. A lot of times it’s easy to say, “Well, it’s a tough subject, you know, we don’t know. Maybe we’ll bring back
the Finance Director next Wednesday or something” and that bottles everybody up. So, basically, you’re going to have to tough it up and make a decision.

Ultimately, of course, all the decisions are going to be made by the full Assembly so you’re just making recommendations. So I don’t want to beat that horse to death.

Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I have a question on the proposed consolidation. When you say that these different departments are being moved under the departments that hold their contracts, does this mean that they will then speak for them or you will actually bring, for instance, Elder Services? Will you have the Commissioners present the Elder Services piece or we have the Elder Services people come in?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, I would think that the chairs of the committees -- it would be in the best of all worlds, the chairs of the committee would inform those who are coming before them exactly what information you’d like. You could save a lot of time for the committee.

In other words, if you want somebody to come in, you chair let’s say Human Services, you simply communicate to the head of the Human Services Department we’d like to have so-and-so in and we’d like to review this part of the budget and so on. Because too often what happens is you come in and you ask a question and they may not have the answer and so on.

So, I would suggest you -- but if you chair the committee, you can bring anybody you want.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. I was just going to say just from a perspective of someone who has only done this for the first time, Elder Services, Arts Foundation; I sat on several, actually, most of these, and I found it very useful even though I didn’t have the control over the budget to know, for instance, Elder Services being underfunded dramatically.

So in terms of -- I’m just saying in terms of the big budget picture, if I was looking for some place to find an extra 15, $30,000, I would know because I had heard from Elder Services that I thought that that was something that would be useful.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yeah.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: The Human Rights. We found out about a director being -- having an increase in salary with a similar number of hours. I’m not sure that we would note that information unless it had been presented.

So I really appreciate the consolidation and the attempt to not waste your time. But I did find, even though with a lot of time, I found the information useful in terms of the big budget picture. That’s just my perspective.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, you know, Suzanne, you know how it was determined what parts of the budget we looked at and what parts we don’t? Do you know how that was determined?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: What committees I sat on?

Speaker BERGSTROM: No, no. I have no idea.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I have no idea. They say we can’t look at this budget; we can look at this and so on. I have no idea what that is. I think that if they
present us with the budget, we’ll look at the whole thing. Sorry. My personal opinion.

Anyway, yes, anybody else here?

Clerk O’CONNELL: Do you think -- is the consensus with the Delegates that targeting the 25th of February and the 11th of March would be okay?

Mr. PRINCI: The 25th of February I believe is a school vacation.

Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes, it is.

Mr. PRINCI: Okay.

Clerk O’CONNELL: That’s a school vacation week and March 11 might be spring break too.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Some of us don’t have little kids anymore.

Ms. TAYLOR: I won’t be here March 11.

Mr. LEWIS: Even if I had kids, they wouldn’t be going away. They go away in the summer.

Mr. KANAGA: February 25 is a problem with me.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I think it would be best if Janice sends out an email.

Mr. KANAGA: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All of us can respond as to what -- our availability and we’ll go from there.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: That’s a good idea. It may not be an issue depending on the committee.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I, unfortunately, will be here the entire period.

Mr. LEWIS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I winter where I summer.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: I wonder if it would be useful to deal with the consolidation issue separate from the date issue?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Because I think that the idea of having the entity that controls the budget be the presenter for it is a good one. I mean in terms of like the Water Protection Collaborative, Elder Services, Human Rights.

As I understand what you’re suggesting is you take those out of Health & Human Services, for example, and put them on a day the County Commissioners are coming; is that true?

Clerk O’CONNELL: Correct. I did some investigating, if you will, to try to come to a conclusion regarding who’s in control of this. And that’s the assumption that I made where I suggested that they be located.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Well it kind of leaves Health & Human Services without a lot to do.

Clerk O’CONNELL: Economic Affairs as well.

But there can be some discussion regarding even bringing them in jointly with another committee to hear the piece if that works because it kind of leaves them without a designated or targeted department.

I also want to add just one more thing. Some of these things that I’m suggesting were actually part of a study that the County did I think five years ago, an MMA study about let’s do some consolidating and streamlining. Unbeknownst to me, I didn’t realize it until I did this and the administration said, you know, some of those
things have been suggested but haven’t happened yet so, you know.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Teresa, yeah.

Ms. MARTIN: Having chaired Economic Affairs for a number of years, it is very frustrating when -- I think everyone should hear what the Arts Foundation is going. I don’t think it should be a committee presentation. I think what they’re doing we should all hear.

All they can say to us in terms of budget is we wish the Commissioners gave us more money. And so, you know, it’s all very nice and we heard they want more money from the Commissioners. So being able to have that, for example, with the Commissioners makes a lot more sense of why did you give X or Y to them this year.

But in terms of the mission and what they do and the way that comes out in these hearings, I think it should be everyone should be hearing these things because it affects all of -- we end up in the cycle where a committee heard a presentation by the Arts Foundation and then we all meet and someone says, “What exactly does the Arts Foundation do?”

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Right. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: My next suggestion -- apparently according to the schedule, we don’t have anything to do at our next meeting.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Not yet.

Clerk O’CONNELL: No.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Well, there’s going to be all these committee assignments made and I’ll bet you there’s going to be people who want to swap and are unhappy, and then there’s going to be the questions about what these committees are going to do. Maybe I suggest that we have that whole discussion next time we’re here when you’ve made your assignments and people have had an opportunity to look at this with Janice’s explanation of it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, I agree because all we’re trying to do is make it as easy as possible and to use the time that the committees meet as judiciously as possible so that we’re not reviewing things that are not within our bailiwick.

But, you know, I have to say -- correct one thing that Teresa said is, you know, they wish the Commissioners gave them more money.

My attitude is the Assembly of Delegates passes the budget. This is our budget. Commissioners tell us what it costs to run the County government. They’ll say, yeah, it costs so much to keep the lights on; it costs so much to pay the employees and so on and here’s what it costs.

When we get outside of that into things like, you know, things that are optional and so on, the Arts Foundation and so on, it’s as much our budget as anybody else’s. If we want to give the Arts Foundation more money, we could do that. If we want to give them less, we can do that. The Commissioners have veto power but then, of course, you go into that whole thing.

So I would suggest that the Delegates look at the budget with an open mind and decide what our priorities are. It may not match the Commissioner’s priorities and the Charter provides for that in very explicit ways as to how you come to reconciliation.
But we’re not anticipating trouble beginning the year but we’ll find it.

Yes, Ed.

Mr. McMANUS: Not having gone through a budget season with the County, I may be somewhat naïve but in just taking an example, Elder Services seems to fit in with the services that Health and Human Services present, and hearing what they do in context of what the other facets of Human Services does I think would give it a better understanding of the sort of interaction with the programs.

Whereas, if it’s separated and only given as a part of the presentation of the County Commissioners who may or may not know exactly what they do and how it fits in with the other services, related services. That doesn’t give the reviewing subcommittee or this body a real understanding of what the actual need is. And I think that’s what we need to understand in terms of deciding on how much of a priority one budget area should receive over another.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Okay. If that’s -- we’ll, like I say, I’ll send those committee assignments out as soon as I can, and I’m sure we’ll discuss this further next meeting, which would be on the 21st of January.

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

Yes, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Resolution to file which is actually quite fresh given the discussion we had with IT and the discussion with subcommittee assignments.

This Resolution is to create a subcommittee in the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates on Telecommunication and Energy. In order to inform the Assembly of Delegates of matters as they relate to public utilities, telecommunications, energy, energy-related matters, a subcommittee of the whole shall be established.

A subcommittee on telecommunications and energy shall meet at the discretion of the chair for the purpose of gathering information, making recommendations relevant to policy and budgetary decisions of the Assembly and to the general welfare of the citizens of Barnstable County.

This obviously will -- it sort of bears the same committee that the state has, but we found or I found on the Finance Committee we’ve had IT come in a number of years running with some type of project that they would like to do.

I think it’s important that we have a committee that’s a little more dialed in to the type of things that they’re working on so we can relate to what the money’s being spent and we can relay that to the full Assembly at the time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Mr. KILLION: Additionally, we just had this ongoing matter with National Grid and service connections. I think it’s -- we should have conduit, a local conduit, regional conduit for customers of National Grid to be able to come in and perhaps get information from us. We should have a liaison with National Grid as other utilities as well.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Jim, I don’t want to interrupt you, but I’m making -- one of my first decisions as chair is that when you submit an Ordinance or Resolution, we’ll discuss it when it’s brought up. Because if you --
Mr. KILLION: Understood.
Speaker BERGSTROM: -- if you want to defend it, I don’t want somebody else to jump up and start a general discussion because it’s not on the agenda.
But we will schedule that for discussion at the next Assembly meeting.
Mr. KILLION: Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: And by the way to those new Delegates, if you have a Resolution/Ordinance, you submit it at a meeting like this. Go through the Clerk because she knows the proper language. That’s always important. You don’t want it to be defective. And then it’s usually scheduled for the next meeting if it’s time is available. So that’s what you’re seeing happening right before your eyes.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move to adjourn.
Speaker BERGSTROM: I’m trying to think if I have anything else to say. I think we’re all set. Yep, okay. Motion to adjourn.
Mr. HITCHCOCK: Second.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. All those in favor say “Aye.” Opposed? Okay.
Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice O’Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates