Speaker BERGSTROM: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Wednesday, October 1st session of the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates.

I’d like to call this meeting to order. Is anyone recording this meeting besides our regular recording staff? I guess not.

So, I will now 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.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. We will now stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: The Clerk will call the roll.

Roll Call (71.51%): Cheryl Andrews (1.36% - Provincetown), Richard Anderson (9.15% - Bourne), Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable).

Absent (28.49%): Leo Cakounes (5.67% - Harwich - arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Anthony Scalese (4.55% - Brewster – arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth).

Clerk O’CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, we have a quorum with 71.51 percent of the Delegates present; 28.49 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

Now we’ll need a motion to approve the Calendar of Business.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: So approved.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. All those in favor, say “Aye.” Opposed?

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: You should have received a copy of the Journal of September 17th, 2014. Do I have any additions or corrections to the Journal?

Hearing none.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Move to approve.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Second.

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

Opposed?

(Motion carried.)
Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Now we have our favorite section of the agenda, Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners.

Commissioner LYONS: I’ll bring Michael up in case you have any questions. I happen to be in the neighborhood so I thought I’d drop in. No, I stayed actually for the meeting. I stayed around for a couple hours.

Today I had the pleasure of meeting with Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development, Undersecretary Aaron Gorenstein. He came before the Human Advisory Committee. He and Liz Rogers who is with the Interior Agency Council on Aging Housing and Homelessness.

So we basically heard what the budget was doing and what there has been some more seems like prevention dollars in different avenues. There are all different types of pots of money that you can use to service families, veterans, individuals, youth, etcetera.

So it was actually pretty good news from the state and they were very pleased to hear the progress that the regional network -- as you know, the County Chairs that and over the last six years has really a lot of coordination, communication and accountability as far as, you know, really measuring what the impact we’ve been having over the last six years.

So he was stating that the network is a model. It is really looked at as a model in this state and it is one of the best. And I have to give a lot of credit to Beth Albert, again, who has done an amazing job with the Human Service Department.

And there’s great initiatives coming up where we’ll be submitting a paper on substance abuse that the Substance Abuse Committee has been working on which is a regional committee with many partners of law, health, caregivers, and town people. So that will be coming out at the end of the year and there are several other things.

One thing I do want to bring your attention to is Beth came to meet with us last week and unveiled a portal that is now on the Department of Human Services.

So you go there and if you go to “Mental Health,” they have a mental health website now. So I will say this just for people who are listening, you can access where to go for whatever it is your issue is and it’s really a very complete, helpful website. I give her and her staff a lot of credit. It was a lot of work. But you have to go onto it to be duly impressed, but I’m sure you will be once you do. So I do just wanted to note that great work that she’s doing.

And I also was -- I was in Dennis this week, yesterday/the day before yesterday at a solar unveiling. Your landfill just got this and, again, DEP, EPA, the state was there, someone from the Governor’s office just really commending the work of CVEC and the town partners and the monetary partners that come in on this. So when everybody rows in the same direction, we can get something done. So that was a great event.

And I am here to submit an Ordinance. It’s Proposed Resolution or Resolution to approve certain budget transfers for the fiscal year 2015 in accordance with Barnstable County Ordinance 2014-2.

And it is hereby resolved the Barnstable County Assembly -- okay. And you will notice this is really just money that has been appropriated, has been appropriated and we’re transferring it over to the AmeriCorps account. Again, it’s being held for them and now they’re ready to use it. So this is the Ordinance.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Resolution.
Commissioner LYONS: Excuse me, Resolution.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.
Commissioner LYONS: Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: We don’t need a Finance Committee meeting on this?
Commissioner LYONS: No.
Speaker BERGSTROM: It will be on the next -- it will be on the next agenda.
Commissioner LYONS: Yes, the next one. Okay. Thanks. It’s basically a form in the matter of procedure.

Is there anything else?
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Any questions for -- yes, Suzanne.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. I’m interested in the Drug Abuse Report. Is that coming out of Beth’s department? Is that the statistical analysis that’s she’s been working on?
Commissioner LYONS: Been working on, yes.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay.
Commissioner LYONS: This is the Task Force and everyone has been submitting their piece, and that goes from Gosnold to the Cape -- to Cape Cod Health to the courts.
They’re trying to -- right now what’s held it -- we thought we’d have the drafts ready today. It will be ready next month.
They’re breaking down the costs associated with different substances that are used and the cost of those substances and trying to really, you know, have quantifying information about the effects of into society as well as to the person.
So all of that will be coming out.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: So it’s pretty much a survey of what is right now?
Commissioner LYONS: Well, it’s really us studying the problem and kind of best practices going forward, information for all those providers, and it’s a real network now where we come and share so that people -- whatever is working, we all know what other people are doing so we’re not replicating those services. If we can have them here -- it has been a very -- and the state has sent their people from the TAP. The state has a division called Technical Assistance Program, and there is one associated with substance abuse, public health. So they have sent that person and helps facilitate and really dig into the details with us during discussions.
So it’s been really a great experience. We’ve had the courts, the judges, Judge Julian is a member as well as several other -- the sheriff’s office is involved. So we really have the full -- I mean it fills the entire Harborview Conference Room. That’s why we have to have it there. So it’s a great working partnership.
I will say I missed this movie on Friday. There is a movie that has just been made from a young man from Falmouth who did have a -- he’s in recovery now and it’s called, “It Happened Here.” And it was premiered at the Cape Cod Community College on Friday evening. Beth attended it. She said it was excellent and would help promote it because the schools should see this. We should see this. Everyone should see this because it kind of takes some of the stigma of recovery off and it explains, you know, the intensity of what the situation is. So she said it’s very moving and it’s very much at home. It’s a Cape Cod story with Cape Cod people. So if you have an opportunity, it’s called, “It Happened Here” if you see that being shown in your area.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: And then how would you find someone -- how would you go
about if you wanted to, you know, go to see this movie? Do you have any idea how you would get a copy of it?
  
Commissioner LYONS: I don’t.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. I’ll look it up.
Commissioner LYONS: But the young man did come to our meeting and he was really -- he was an amazing resource just to talk to about recovery issues. And I hope he continues to come. We have actually a couple of citizens who have just come in because they’re young people who are really grappling with their own recovery or recovery of family, and they have a lot to offer to that meeting.
And they usually -- what day is today? They’re usually the first Thursday of the month at 4 o’clock in the Harbor Conference Room if any of you wanted to drop in and just listen to the discussion.
  
Speaker BERGSTROM: But not tomorrow.
Commissioner LYONS: No. We canceled tomorrow’s meeting because the draft isn’t ready. But that will be -- the next meeting we’ll be discussing the draft so if you’re interested, it would be the first Thursday in November.
  
Speaker BERGSTROM: Are there any other questions for Commissioner Lyons?
Mr. CAKOUNES: I have one.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Leo.
Mr. CAKOUNES: Thank you. I apologize for being late. You may have already said this. Have you -- have the County Commissioners taken any action on the Administrator’s -- either extending his contract or deciding to put out for a new County Administrator?
Commissioner LYONS: No, we did not. I do believe that there was a discussion that Michael could stay until the end of -- maybe the end of this year. But this is -- we have to talk about that. So I really have nothing to report on that.
Mr. CAKOUNES: Okay. Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Yes, I see a hand there. Jim.
Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Commissioner. I received a letter today this afternoon from I guess it was a copy from the Cape Light Compact regarding some requests for documents that they received from the Inspector General’s office.
  
In the letter, they describe that in July of 2012 they actually reached out to the IG’s office for help. And if you recall, this body passed a Resolution late last year which the Commissioners rejected.
Were you aware at the time that they had actually reached out and --
Commissioner LYONS: We were and we reached out to the IG’s office at that time stating, you know, “Where’s the report?” Like, we know that you’re doing this and, basically, it was, you know, your committee had made recommendations to the Cape Light Compact and Maggie did act on those. They’ve been very diligent. They’ve taken every -- they’ve gone back to 1997. So I am assuming -- they’re taking everything from the County so I’m assuming to make sure that they’ve checked everything they’re going to the towns so that they can at least give -- they’ll never come out and say everything because there’s always a scrap of a paper that -- nobody will ever say swear to their life, you know, we attest to all of this.
  
But they can -- I think they’re doing their due diligence to be able to say there are no
findings or there are findings and these are them.

And I look forward to that report and I do hope that that report can help us all resolve this issue and answer questions that everybody has had and put them to rest so that they can move on to other issues of the County.

Mr. KILLION: So when we were debating this last November, was it --

Commissioner LYONS: Believe me, we wanted to be able to say -- what we did say in our response was that everything we have done can be done.

But we were advised by the state, “Don’t go there” because we’re not going to confirm so don’t even -- we advise you not to say this. So I didn’t like that. We didn’t like that. It put us in a difficult position, but it was the advice we were given.

And when the state says that, I just felt I didn’t want to screw whatever anything was -- whatever -- if they had said it, then there was a reason for it.

Mr. KILLION: So the Inspector General’s office informed the Commissioners that they could not -- that their office could not inform the Assembly that the Cape Light Compact had voluntarily requested assistance from the IG?

Commissioner LYONS: That was a conversation that Maggie Downey had at our request because she did call to say this has been requested. You want to be able to say that we are in the middle, that we’ve already done it. We did it when you suggested it and we were just waiting for results. But now that you brought it up again, we just wanted to let you know and we were advised against it, which is unfortunate but I’m very happy it’s out and I look forward to them completing this. And I look forward to reading whatever responses or recommendations they have, they will be acted upon immediately and implemented.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Sheila, when you say “we; we reached out to the IG’s office,” who is --

Commissioner LYONS: Well, I should say it was really -- it was really conversations. We were aware of it but we let that conversation go between Maggie and the IG’s office and --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Between Cape Light Compact?
Commissioner LYONS: -- the Cape Light Compact.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Cape Light Compact reached out to the IG’s office.
Commissioner LYONS: Right.
Speaker BERGSTROM: And they were advised --
Commissioner LYONS: Yes.
Speaker BERGSTROM: -- not to say anything.
Commissioner LYONS: I guess I should say that more clearly because I look at it, you know, we’re both on a mission.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So I’m confused. You had an agenda item and a discussion and a vote to contact the IG’s office?
Commissioner LYONS: No, we did not. We were -- she felt that she should do it and we weren’t going to stop her. It was the recommendation of the committee and we, basically, had a blessing but that didn’t take a vote.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Well, it’s kind of the whole point of open government is to --
Commissioner LYONS: I know.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: -- discuss things in public and have a vote saying there is executive sessions if you -- there are litigation issues. But I think this is part of our whole
issue with everything is there’s a lot of things that seem to go on that no one knows about. I think it would’ve helped us to know that you were contacting the IG at the same time --

Commissioner LYONS: It would have helped us too, but it’s the way it was -- it unfolded and that was the advice we had. So it is unfortunate.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. So I guess I’m going to say this is sort of an example of why they have an issue. Thank you.

Commissioner LYONS: No. I perfectly understand.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Anyway, moving right along. Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: I’m not going to belabor this point and I don’t want to get into discussion, but I just have to understand the answer. So I’m going to ask the question and I believe it’s going to be a little bit clearer.

This body voted to send a letter to the IG and AG’s office asking for their help.

Commissioner LYONS: Yes.

Mr. CAKOUNES: The County Commissioners voted not to support that action.

Commissioner LYONS: That’s right.

Mr. CAKOUNES: At that time, were the County Commissioners aware that Cape Light Compact was already seeking advice from the IG and AG’s office?

Commissioner LYONS: Yes. And we were advised to say nothing.

Mr. CAKOUNES: And you were advised by whom?

Commissioner LYONS: The IG’s office.

Mr. CAKOUNES: So the County Commissioners contacted the IG’s office --

Commissioner LYONS: It was Maggie Downey.

Mr. CAKOUNES: -------- to do?

Commissioner LYONS: Maggie Downey and Maggie Downey is in a conference today. So I would really rather -- since she had that conversation, since she had that conversation she could relate exactly the words but the words --

Mr. CAKOUNES: I’ll try and be specific to the County Commissioners.

Commissioner LYONS: We did not speak -- we did not speak directly. It was the Cape Light Compact.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Okay. Have the County Commissioners had any deliberation with the County attorney on whether they should or should not react to the Assembly’s request to have the IG and the AG’s office come in?

Commissioner LYONS: There was already an ongoing investigation. So at that time your request was moot. We just didn’t have the authority given to us at that time or we felt we did not have the authority to tell you.

Mr. CAKOUNES: So you need the authority from Cape Light Compact to tell us what was going on?

Commissioner LYONS: No. No. We were going -- if it was given to -- there was a reason that the IG’s office, whatever their reason is, Leo, I don’t know. I can’t speak for them. But they --

Mr. CAKOUNES: I’m just trying to get it cleared. The County Commissioners did not have a discussion directly with the AG and IG’s office?

Commissioner LYONS: No. No, we did not.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Thank you. That’s all I need to do. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, I don’t want to belabor this point but the back-and-forth that we’ve had officially with the IG’s office, it’s understood that they will not tell you
if there’s an ongoing investigation.
   Commissioner LYONS: No.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: However, the fact that you ask for one is public
   information.
   Commissioner LYONS: Yes.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: In other words, so for the Cape Light Compact to say, “We
   asked the attorney,” there’s no reason why -- and I don’t want to argue as this is beyond a
   pale.
   But a request for them to look at something, it’s not necessarily under any kind of
   cloak of --------.
   Commissioner LYONS: And the other thing -- the other thing about asking the
   Commissioners to request as opposed to a citizen, I have come to understand in this dealing
   that they will give me no more attention or they will give me less as an elected official as
   they would you or a citizen asking for that information.
   So it’s to say that, you know, it coming from you will have some authority in that
   regard. Those officers hold the president and the poor man on the street in the same regard.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: So I just want to -- while we’re on the subject, I just want
   to clear up we have received -- we will receive a request for information. There’s nothing
   new in that request. It’s all just old stuff. It has to do with a state law or regulation that they
   officially ask for information whether they have it or not.
   Commissioner LYONS: Right.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: So it’s not phishing --
   Commissioner LYONS: I knew what the letter says --
   Speaker BERGSTROM: ------ report that they were phishing but they’re not. All
   they want to do is say, we know you’ve had a meeting a certain date. Please send us this,
   even though we have already --
   Commissioner LYONS: That’s what they’re -- I didn’t know what they’re asking.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. Okay.
   Commissioner LYONS: Okay.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: So, anyway, thank you very much.
   Commissioner LYONS: All right. Well, I look forward to it and we can all dissect
   it as it comes forward. So, I look forward to that.
   Thank you.

   Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have any communications from Public Officials?
   Members of the Public? Okay. You’re next. Wait a minute. Two of you we’ve got. We’ll
   take one first and then the other. Go ahead.

Communications from Members of the Public

   Ms. JARI RAPPAPORT: I’m Jari Rappaport from the League of Women Voters. And
   I came today to give you the latest copy of the brochure we drew with the County
   Administrator on how Barnstable County is governed. We’ve been doing updates
   periodically and we did another one this September taking out information that were no
   longer there. So I wanted to present this to you so that you each have your own copy.
   Speaker BERGSTROM: Give one to Leo.
Mr. CAKOUNES: Is that information available online if any of our listeners are trying to get it or where can they get it?
Ms. JARI RAPPAPORT: It’s supposed to but I haven’t seen it.
Mr. CAKOUNES: Okay.
Ms. JARI RAPPAPORT: I meant to ask that too because I did ask and I thought it was but I didn’t see it. Anyway.
Speaker BERGSTROM: We’ll make sure that everybody gets one. Thank you. So, we have someone else.
ELENITA MUNIZ: I’m Elenita Muniz, the Coordinator for the Barnstable County Human Rights Commission, and I just wanted to bring you all a copy of our newest publication, which is a brochure on bullying.
Part of our campaign to support the schools in their effort to meet the unfunded mandate to include anti-bullying education and policies in their programs.
We started with an advertisement last January in support of no name-calling day, which is part of the anti-bullying law. There were then three “My View” columns in the Cape Cod Times about various aspects of bullying, excuse me, and those have been excerpted to make this brochure, which has already been distributed to all the guidance offices on the Cape.
And we’re continuing that distribution. It will go to pediatricians and dentists and various entities in addition to all the places that our regular brochures are distributed.
So I wanted you to have copies of that.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.
Commissioner LYONS: Mr. Speaker, could I ask your indulgence for just one clarification when Elenita is --
Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, go right ahead.
Commissioner LYONS: Are you done?
Speaker BERGSTROM: We’re still on.
Commissioner LYONS: Thanks. I just remembered this piece. I was speaking about the website and the Barnstable County Human Services for the mental health site to put you to that portal.
There is going to be an unveiling, like an official rah-rah unveiling of this next week. I’m sure you’ll be getting an invitation. So that is -- so maybe I’m announcing it a little too soon because we were given the presentation last week.
But it will be sort of touched upon. There will be a showing of it at the Behavioral Summit, but there is going to be an official presentation of this with different officials.
So look for that in your mail. Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Okay. Does anybody else have -- any other members of the public? Hearing none.

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: The Assembly will now convene. And I understand that the Finance Committee has a report for us. John.

Mr. OHMAN: Mr. Speaker, why don’t we approve the minutes then as reported. Mr. Speaker, the Assembly met on September 17th to report on Proposed Ordinance, a Public Hearing to support Proposed Ordinance 14-03.
We ended up tabling this discussion. I would like to have my committee approve those minutes.

Mr. CAKOUNES:  So moved.
Mr. KILLION:  Second.
Mr. OHMAN:  Moved and seconded. All those in favor?
Mr. CAKOUNES: Aye.
Mr. KILLION: Aye.
Mr. OHMAN: That would be 3 to 0. Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM:  Okay. Thank you.

Report from the Clerk

Speaker BERGSTROM: We now have a report from the Clerk.
Clerk O'CONNELL: I don’t have anything specific to report right now, but I think I’ll probably be allowed to talk a little bit when we get to the budget discussion under “Other Business.”

Other Business

Speaker BERGSTROM:  Okay. Well, in that case, we’ll go right to other business. And there’s been some letters back-and-forth from the Department of Revenue. As you know, the Assembly voted to contact them on a request for their assistance in looking at our budget. And they responded negatively and I, in turn, sent a response to their response.

So, before I get into discussion, I have to say that I actually called Mr. Blake after I sent him the letter just to give him a heads up as to, you know, on top of the official communication.

Mr. Blake told me -- I asked him, I said, “What are you talking about here?” And he said that it is the emailers that suggested and one can identify the serial emailer who emailed them that said that we were actually investigating CVEC and CLC and we wanted them to look into it and that this emailer encouraged them to do that.

So when Mr. Blake -- who I think it was still inappropriate for him to suggest that we had ulterior motives, but Mr. Blake said that that’s why he thought we were going into it. He was told by a third party. It wasn’t C -- he didn’t mention CVEC although I asked him to -- or CLC so, it’s possible they didn’t have anything to do with that.

However, he also told me that the whole point is moot because they don’t do County government. He said they’re not equipped to do it. He said even if we just asked for a peer request to look into our budget, they do not review County budget operations. Why I don’t know but he said they’re not equipped to do it.

So that’s where we are. Any questions on that? Yes, Suzanne.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, I thought they did Dukes County.
Speaker BERGSTROM: What’s that?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: I thought they did Dukes County and they have done non-municipal entities.
Speaker BERGSTROM: I’m just --
Ms. MCAULIFFE: I know. And I also have an issue with a government agency listening to a third-party citizen and having that somehow impact an official request from an
elected body. I mean I would think that that would just be, you know, put under letters or mail or whatever.

I’m glad you did send a response. I, you know, I would even say that we perhaps pull together some information to see if they did do Dukes County and just go back at them again. Because I really believe, aside from CLC and CVEC that was not the main thrust of that motion.

The thrust was let’s get our ducks in a row because we might have some funds being mingled that should be mingled. And we want to, you know kind of take a look at how our governments are run and can you help us?

I mean this budget is far smaller than the Town of Yarmouth. So, you know, I don’t buy that. So I’m going to go back under there and find out if they have done counties and see what’s going on.

I’m very surprised that the state has walked away on such a flimsy reason.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Yes, Ned.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Do we know what their range of obligation is? What do they do, just the state?

Speaker BERGSTROM: They do towns.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Just towns.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Just individual municipalities, that’s what he told me.

That’s why -- maybe I shouldn’t have called him, but in sending emails back and forth to the state, it could take forever before we finally get a resolution.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: So that’s why I talked to him directly. He simply said to me that they do not review County government finances.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Okay.

Speaker BERGSTROM: And if Suzanne is right, maybe I was misled. But he’s going to have to give me an official request to the letter so we’ll go from there.

Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Thank you. In direct response to the previous speaker’s question, I’m going to read directly from the letter written on September 18th by Mr. Blake, second paragraph about halfway through it.

It says, “The Division of Technical Services section provides consulting services to cities and towns, municipal operations, government structure, and financial management.” It doesn’t say anything that we are prohibited for -- do not count counties.

So I, again, you know, we asked. I do believe we do still need help here. We’re putting our financial house in order and I’m hoping that just because the state isn’t willing to come down and help us that we won’t stop doing our own due diligence and moving forward on our own accord.

And there may be some specific questions that arise that we could send them and ask them their opinion on in the future.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We’re all settled on that. Okay.

So now the next issues is the Assembly discussion of the fiscal year ’16 budget cycle, request for information and review schedule. I put this on because there’s been some discussion about how the budget is presented rather than simply the substance of the numbers, how we get it and whether or not we feel it’s presented to us in a form which we can understand and in which we can deliberate on.
So, do we have any questions on that or suggestions? Mr. Finance Director.

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you for the promotion, Mr. Chair.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Finance Chair.

Mr. OHMAN: I can use the money. I’m most concerned about the timing of everything. It seems as though the Commissioners always leave us very little room to have all of our meetings and discussions with the subcommittees in order to present a budget.

So I would highly recommend that we get in on the ground floor of the budget discussions and we allow it into that sanctum in an earlier time structure so that we have a better idea of what’s being constructed rather than seeing a constructed budget as such as we have for the past several years.


Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’d like to echo that sentiment because I do believe we need at least two meetings prior to any vote. So it will give us an opportunity to make changes and have the Commissioners time to review them and bring them back.

Obviously, we ran into a problem this year when we sort of got stuck between the two boards based strictly on time. And I don’t think we had the ability to discuss some of these issues appropriately because of that.

So I would like to see these subcommittee meetings accelerated. If we have to add dates, we have to add dates to do it. But we should be able to begin to vote on this in early April.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The timeframe -- I’m going to turn this over to Janice because the timeframe has been established in the past by Ordinances or Resolutions and she has that information.

Clerk O’CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you find the information that I provided you helpful. That was my goal. I wanted to give you a look at where you’re going to need to be starting in February and how quickly it does move along.

And as you can see, as you get towards the end of the process, there’s a little bit of overlap and how that gets approached and handled in terms of scheduling dates to some degree is affected by how quickly we get it from this point to there and then back again especially when you’re talking about possible reconsiderations.

So the purpose behind what I gave you was hopefully that you can see here is an example timeframe. Here are the supporting documents that pretty much ties your hands unless you change a law with regards to when things need to be acted on.

I also provided you the copies of the Ordinances that tell you that. And an example of what you receive in your executive summary.

Because I did hear last year from the Delegates and the Commissioners as well, are concerned that the Assembly needs to get all the information that they requested in a timely manner. So I want to make sure that happens this year.

And I wanted to show you where they outline some of this information that’s important to your process, such as, well, we want to know what the big things are that are coming across. That’s laid out in the executive summary and then you do get into the detail when you meet with the departments.

In looking this over, I concur with the comment made by Mr. Killion in that possibly you need to think about escalating your committee review. If you look at the first document that I gave you, page 1 under Legislative branch in March, we actually start the process with the first committee meeting the last week in February.
And then I have all of them mapped out for March because, remember, I also have to keep in mind that we occasionally get other Ordinances that committees have to deal with while you’re also simultaneously dealing with the budget. So that creates the need to have to have a public hearing for an Ordinance while at the same time you’re reviewing committee budgets.

So rather than meeting once a week or every Wednesday during the month of March, you may want to consider meeting twice a week and having all of your committee reviews done by mid-March. And then you can possibly move up your public hearing date to the end of March which will start to save you a little bit of time as you go forward and actually vote on the budget sooner than the first week of May.

My recollection is the Ordinance states that you can’t vote on it any later than that date. But there’s nothing that precludes you from voting on it earlier than that.

These are pieces of information that I do send out to the towns. So if that scheduling is going to change, it’s best that we know it sooner versus later in the process so it puts everyone on notice.

That’s one suggestion that I could make or would make with regards to trying to speed the process up.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Listening to this and I’m remembering an issue that came up maybe two or three years ago, and I don’t recall whether or not it was ever clarified and maybe this would help. And it speaks to the question that came up in our last budget cycle. How could all the committees vote yes and then the Assembly vote no?

Well, it happened with one of the budgets I sat on. I think there were five members of the committee, three of us were there that day, one of them was not the chair, and the staff member who was supposed to be there couldn’t be there. And the majority of the committee did not want to vote positively on this budget. But we got chastised by one of our senior members who suggested that if we didn’t, that budget wouldn’t go forward for the full public hearing.

So as long as senior members of the Assembly are telling us please, that we have to vote yes; otherwise, the whole process falls apart, you know, some clarity from the Speaker would really help to the committee members if our position is, no, we don’t approve this budget but we’re willing to forward it along, or, you know, there needs to be clarity because otherwise there’s an amazing amount of pressure put on the committees even if they have lots of concerns to move it along so that it goes for a public hearing even if they don’t approve it.

And I certainly had that experience and choose to not approve the budget when it came to a full vote. So that issue it will be helpful to have clarity.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, you know, Cheryl, the budget goes before the Assembly whether it’s approved or not by the subcommittees. In other words, the subcommittees are not approving or disapproving. They’re recommending approval or recommending disapproval.

But the budget is submitted as an Ordinance and the Ordinance -- the budget Ordinance will ultimately come before the full Assembly.

Now what happens in the past is that the committee can either say -- if the committee says no, it’s usually because they have a specific problem with the budget. They can say you know there’s a hundred thousand dollars in here for this purpose and we think it should
only be 50 so we are going to amend the budget when the time comes before the full Assembly.

But the budget goes before the Assembly whether the committees approve it or not and it is -- it falls on Janice and her predecessor to arrange these meetings and it’s tough for everybody because we all have schedules. We have to cram it into, you know, there may be --

Ms. ANDREWS: Right.

Speaker BERGSTROM: -- it’s hard. You schedule two meetings at the same time; there may be people -- members of both committees so we have to be very careful.

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. I hope everybody here heard that because that’s not what we were told. I think you were with me that day so you remember it too. And, you know, it’s really important for that kind of information to be reshared so that people really understand what the committee’s role is.

The only other comment I want to make and this is sort of a bye-bye, good luck next year comment, but, seriously, it’s me reflecting back to you what I heard said a number of different ways but not in any Ordinance or Resolution or in any letter you sent to the Commissioners.

There is a nice, sneaky way a town manager give me, as a selectmen, a budget. I had this done to me enough times. It’s called here’s my spending plan for next year. It’s just a piece of the towns’ financial picture.

What I’ve heard over and over from this Assembly is its all fine and dandy to pick apart one year’s budget. But if you don’t see the full financial statement for the County which also involves all the agencies that we’re a fiscal agent for then you’re not seeing the complete picture.

So if this Assembly decides before it does its budget review for next year that you expect to see a complete financial statement for all of the County’s financial responsibilities, then put it in writing and ask for it because we never -- I don’t think we ever did that. Just the opposite, I think we started getting less information each year than we got the first year I was here.

That’s what I heard you all say and I hope it gets put in writing and you ask for it for next year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. We’ll go with Suzanne and then Leo.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, I didn’t know if we were going to be asking for specifics, but since it’s been broached. I would like to continue a separate capital plan. It is in the Charter. It did happen this year. I would like that to be continued.

I’d like to have a separate capital presentation with the plan set out for however long it’s supposed to be and a separate vote. I don’t want that marbled into the budget.

I would also because this year we asked for cost allocations. We did not get them. I would like to formally request that cost allocations for the budget are done this year. And I think that those are some specific things that will help in addition to the overall financial picture.

Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: A couple things on this matter. First of all, as a Finance Committee member, I will also agree with our representative from Provincetown that it would have been helpful for me as a Finance Committee member to see a request budget
that has gone through a subcommittee, come out of that subcommittee with a proposed amendment because then when the Finance Committee gets it, we would understand why you were either hesitant on sending it forward as written or not supporting it at all.

But when you just don’t support nothing at all, it’s hard as the Finance Committee member at that point of review to find out why. And it would be better if the subcommittee were to vote on an amendment and see if it does pass the subcommittee and then pass that information along.

Because as the Speaker said, the Ordinance comes before the entire Assembly, and, basically, the subcommittee’s just there to inform and give their opinion. It’s not really an official vote until the entire Assembly votes on it up or down; number one.

Number two; as far as the timeframe goes, I really boil it down to one simple date. And really the simplest date is that the Legislative branch on page 1, “That the Assembly shall be delivered the Proposed Ordinance no later than the second Wednesday of February.” And really that’s the key date. And to try to push that date back, I don’t think is a smart idea because, quite frankly, a lot changes even asking our Department heads to put together their budgets, have time to go through the Commissioners’ yay or nay, and then have it be forwarded to us.

As far as Janice’s comments on having double meetings, that’s really up to the new members that are going to be sitting here. Obviously, if they’re willing to come in on a weekly basis during that time, by all means, I think it’s time well spent.

But I don’t see it as -- I don’t see this request or this need at this time being a change in any policy or certainly in our Charter the way it’s written.

Because, once again, I think that date, receiving the budget on the second Wednesday, is certainly fair enough.

Also, the new members along with some of the old members really need to know that there’s nothing prohibiting you from going to the County Commissioners meetings as they are meeting with the Department heads, and there’s nothing precluding you from asking for a copy of the Administrator’s/Finance Director’s budget. Because when we get it, it is the County Commissioners’ budget. But there’s nothing prohibiting us from asking for a copy, and I’ll refer to it as a draft because, once again, the Commissioners haven’t voted it yet.

So that gives everyone if they want to put the time in, there’s amble opportunities to put time into this. And, again, if the new people sitting here want to meet weekly, I think it’s a smart move.

Personally, I’m not bothered what happened last year’s budget cycle. I think we hit it right out of the ballpark. We went through it. We met with everyone; some changes came up at the last minute. This body supported it. The Commissioners vetoed it. This body met again and resupported it. We met the deadline. It was picture perfect as far as I’m concerned, maybe a little harried, but you know what, it was an unusual situation.

Once again, because that particular amendment was made at the last minute too. It wasn’t something that came down through one of the subcommittees. So it was unusual in that but we made it.

So, the only other thing that I’m really going to talk to Janice about and get kind of a feeling from the rest of the members here, I believe it’s essential for this committee, this Assembly to receive a quarterly report in the fiscal year that we are in. And that quarterly report needs to show us are we hitting our revenue expenditures, our revenue income where
we said we were going to be, and how are we going with the expenditures?

Because after finding out the news that I found out earlier about last year, and we’ve asked for quarterly reports, and I really think if it’s something that needs to either be put into our governance manual or it needs to be added to the Charter, I intend on bringing that forward and I hope I will be getting your full support.

We need to know are we meeting our numbers and it’s only going to help us when it comes time in our budget cycle because there was a lot of things that we did in this previous budget cycle that I probably, personally, I don’t know if I would have supported it having known that we were not meeting our income revenue as far off as we did not meet.

So, thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Just a follow-up to what Leo just said. If we’re not meeting revenue estimates, then how are bills being paid?

Mr. CAKOUNES: That’s the question I’m going to ask later.

Speaker BERGSTROM: That’s a good question and I don’t know. But it brings up another -- just to follow-up on this, it brings up another question is that Barnstable County bank account, our checking account covers a lot of -- there’s a lot of money in there for various -- I mean, for all I know, we may be paying the Registry of Deeds, you know, out of the Barnstable County bank account.

So the question is is there a running tab -- in other words, if my bank account goes down to zero, they won’t cash my checks. But since we have different revenue streams, are we looking at the Barnstable County -- our Assembly budget and our County budget going in the red at some point but simply being covered by other revenues that are in there because it’s all comingle. We know they do that with other revenue streams.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Which is the whole point of DOR.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, yes, but I don’t know that they -- see, they maybe not do that. I’m just curious as to how we keep a separate account of our revenues anticipated.

But I don’t want to interrupt you. Do any other members have anything to say here?

I think that one of the problems they have is when I was a Selectman, I know this is true of Suzanne and also Cheryl, is that you built the budget piece by piece. In other words, this is what the Commissioners do. Somebody comes in and they build a capital -- and each piece gets approved as it goes on to let’s say the warrant or in their case goes onto the budget. But then we get it and then we have to break it out again.

So I would like to see us look, for instance, at the revenue projections separately and say, “Do we agree with these revenue projections?” Because if we do, we can then move on. You know, I just don’t like to see a situation where one Delegate votes because they don’t like the revenue against it, because they don’t like the revenue projections, and another vote’s because they don’t like a particular expenditure.

It’s easy to deal with individual parts of the budget as we do with the breakouts to the various committees. And to have to look at a Capital Facilities Plan separately like Suzanne suggests and look at that and approve it. I mean we can break the budget out any way you want. But we’re going to get a big package. And then when we get it, we have to dig in and dig the little pieces out.

So however the Assembly feels it can get the budget in the way that you can give it due diligence and understand what’s in there and decide whether you want to approve it or
not, this would be the time and between now and the time the budget is presented, this would be the time to speak to the Finance Director and to the Commissioners so that it’s as easy a process as we can make it.

And I know there are issues about we had a discussion last week about various accounts that we have, investment accounts and so on. I’ve been confused about the Assembly reserves for the eight years that I’ve served here, and I don’t know that I’m any more informed now. Every time I hear a report, it gets me more confused.

So that’s something -- yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Now that you mention it, I’m sorry. This brings up something that has come up not only in the town of Yarmouth but with the D-Y School Committee.

There were many occasions where investment accounts or money market CDs were in banks that were not rated the way they were supposed to be rated and funds were at risk. In fact, the town of Yarmouth actually lost some money about 25 years ago.

So I guess I’m looking at a list of all, you know, $15 million sitting in bank accounts. There’s an $11 million investment account. So I guess I would want a little bit more information on what banks they’re in, the ratings of these banks. Are they green rated? Are they yellow? Are they red? You know, can they handle $11 million?

I guess I would like a little bit more information on some of the investment accounts going forward in the budget. It may bore everybody, but once you’ve lost money in a faulty bank, you never want to look the other way again.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Cheryl.

Ms. ANDREWS: Quick question. I’ll fess up. After seven years off the Board of Selectmen, I had forgotten a lot of this stuff and it’s all coming back again.

With the towns, they go through that process of certifying free cash, which is basically meaning that the Selectmen taxed you higher than they should have for what they spent and so you have a chunk left over.

Is it safe to assume that the DOR doesn’t do that for the County; is that right?

Speaker BERGSTROM: It’s not safe to assume anything to tell you the truth. I don’t know.

Ms. ANDREWS: So you don’t know?

Speaker BERGSTROM: We apparently have cash -- we have reserves --

Ms. ANDREWS: But the DOR certifies -- isn’t DOR who certifies free cash for the towns?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Right. They will certify to the towns. I don’t know if they do that with the County.

Ms. ANDREWS: Well --

Ms. MCAULIFFE: They took the regional school districts ------

Ms. ANDREWS: Right. Well, we should at least ask that question.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Yes. I don’t think it’s necessary for us to take a formal vote on suggestions on the budget. I think that it’s in the interest of all parties concerned, the Commissioners, and the Administrator, and the Finance Director to understand that any concerns that the Assembly of Delegates has so that they can address those concerns and we could have a smooth budget process.

So the comments you make now or make between now and the time the budget will be presented will be available to the Commissioners and the Assembly so that they can -- I can’t say they’ll accommodate them all but at least they’ll be aware of them, of the
concerns.

Yes, Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: I have a couple of things on the budget. I believe it’s going to be appropriate for how you have it listed under the open -- under your agenda here because there’s some discussion on the FY’16 budget cycle.

There’s a couple of things that I’m extremely concerned about and I would like to move forward on either requesting the Speaker to just agenda these things or I’ll be happy to sit down with our Clerk to put together an Ordinance or Resolution, if you think it’s necessary.

But in regards to our County finances, I’m really just a little concerned that as it was mentioned previously I believe by you, Mr. Speaker, that we have revenue coming in and the revenue had not met what we thought was going to be if we have expenses and somehow those bills got paid.

To my knowledge and, again, it’s very limited in this but I want to take some time and go and review it. I believe the actual budget Ordinance when you read the Ordinance itself does give some latitude to our Finance Director to have the ability to cover the shortfalls without necessarily coming back and asking the approval of the Legislative body.

And, again, once before I leave this humble board here, I will tell you that what’s one other action that I want to see pursued.

Under no circumstances do I think it’s proper that we work so hard to put a budget together, cutting our department heads and making them hold to expenses and when our revenue source doesn’t meet our expectations, we don’t find out about it until four months after that budget cycle is closed. We should have had requests come in throughout the year saying, hey, listen, we’re not meeting our income and either we’re going to go back and revisit the budget and cut our department’s expenses or we’re going to make a motion to transfer X amount of dollars out of some stabilization fund to, in fact, meet the end of the year.

That’s the way I understand the process should be, and I have a little kind of reluctance even though it may have done for the last 20 years here, I certainly have a reluctance in moving forward in the FY’16 budget with that in place.

So, again, I will leave it up to you, Mr. Speaker, but those are some things that I really would like to look at and if it requires either an Ordinance or Resolution, I’d be prepared to bring it forward. I don’t believe it does though. I think it can just be a request from you, the Speaker, as part of the Assembly.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Anybody else? Yes.

Clerk O’CONNELL: Just to add a few concluding comments to my earlier statement. With regards to committee meetings, it’s going to be a little bit difficult at this juncture due to the fact that not only will we have new Delegates but the Speaker will also be making committee assignments. Every session that changes. So the very beginning of January, whoever the Speaker will be, will need to make assignments.

So, therefore, you won’t know in terms of dates or when you might meet for committees what committee you’re going to be on until January.

So this is just an FYI to kind of keep those dates open and free and available because depending upon your committee assignment and how this ultimately gets structured in terms of when or how often the committees will meet will be affected by all of this.

And as Leo had indicated previously, those types of things aren’t driven by
Ordinances or Resolutions. I tried to notate in the materials that I gave you, specifically the first two or three pages, those things that were driven by Ordinance, when I made reference to Ordinance. But when standing committees meet, certainly that isn’t necessarily the case.

And I guess I’ll also -- I’ll conclude by pointing out one additional fact. What I can tell you is during the process what I heard at some committee meetings was the fact that you’re spending valuable time meeting, discussing components of the budget where some people feel they really have no input.

And what I would suggest is I mean you want to give everybody their just due but maybe it doesn’t make sense to take a half-hour of valuable committee time, spend it talking about a component that you feel you have no effect on. Maybe you need to think about rolling that into the bigger department or picture.

For example, for a while I think it was Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Elder Services, Arts Foundation, Human Rights Commission, maybe you need to put those responsibilities for discussing what they’re all about with the overall department that has control over that or oversees it. And that might help with regards to moving the process along.

Again, we schedule everyone in. I try to be fair and give everyone an amount of time that I think is equal to what they will need. And sometimes it just doesn’t work out. Obviously, you may need an hour with Human Services, for example, but you may not need even a half-hour with Elder Services. So that might be something that you want to think about as well. It’s up to you and I’m just trying to throw out a few suggestions that may help you in your process. And that’s it.

I did hear what everyone has commented on. I made some notes. I will go back to the Journal, look at that. I will talk to the County Administrator to see what we can cull out of this and get back to you so that the budget process moves along and that you get the information that you need.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Are we all done on that?

Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Just a thought, do Committee Chairmen confer with the Clerk in terms of setting agendas for committee meetings?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Sure.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So there would be input if the Committee Chair felt that there needed to be more time for a bigger topic.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Once the budget is broken out into sections, the Committee Chairs are the ones who decide what they’re going to look at and when they have, you know, they poll their members to see what their availability is. So that’s basically how it works.

And there’s been some dispute in the past. I don’t know with the last budget cycle about the power of the -- the overall power of the Finance Committee. Some Finance Committees in the past have basically ignored the subcommittees. But I feel that the way it’s comprised now, at least the way it has been comprised, it has been very accommodating and it’s worked very well.

But this is something that went on in the past but it’s worked very well now. We will go from there and hopefully everything will work out.

Okay. Going right along, we had an example last meeting of how the public comment policy does not work. And rather than have the Delegates through brickbats at me
when somebody gets up there and abuses the policy, I think we should establish one so that we know --

In most of the entities, the towns -- the council I know in Barnstable has a public comment policy with a time limit. They also limit -- for instance, in Chatham, they limit subject matter. If it’s been on the previous agenda, you can’t show up the next meeting and give, you know, and basically give your peace or if it’s going to be a subject that’s going to be on the following agenda.

The reason they did that is simply because we would have let’s say an argument about a new police station or something. Well, somebody would come in and they’d say I heard what Joe Schmoe said about it last meeting and here’s what I think. And then the next meeting the guy would come in and say well I heard what that jibone said about it at the last meeting.

So it became a running -- rather than having an agenda item where you had a time and a place where everybody knew a subject would be on the agenda and they could come in and comment, it became a running thing because somebody would be there to comment on a subject that’s not on the agenda.

And as you saw last week, another guy would come in because he felt that his view wasn’t. So there are issues to be concerned. And I’ll turn it over to Cheryl, long experienced in these matters in Provincetown.

Ms. ANDREWS: Sad to say, especially now that it’s Livestreamed. I never thought that that would happen but we are live now.

I was taught in dental school you don’t deal with treatment until you diagnose. So I really like clarity before I hear why we should have a new policy. I’d like clarity.

What specifically is the problem? I heard you just, you know, a very general way, talk about abuse but I am not clear.

My experience is, and I’ve never seen us alter it; you get a specific amount of time. Any member of the public who wants to come in, they can pontificate on any subject and then they get up and leave. I’ve never had a problem with that.

Is there something other than that that we’re addressing today?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, some of the members have objected to the time that some of these speakers have taken over, and some -- it’s one thing to get on there and say I heard what you said last week and here’s what I think.

But once you get into a detailed discussion about an item that’s not on the current agenda, that’s really what the -- that’s really the decision we’re facing. Are we now getting into a discussion of something that people -- other people are not aware of?

I agree with you, Cheryl. I mean my policy in the past has been you can say anything you want about anything. You can talk about things that are totally irrelevant, you know, if you want to within reason. But now I feel that due to some of the previous discussions I think maybe it’s time we looked at limiting the discussions if that’s the decider --

Ms. ANDREWS: Okay. Could I give a 10 second comment? The one thing that has struck me since I’ve sat here with all of you for the last couple of years, it is very different from what I’m used to.

There’s nothing in here that is the equivalent of Selectmen statements. So Provincetown, the public gets to have their 2 minutes, 3 minutes whatever. If you need to limit it, do that.
But then when that’s closed because we don’t have any discussion or questions at all, usually. Then it goes to Selectmen statements. That’s what has always thrown me about this agenda. There’s not any place ever since I’ve been here where you go around the room and say, “Stand, you have 30 seconds. Do you have statements,” which is nothing.

So I wonder sometimes if part of the stress of what’s going on here is simply that one side gets to perform and the other side doesn’t.

So I see no problem. If it’s about time, let’s just set a cleaner time limit on what the public has to say and be done with it. Other than that, I don’t see a big problem.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo.

Mr. CAKOUNES: Very quickly to the response to your last thing, I always use the “Other Business” as an opportunity to either ask the Speaker to agenda something that I feel is important or to bring something to the light of the rest of my members here.

So, although it doesn’t specifically say Assembly members’ time, it’s something that I’ve always felt comfortable with.

In regard strictly to what you’re talking about here, Mr. Speaker, and regarding public comment policy, I have to tell you that I don’t believe we should be wasting our time even considering trying to put together a policy.

I’ve sat here for six years. In six years, I have seen this room filled to beyond capacity when issues were hot. And it was up to our now Speaker who was then Chairman of the Subcommittee where we took public comment to say, you know what, there’s 300 people in this room, I exaggerate, there’s 50-60 people here that want to speak; you’re going to get one minute or you’re going to get two minutes.

We’ve been told by our County attorney that we the Speaker -- through the Speaker have the authority to do that. We have the authority to say, you know what, there’s going to be no public comment today.

Why do we want to muddy the waters and have some kind of policy? You’ve done, I think, and kudos to you as Speaker, you’ve done an excellent job to allow people to come in from the public when it’s 1, 2 or 3 out there and you say, okay, go, and you have said, hey, you know, that’s enough now, let’s slow it down, and you’re in your right to do that.

But certainly if there are 50 people out there, I don’t want them to hold up some policy and say, listen, we all have five minutes now. We don’t need this. Our own attorney has told us we don’t need it. It’s well within your authority as the Speaker or whoever is sitting in that seat next year or future years to do this.

I would be not opposed to, but I certainly would not be supporting any kind of policy to be adopted.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree. I think you’ve done a very great job because I think it’s not easy to be in charge of a meeting and try to keep everybody on track, and I am one of the biggest offenders and I apologize because I’m also -- I’m someone who runs a very tight meeting.

So I guess I’m waiting for you to kind of say, you know, cut it off. But I think I agree with Leo. I think we might get into trouble if we try and set more -- the more you set specifics, the more things that aren’t on that list come up.

So I think that bowing to the discretion of whoever is running the meeting and, unfortunately, it falls on you. It becomes your issue, your problem, your discomfiture, whatever the issue is.
But we have faith in the fact that you do run a meeting well and that you will stop people from going on and that, if necessary, you know, maybe start putting a clock on people if you feel like you need more control and just to it that way.

I don’t have an issue with whatever comes because I think that gives people the access to the Assembly that I think is important.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Teresa.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: I actually do favor giving some kind of a time guideline because it’s fair and people who want to say something too. When people know they have five minutes to make a point, it helps them get to the point and it helps us being more receptive to what they’re saying because we don’t go off on these tangents. Because people are people and people go off on tangents no matter what they’re saying or talking about. It’s part of being human.

So I think having some kind of a time guideline is mutually beneficial and I would -- there are always times you can waive it if there’s something that it needs to be waived for. But I think it’s the structure that people appreciate and can function better with them.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. You know the only issue I see -- and I’m fine with not having a policy. I think I can control the crowd. It’s just that some people I know you guys get impatient sometimes when somebody rambles on and I do too. But it’s really a judgment call as to when to shut them off.

The only thing that we have to be careful of is responding to what they say because once we start responding, then we’re in a discussion. Public comment is made basically it’s supposed to be a one directional type of thing.

But once in a while, somebody up there says, hey, you know, I’m just here to ask you what you think about this, and I try to discourage that because -- or I’ll say, you know, we’ll take it up at a future meeting. But you can’t really engage in a discussion with somebody on a subject that’s not on the agenda because we eventually get into trouble.

As far as a timeframe goes, I don’t know if we have to set a timeframe but I have the authority now and whoever follows me to basically tell somebody it’s a big, important meeting today. We have a lot on the agenda. I’ll have to limit you to five minutes. And we know who the suspects are.

And also I think, you know, I’ve heard a lot of public discussion over the last 20 years and getting to your point and understanding why you’re there and what you want to say is an art that not everybody basically masters. So you have to encourage them and say this is why we’re here. This is the issue we’re addressing, and we know who the offenders are but he’s not here right now, and learning to say, “Please get to the point.”

So I guess we’ll go from there. Okay. All right. Is there any -- I guess we’re -- unless there’s any other matters to be discussed?

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Motion to adjourn.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded --

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Wait a minute.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Whoops.

Mr. KILLION: Just to follow up on the budget discussion we were having, I received a spreadsheet the end of last month which seems to illustrate that in fiscal ’14 that we ran a $1.4 million deficit between revenues and our budget.

If you combine that with already the Commissioners here two weeks ago telling us
we’re about 250,000 behind this year projected at the Registry. I think we should have the Treasurer come back within the next two meetings to talk about this.

Because if this is the way I’m reading it, I think it’s going to have an impact on how we put the budget together next year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, I can have the -- we can have a letter sent to her and ask her to be here, but it also asks to explain that discrepancy if you don’t mind in advance.

Mr. CAKOUNES: I think that’s a good idea.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Let’s try again.

Deputy Speaker MARTIN: Motion to adjourn.

Ms. KING: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor say “Aye”? Opposed? Okay.

Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice O’Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates