

## BARNSTABLE COUNTY BUDGET GUIDANCE FY2017

The adopted "Mission" of Barnstable County Government is to "Promote and sustain a pro-active government that enhances the quality of life for the citizens of Barnstable County".

The following goals have been identified as Policy Priorities to be used in accomplishing the Mission:

1. Ongoing environmental protection of coastal, water and wastewater resources.
2. Continuing coordination in public health & human services.
3. Encouraging affordable housing options.
4. Enhancing economic opportunity.
5. Increasing energy self-sufficiency.
6. Promoting services & operations to citizens through the OpenCape network.

**Points of Contention** - As part of the County's FY2017 Budget development process, a number of concerns have been identified for consideration in forecasting next fiscal years' revenues and expenditures including:

1. increased health insurance and retirement costs (recommended increase of 10% each)
2. possible/probable reductions in Registry of Deeds revenue. This fiscal year's estimate for the combined Registry's Deeds Excise Tax and Business Fees is \$11,250,000. Preliminary forecasting estimates for FY2017 would place this number in the range of \$10.6 million to \$11 million.
3. new long-term capital project bond debt service costs. Current estimates for the FY14/15 and FY16 bond issuances place debt service at +\$500,000 per year for the next 10 to 15 years.
4. Fire Rescue Training Academy settlement costs

In consideration of these points of contention, the following objectives are recommended to guide the development of the FY2017 operating and capital budget:

- Maintain a balanced budget whereby:
  - Expenditures do not exceed revenues and/or
  - Expenditures equal revenues and/or