Speaker BERGSTROM: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Wednesday, February 18th, 2015, session of the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates.

Is anyone recording this besides our normal recording? No.

Okay. In that case, I will call this meeting to order.

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

(Moment of silence.)

Thank you.

We will now stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: The Clerk will call the roll.

Roll Call (66.63%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Edward Lewis (4.55% - Brewster), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Edward McManus (5.67% - Harwich), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O’Malley (1.36% – Provincetown), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

Absent (33.37%): Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham – arrived @ 4:15 p.m.), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable).

Clerk O’CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, we have a quorum with 66.63 percent of the Delegates present; 33.37 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. We’ll assume that those who are not here have fled to warmer climates.

Okay. The next thing we have is the approval of today’s Calendar of Business. Do I have a motion to approve the Calendar?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So moved.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Moved and seconded. Any additions or corrections? Hearing none. All those in favor, say “Aye.”

(Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We also need approval of the Journal of our last meeting of February 4, 2015. Any additions or corrections to the Journal?

Mr. O’MALLEY: Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Mr. O’MALLEY: On page 2, and she’s present, but right after communications from the Board of County Commissioners you’re identified and then “Good afternoon” begins; that’s Commissioner Lyons. The whole next piece is hers. It’s not identified.
And then on page 27, my remarks are printed, “The reasons I’ve heard over the last hundred meetings.” I haven’t been here for a hundred meetings. “The last couple of meetings” is what was said.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We’ll accept those as an amendment to the minutes if there’s no objection.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move approval with the two changes.

Mr. HITCHCOCK: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor say “Aye.” Opposed? Someday you will say a hundred meetings.

(Motion carried.)

Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

Speaker BERGSTROM: We now have communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners. I see we have the entire board here. Welcome.

Commissioner LYONS: Good afternoon. I’m here to pass you the FY16 Proposed Budget and also a Proposed Ordinance. I’ll give that to you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Well, thank you, and what’s up?

Commissioner LYONS: So what’s up? So we had a lively discussion today. As you know, we’ve been working fast and furious. And I just have to thank Michael Brillhart and Bob Lawton for all of their work that they have done. Bob has had a little learning curve here stepping into a hot seat and has done, really, a magnificent job.

And I think Michael has appreciated his help and assistance, and I think they’ve done a fine job with the rest of our staff there.

So, as you know, we have a little different procedure, and I think that as far as the budget being handed, not everybody’s getting a full budget book. We don’t have the time, nor the resources. But you have all of your sections that you can start working on.

Now there may be changes coming forward. We may see a different number emerge somewhere and we would bring that over as an amendment. But this is pretty much an idea of where we’re going.

I believe that we have a presentation of this budget, so I am going to leave that to those who can answer those questions best. But I do think that we had a good conversation and good review, and I wish you all the best.

I opened up our meeting with a prayer for the County today, and I extend that prayer to here and in our work going forward. We have lots to work together.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, I’d like to say on behalf of, at least for me, and I think on behalf of the Assembly, we appreciate the efforts that the Commissioners made to get this budget to us on time, and I know it wasn’t easy --

Commissioner LYONS: No, it wasn’t.

Speaker BERGSTROM: -- with Mark’s absence and a lot of other, you know, a change in the format and the way that we do business.

But we also have an accelerated schedule and, you know, this puts us on good footing to get this done. And we don’t know if it’s going to wind up looking anything like it does now, but it will be close.

Commissioner LYONS: Right. And I do think that this time next year we’ll have real management and a real understanding. And as I say, these next -- this year really we’re trying
to just keep this ship -- turn it in the right direction and get it to move. And it’s going to be several years out before we’re on a steady course. But if we work together on this, it will happen, and we have to hire the right person to help us with that task.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Is any of this available electronically? How will we -- how will I get this to the Assembly?
Commissioner LYONS: I’m going to let Michael and Bob answer those questions for you and how they can get that to you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Are there any other questions now from the -- Yes, John.

Mr. OHMAN: First of all, I think we have real management back there.
Commissioner LYONS: We do.
Mr. OHMAN: It’s just that they’re not long term.
Commissioner LYONS: Unfortunately.
Mr. OHMAN: Some of me wishes they were longer.
Commissioner LYONS: Yes, I know really.
Mr. OHMAN: Because I’ve watched them --
Commissioner LYONS: And they’ve made a good team.
Mr. OHMAN: But I would say, to clarify. you have real management behind you.
Commissioner LYONS: Those are my thanks……
Mr. OHMAN: What is the Ordinance that you just passed in?
Commissioner LYONS: There was an appropriation made for a vehicle for Facilities, and they’ve now put in that -- that was appropriated. They put in for that and we approved it last week. They do need this truck. It’s ready to go. So you will be voting on that next week.
Mr. OHMAN: Okay. So we have to have an official public hearing on that then?
Commissioner LYONS: I believe so, yes.
Mr. OHMAN: Yes, I just need to know so I can get my Finance Committee on board.
Thank you.
Commissioner LYONS: Okay.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Do you have a special vehicle policy or vehicle budget and are these funds coming out of that budget?
Commissioner LYONS: Yes. And this is one of those that have been identified and it was appropriated for it. And there is some, you know, we’re looking 5 years/10 years out. So you will be getting a completed capital budget as well or an anticipated one.
And we have to remember that these are our projections of what’s going to happen. Things will change and we can change with it as we see how the year plays out ahead. But these are our best estimates and what we should be focusing on and supporting.
So, with that, are there any other questions?
Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. We’ll thank you.
Commissioner LYONS: All right. And I thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: We’ll now hear from our budget gurus.

FY16 Proposed Budget Presentation

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: We’ll have a nice abbreviated version tonight. You do have the summary before you which is basically the letter that the Commissioners
signed to the Assembly.

And then we have a brief budget overview which outlines some of the highlights or the lowlights, as the case may be, for you to consider.

So we have a brief overview for you folks and others.

Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker/Delegates, good afternoon. Michael Brillhart. Before I begin and give you just a brief overview of what I’d call the highlights of the budget proposed for ’16, I wanted to answer Delegate McAuliffe’s question a little bit more specific.

Two years ago the Commissioners established a Vehicle Replacement Stabilization Fund, and there was over a hundred thousand dollars put in that fund. There were 2 or 3 vehicles purchased. There’s one vehicle that is over 20 years old in Facilities. We absolutely need it right now, but we are willing to wait the process. It’s going to help us in the snowplowing effort. So that’s what’s being submitted for the appropriations.

Good afternoon, everyone. As far as the Proposed 2016 Budget highlights, I wanted to go through just three very short slides with you just to give you an overview of what the larger budget provides for.

The budget overall does emphasize a continued support for the important regional services, everything ranging from the County’s efforts in dredging to regional planning, the 208 plan, housing, all of those things that have been adopted in the County’s Home Rule Charter and Administrative Code. So we’re continuing that effort.

And within this particular budget, there is a recommended consolidation of several functions within the departments and creations of opportunities for expansions of services that are paid for by users.

In essence, one example of this expansion of services is we’ve been doing a pretty good job on working with various towns on the enhancement of their IT services. And in this budget, there’s a continuation of that effort.

There’s also a consolidation opportunity that we have regarding the Home Consortium Program, being able to take it from -- the Cape Cod Commission recommended that it be housed under the Human Services Department with some greater activities supporting regional housing and affordable housing efforts.

That being said, the Proposed Barnstable County Budget for Fiscal Year ’16 is in the amount of $29,178,862, representing both operating and capital expenditures.

The current adopted fiscal year budget is 28,397,756. As such, this would represent a 2.75 increase from the current fiscal year budget.

And as part of this budget, there is an increase in dredge operations in the amount of 669,067. And as a footnote, dredge service is an Enterprise Fund account, meaning the dredge services that we provide to the towns we get funding from them. So we don’t use County’s funding so to speak, the general funds, to pay for these services. So it really truly is an Enterprise Fund in that the revenues that come in meet the expenditures going out, so it’s its own Enterprise Account.

Under the “Revenue Highlights,” the proposed revenue for fiscal year ’16 is 29,178,862. The primary increases, as I mentioned, County Dredge Service increase is 669,000. And as I mentioned about the regional services, important regional service increase of 409,000 from our IT Department regional services.

Our Commissioners went through the vetting process of these particular departments increase in the expenditures and feel that we have a great opportunity to reach out and continue
our regional services with the towns in these two very particular departmental operations.

And as such, both of them really and truly -- their increases in expenditures, do represent an Enterprise Fund activity.

Bob will probably get into more details, but a breakdown of the proposed major revenue sources include:

- 17.68 million in the County General Fund;
- 4.088 million in the Cape Cod Commissioner Funds;

We are fortunate in continuing to have a lot of our services and activities funded through grant funds that we get through both State and Federal entities in the amount of 2.3 for the fiscal year budget, ’16 budget; and, as we started doing last year in our ’15 budget, we identified the need for capital improvements. And the capital improvements were to be bond-funded. So we have in this particular budget 2.001 million to be funded out of General Obligation Bonds.

As a footnote, and this is a big footnote, each year we have Treasury Balance Reserves that are carried forward of funds not appropriated at the end of each fiscal year, and once encumbrances and stabilization have been acquired or been accounted for, we have certain funds, Reserve Funds that can be used and carried forward to meet budget obligations.

So, under this fiscal year budget, we’re proposing the use of 697,000 to fund the budget.

And, finally, under “Expenditure Highlights,” the proposed expenditure was 29,178,862. Among these expenditures, the primary increases include:

- 10 percent for group health insurance;
- 5 percent for retirement costs;
- Sheriff’s retirement costs that are mandated by the County with the State’s takeover of Sheriff’s obligations and activities is a 20.5 percent increase;

And as mentioned, the County Dredge Service expenditures increase of 669,067, but, again, that’s Enterprise.

So as you can see at least looking at these projected expenditure increases, there’s a reason why there’s a need to have our budget increase, if nothing else, for these particular insurance and retirement costs.

And one of the expenditures is 315,000 in debt service for the capital improvement bond represented for fiscal year ’16.

Mr. Speaker/Delegates, that’s a very brief overview/summary of the proposed fiscal year ’16 budget.

I wanted to say thank you to all the hard work that Bob Lawton has put in in this budget. Even though he was funded on a part-time basis, I can assure you he’s put in a lot of time not billing the County in trying to get this document and budget in place.

And those of you that saw today’s Commissioners’ meeting, you saw that Bob was working very diligently to get you this information today.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We’ll start off -- yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Just two quick questions on the brief summary. I know that in Yarmouth we used to have a lot of accounts that were Enterprise-like and we also had Enterprise.

The fact that you say “Enterprise” in quotes, are these true Enterprise accounts or are they Enterprise-like? In other words, you operate them like but they’re not officially. You could have comingling of funds if they’re Enterprise-like.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I believe the Dredge is a pure Enterprise Fund and the IT is not.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: That’s a “like”.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: So when you say that’s why it’s in quotes then because sometimes it’s --
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes, for those two.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. And then my second other question is the Treasury Balance Reserves you’re using 697,000. What is your total in the Treasury Balance Reserve? How much of it are you using?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: 1.8 is what we have, so we’re using a little less than half.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Brian.
Mr. O’MALLEY: Actually, Mr. Speaker, both are sort of follow-up questions with respect to the Dredge as an Enterprise Fund. We heard that there’s a plan to purchase another larger dredge, I think a million dollars. Is that going to be included or is that going to be on the capital budget outside the Enterprise Fund?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I believe that the Assembly and the Commissioners have approved 2 million -- up to $2 million for the purchase of a Dredge in the past and that has not been acted upon.
Mr. O’MALLEY: Okay.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: My understanding is that there was an opportunity to buy a used dredge, which they thought was going to go forward but that was -- did not come to fruition. So now they’re continuing to do the specifications to purchase a new dredge which would then at some point in time we’d be coming to the Commissioners asking for approval.
Mr. O’MALLEY: That sort of flies in the face of it being a true Enterprise Fund then if it’s going to need to be funded externally.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Well, there would be borrowing back by the County, but the principal and interest payments, my understanding, is will be paid for through the Enterprise Fund through the increased revenue they would receive.
Mr. O’MALLEY: Thank you. And the second part was on this Treasury Balance Reserves, is this something that we do every year, we borrow -- dipping into the balance? Did we do this in ’15?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: You do it at different times. I propose to do it now. I think in the past in June you might have made these last month transfers, so I said, well, to balance the budget we would do it now rather than try to inflate any of the income.
As an example, Mr. Brillhart and I talked long about the Registry of Deeds funding and how that really needed to go down. It was not sustainable at the $2.3 million level. So we did, obviously, do it now. Don’t make an assumption we probably would not be able to achieve and then have to come in in June of 2016 for a transfer. Do it now.
Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker, I want to follow-up on that question. A few years ago the County developed a trust account specific to the dredge. So the County has already accumulated funds within an account to be used for the dredge. So that’s not necessarily a matter of financial. It’s being able to put the pieces together. Our
A dredge operator has been looking to find the most appropriate. We originally were going to go out and have one built. But the company that was going to build the new dredge didn’t give the specifications that we needed. So the operator has been looking to find a comparable use. So it’s not so much a matter of the financial as it is finding the right part for us. And the Treasury balances were not used as part of the budget for last year.

Mr. O’MALLEY: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up with questions on the Treasury Reserve; is there a statutory minimum that we must maintain and is there a time allowed to replenish anything that comes out of that?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: My understanding there is a statutory reserve. Right now, I believe it is 304,000. It’s a formula of which I’m not familiar, but the accounting officer told me that that’s what happens.

So then at the end of the fiscal year then if there are any funds left over then a determination is made as to what goes into statutory and what goes into the general reserve, etcetera. So there are a number of reserve accounts.

Mr. KILLION: Are there any limitations as to what can be drawn out of that account in any fiscal year?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I can’t tell you off the top of my head. I don’t know. Do you know?

Administrator BRILLHART: We have to be able to maintain balance -- we have to be able to maintain a balance in the reserves similar to the restricted stabilization funds that we use for specific accounts. But there has to be some contingency funds allowed in case emergencies take place.

I know for most budgets, they budget about five -- anywhere from 5 to 10 percent for contingency and this is a very similar operation.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: Looking at the Expenditures list for 2016, we have the debt service of 265,000. That wasn’t actually spent though last year because we didn’t borrow but we did budget it back --

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: 2015, 265 was budgeted for principal and interest. There may be a payment in fiscal ’15 because there will be some bond anticipation notes and possibly a full bond done in this fiscal year.

Ms. TAYLOR: But it hasn’t been spent yet?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: It has not.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Bob and Michael, you know my experience of course as yours is with municipal finance. We have Enterprise Funds in Chatham and they’re listed separately on the warrant so that appropriations from them are listed separately and that removes them from the general operating budget.

So when the people look at it, they say, well, this year we spent another million dollars; what they don’t see is you got in 500,000 and you spent 500,000 of these Enterprise Funds. Now I know County government is a little different. A lot of this stuff is thrown in there, but, for instance, this Assembly passed a Resolution not long ago that suggests we should have a level-funded budget; right? But there are elements in the budget that contain revenue, equalized revenue and expenditures so it sets it off a little.

Now I know you’ve gone a long way in trying to make the budget more reflective of
the annual increase in operating expenses and getting away from the capital expenses and so on. You haven’t gone all the way yet but you’re getting there; okay.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: No.

Speaker BERGSTROM: But what we want to do is we want to understand that -- and my understanding is that 2.75 percent covers everything. That’s the increase in expenditures for this year including both the Enterprise Funds and the capital expenditure funds for debt. So that’s operating and capital.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. So that’s well within the usual 2-1/2 that the towns --

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: But capital is separate and you have separate sheets that you’d be reviewing.

Speaker BERGSTROM: How about the debt service on the capital? Is that included in this budget?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes, sir. As described before --

Speaker BERGSTROM: I mean going forward as we bond.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: 315,000 was what we’re requesting for next year, an increase but to cover what may happen in ’15 and some prior debt which needs to be taken care of.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The other question I have is I’m familiar with a stabilization fund, free cash, whatever you want -- reserves, statutory reserves. Usually they’re used because you can’t always anticipate the revenues in a year. You might have a shortfall one year and you might have an increase another year, so you can cover those if you have some money in the bank.

The alternative to that is if you anticipate a bad year for whatever reason, nobody’s going to the Registry of Deeds, it’s snowing, and --

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Right.

Speaker BERGSTROM: We’re not anticipating, in other words, in this case we’re using it purely to cover our debt, in other words, cover the operating expenses. Are we anticipating next year we’re going to have a better year or?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: That’s a -- it’s a similar situation that I’m familiar with, we would use Free Cash and all other available funds as part of the budgeting process to make -- to have it balance.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: So it’s similar, at least in my mind.

Speaker BERGSTROM: If you did that every year, you’d run out of Free Cash though that’s what I’m saying.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Well, but Free Cash is replenished each year as are some reserves. So you get a new certification and then you determine whether or not you’re going to use all or partial. In Yarmouth they used -- some years we had to use it all, depending on what other pressures --

Speaker BERGSTROM: I know I’m swimming against the tide here.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: No.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Because I know we did this in Chatham too. But what you’re saying is that the anticipated revenues maybe greater; the anticipated expenditures may be less, so we anticipate that we’re going to have money leftover at the end of the year. Why not budget that instead of, you know, why not budget more realistically is what I’m saying.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I think we tried to so there isn’t a lot of fluff within the budget you mean? The revenues are the wildcard. We really don’t know. We know what the grants are. We know what the tax will be. Some of the other revenues from the Registry and other places based upon services rendered, it is a best estimate.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. One more and I’ll let you go. Julia has a question. But in Chatham, I keep going back to Chatham, as you know our Town Manager who succeeded you after you left --

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Right.

Speaker BERGSTROM: -- but he would have a budget that was overly optimistic and so we would get free cash; that free cash was used to bond. In other words instead of doing what you’re doing which is using it to cover the shortfall in the budget, they would simply keep it and any bonding issue would be paid for with recurring free cash; did you look at that?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I did not.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: That’s a bigger policy matter that I guess the Commissioners and our successors will certainly be looking at as a possibility.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: You don’t get as much in the County from either tax, I mean, the tax increases $74,000.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: So it’s not a great deal of money, so we rely upon the grants and other income.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: Well, I think I understand the semi-enterprise accounts. Has there been any discussion of -- and then obviously some things are not capable of paying their way; that’s just not a possibility.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Right.

Ms. TAYLOR: And shouldn’t/ couldn’t. Has there been discussion of the Fire Training Academy that went up 19.5 percent? Is that something that should be looked at as a semi account that can pay its way?

Interim Finance Director Yes.

Ms. TAYLOR: I mean if they want it, wouldn’t they want to pay for it? For example, if Fire Chiefs want it, would they like to put in -- chip in a little more?

Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker/Delegate Taylor, we do get some of our resources for the Fire and Training Academy that comes in from the services that we provide to the towns and some outside entities that need rescue and fire training.

But that’s a discussion that our Commissioners had today. So we will in the near future be going out to the towns and talking to them about contributions in addition to those that we were receiving, other than general funds. So that is a pay-for-fee strategy that our Commissioners are looking at right now.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. Yes, Ed.

Mr. LEWIS: Just a question because this is a whole new budget process compared to what we’ve done in Brewster over the past 15 years.

Do we get explanations on the different variances up or down? Do we get complete explanations as to what those are because in some instances they might answer questions we might have rather than going through and ask for every variance?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: What Commissioner Lyon’s presented was the full and complete budget, the large package which is 3 to 4 inches thick. So those will be spread out to the committees and then, ultimately, we’ll do one budget.

But, yes, that’s all of the backup. We just didn’t have time. The Commissioners met until 3:30 today and made some changes.

Mr. LEWIS: But we will get that at some point?
Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes.
Mr. LEWIS: Thank you. That’s my question.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Unfortunately you will, yes.
Mr. LEWIS: It has lots of pages. It gives me a feeling of confidence. Very warm.
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: We can provide that.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Did you have a question, John?
Mr. OHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, under the semi-autonomous -- what is it?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes.
Mr. OHMAN: -- revenue funds are IT. IT is asking for three new positions. And as a result, you’ve got this map that says that they may or may not be able to come up with 409,540 in income because of that, which makes some sense to me.

Is this a horse-before-the-cart/cart-before-the-horse? Do you hire these people hoping that you will get the Lower Cape towns to buy-in or will you wait until the Lower Cape’s actually sign a contract before you hire new people?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: The IT Director had gone out and surveyed towns and had a larger number of income that he could expect. We cut that down to the 409,000 increase. He believes that that work is there. He does not have signed contracts, but since this is not starting until July 1 of 2015, I believe his effort is going to be to get those contracts settled and then the work could start on July 1.

So I think the question is if everyone backs out, would the hires be made? I would doubt it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, just to follow-up on that. Simultaneous to our hearing this budget, the Commissioners are initiating a search for an Administrator. As I’m listening to you saying, well, we’re going to hire -- not you but the Commissioners saying we’re going to hire three new people, I’m thinking we’re going to have somebody in place theoretically on July 1.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: You would hope.
Speaker BERGSTROM: You would think that they would do the hiring and they would decide what the needs of the department are. I know that we’re not forcing -- in other words, we’re simply approving potential spending. We don’t force them to spend it; we just authorize it.

So I would hope that if we do have a new Administrator that that person will have a little more say over what we’re going to do and what we’re not going to do.

Anyway, yes, Linda.
Ms. ZUERN: With the treasury balance reserves, is there any other stabilization account besides this one that says reserves?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I think we had provided to the Assembly a listing of all of those several weeks ago, I believe. I didn’t bring it tonight but there are several others. Yes, there’s I think a legal reserve, there’s an insurance reserve, unfunded pension
liability reserve; those are some that could not be spent for other things thinking out loud, like the unfunded pension liability. We couldn’t use that for some -- to buy a truck. But there a number -- we can provide that list again to you if you wish.

Ms. ZUERN: But you can’t really use anything of those other reserves for the budget itself; is that what you’re saying?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: I believe many of them are restricted, yes.
Ms. ZUERN: So what we have left is $1.1 million in reserves?
Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes, in that account that would be if this went forward; yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Brain.

Mr. O’MALLEY: Mr. Speaker, through you, regarding the pension reserve fund, is that something we’re adding to or do we feel that we’re anywhere near? My understanding is we’re not in a position to handle that where we stand now.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: The pension reserve is in better shape than the health insurance reserve. The Retirement Board has a 40-year, no, maybe a 30-year plan to fully fund the pensions in the County of Barnstable.

So we are contributing through our retirement assessment each year additional amounts that are assessed to the County and all the other towns to make that 30 or 40-year fully funding happen.

This reserve is part of that. So we’re not as worried about the retirement reserve. Now the health insurance reserve is another matter. We have not funded that….. Based upon the tightness of the budget, we are not at this point contemplating putting any additional funding in there, although we would like to. And I think all of the towns are in the same shape along with the County on that. Some are able to do more.

Mr. O’MALLEY: And when you say you were talking a 30 or 40-year timeline, does that mean that at the end of that time it will be fully funded?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: Yes, sir.

Mr. O’MALLEY: It may be that long?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: It’s either 30 or 40 years. The state keeps changing the date, but I believe it may be 40 but it would be fully funded.

Mr. O’MALLEY: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Was the, excuse me, just a quick question. Was the budget -- I should have asked the Chair of the Commissioners, but when the budget was approved, was it a unanimous vote to send us the budget; do you remember? No. I see Sheila said it was not. So it was 2 to 1, I assume to send us the budget the way it is. Okay.

Yes, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: To that point, Mr. Speaker, I was just going to ask the same question. But could you then direct the Commissioners if, in fact, this just represents a majority opinion; if there is a minority opinion if they could -- if that could be sent to the Assembly on this?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, you know, I intend to think that the Commissioners act as a body. I mean that’s my personal philosophy. Anybody who wants to talk to the dissenting Commissioner could do so but we’re only going to get one budget.

Mr. KILLION: I agree, but if it exists, could we get a copy, please?

Speaker BERGSTROM: What’s that?

Mr. KILLION: If a summary’s been done, could we get a copy of it?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes. Freedom of speech here in the Assembly; you can get
any information you want.

Anyway, are we all happy for the time being?

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: A lot of work ahead.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, check your computers and we’ll push a magic button and you’ll get this, whatever it is, how many hundred pages.

Mr. LEWIS: Well, you’re not putting that whole big thing online; are you? You’re going to get us a copy.

Speaker BERGSTROM: You can get a copy if you want.

Mr. LEWIS: I want --

Speaker BERGSTROM: But there are a lot of trees that are going to be felled.

Mr. LEWIS: Well it’s either the trees are felled at my expense or the County’s expense.

Speaker BERGSTROM: At the County’s expense.

Mr. LEWIS: Print it here and I’ll pick it up.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: We’ll get going on that working with Janice.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: A hard copy, right.

Clerk O’CONNELL: I will have a hard copy for everyone, and I think we even put it up online too. Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Interim Finance Director LAWTON: We can do that. Thank you, very much, for your time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

Is there any Communications from Public Officials? Any Communications from Members of the Public?

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: I don’t think we have any committee meetings.

John, we didn’t have any committee meetings? You didn’t have any meetings; did you?

Mr. OHMAN: Well, actually, no, not under Committee Meetings. I do have something to speak under Other Business.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Well, in that case, we’ll start with a report from the Clerk.

Report from the Clerk

Clerk O’CONNELL: That was fast. A couple of items. First, I think you all received an email last week from Marisa Donelan, and I want to let you know that the Delegates need to comply with that request. It was two parts.

One was asking you to confirm and respond via email that you’ve gotten a summary of conflict and you understand what that is.

The second piece is a request for you to complete the training online. And I will tell you that I realized for the returning Delegates that you did this last year. I did and you all did because we received a directive from the County asking all employees to complete it at the same time every year so that for tracking purposes you don’t have individual departments
completing it at different times. So everyone did that last April.

When I talked to Marissa this week, I said, “Hey, what are you talking about?” I said, “My people did it and they shouldn’t have to do it for another year.” She said, “Well, you have elected people and they’re on a different schedule.” She said, “Your County may require it annually as part of their practice. But with regards to the state, they only require elected people, and this would be including Commissioners, to do it on a two-year cycle and 2015 is that cycle.”

So, unfortunately, I know, you have to do it again. So if you print a certificate forward that to them, and it would also very helpful if you give a copy to me because I will keep it in a file in the office. Should a request come in for a copy, you don’t have to go digging and looking for it; I’ll already have it.

And then the good news is you won’t have to do it again until 2017. So I apologize for any confusion. I know that you’ve all done it. The new Delegates have completed it so I think they are all set. And for any who did it last year who were here now, yes, you do have to do it again.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Mr. Speaker.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: So I redid it on one of the snow days, and I had to physically then send it to her. It doesn’t automatically go to her then?
Ms. TAYLOR: Correct.
Clerk O’CONNELL: I don’t think it does.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Okay. And I’m responsible for that. I don’t give it to you and you send it in as a group? I’m happy to do it. I just want to know --
Clerk O’CONNELL: You can. If you give it to me, I’m more than happy to send it in. You just need to let me know that you want me to do that. And I think the deadline is -- what did she say -- was it within 30 days or?
Ms. TAYLOR: I would email it to her. Make a PDF of --
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, I’d have to scan the certificate and then -- it’s not simple.
Ms. TAYLOR: No. I know.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: So I might just do a hard copy.
Clerk O’CONNELL: I think you have until April 10th on that particular item to get it to her. So if you want to wait and bring it to me at the next meeting -- that was the case last year, so people came to a meeting, brought the certificate, I took a copy and gave the original back to them. Whatever you want me to do, I’m happy to do that.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Ed.
Mr. LEWIS: Just to try and clarify from my mind, I did that prior and you had the certificate. So as a new Delegate, I don’t need to do it again?
Clerk O’CONNELL: Right. I think individually the new Delegates received an email because I was able to supply her with the certificate, she acknowledged that, but you as individuals have to acknowledge piece one, which is that you received a summary. You have to acknowledge that to her. I can’t do that on your behalf.
Mr. LEWIS: Okay.
Clerk O’CONNELL: And you do it by simply hitting the return or the reply button and saying, yes, I got it and hopefully you did. You did as a new employee.
Mr. LEWIS: I got it. The question I have is the State requires it every two years, right?
Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes, for elected people.
Mr. LEWIS: Right. Now somebody within the County made the decision that even though the County, the elected officials did it last year, they’ve got to do it again.
Clerk O’CONNELL: That was the case last year. There was some decision made regarding requiring that. But I don’t know about this year.
This year, unfortunately, as an elected person you’ve got to do it for the State. I haven’t received a directive from the County to do it; it’s from the State.
Mr. LEWIS: But the State requires -- they require it every two years. If you did it in 2014, you shouldn’t have to do it until 2016. That’s what’s confusing to me.
Ms. MCAULIFFE: But the State wants you on a ’15 --
Mr. LEWIS: Who said who?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: The State wants you on ’15. They don’t care if you did it in ’14. They want it ’13, ’15, ’17.
Mr. LEWIS: The State says that?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes.
Clerk O’CONNELL: Correct.
Mr. LEWIS: The State. That’s a new person, same State.
Commissioner LYONS: You’re in a new position.
Mr. LEWIS: Or a new department?
Commissioner LYONS: I have to do it over again.
Clerk O’CONNELL: We’re still on the Clerk’s Report, I guess.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, we’re still on the Clerk’s Report.
Clerk O’CONNELL: Okay. The next item is something I emailed to you separately, I believe I did it yesterday, an item that I received in the mail. It’s the Actual County Tax Rates that will be in effect for 2016 and ’17. So you received that from me.
Also, just a reminder that next Wednesday we will be starting the committee meetings for budget review. Yay!
Also, Mr. Ohman will have some information to give you with regards to the first meeting of the Building Study Space Needs Committee.
And that’s all I have for now.

Other Business

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Is there any Other Business to be brought before the Assembly?
Yes, Mr. Ohman.
Mr. OHMAN: Thank you for that lead-in, Janice. The Barnstable County has now formulated a Building Needs Committee and, fortunately or unfortunately-so, Janice and I are both on it.
What they’re doing now is they’re trying to come up with a long-range plan, maybe 25 years out of what the building needs will be. Specifically, the biggest agenda item is the court system. They would like us out of here. They would like us out of the Superior Courthouse, and they would like even a bigger court system built in the middle of the parking lot if they had their way.
So we’re diligently going to work on this committee. It’s going to be submitted -- we have no power. We’re just going to be an advisory board, but there are some very interesting people on it, some of the heavy hitters in the County, and we’re hoping to come up with plans.
And I’d be very happy to entertain any thought processes that any member of the Assembly has as well, and I’m sure that Janice would be very glad to listen to that too. 
So we’re going to meet every two weeks, most likely on a Wednesday afternoon before the Assembly meetings or not.
So with that in mind, if you can think of any ideas that you have, remember that we’re under the gun. The court system would like to just get rid of us altogether, frankly, and take the whole place over if they could. But we’re addressing counter-punches in. We’ve got some ideas and I’d like to know if anybody has any ideas. Thank you.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, I think we have to remind the court system that they are our tenants and we are not their tenants.
Anyway, but I’m sure it will be a mutual discussion. Any other business to be brought before us?
Yes, Ned.
Mr. HITCHCOCK: I’m just curious about how we’re going to go about getting our hardcopies, those of us who want hardcopies of the budget.
I’d like to be able to review the stuff I’m supposed to review before I come to talk about it.
Speaker BERGSTROM: I guess I’ll have to leave that to the person who’s going to do the grunt work.
Mr. HITCHCOCK: I’ll come and get it if I have to but let me know.
Clerk O’CONNELL: Well, the first thing I’m going to attempt to do is scan all of this.
Mr. HITCHCOCK: Oh my God.
Clerk O’CONNELL: But, you know, I don’t know. Sometimes your email will reject if the file’s too large.
So the first thing I need to do is I need to take a look at it and go through it because I may want to assign page numbers to it because we have to reference this document, you’re going to need page numbers on it. So that’s a little concern I have.
And I just want to look at it and make sure that it’s properly sequenced. These individuals have been under a tremendous workload, and I’m amazed that we were able to receive this today.
So in all due respect to them, I want to go through it and make sure that in everyone’s haste it’s sequenced correctly and there’s nothing missing, it makes sense and that may take me a day or two.
But as soon as I am able, I will have it available online and I can -- I mean it would be pretty costly for me to put it in the mail and mail one to you, but I understand that people will want this prior to meeting at the next meeting on the 25th.
So I mean for some people it’s practical to maybe come and get it; you’re 10 minutes away. But for others, it may not be. And if that’s the case, then I think I’m going to have to mail it to people who can’t come in and get it.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Janice, what would it cost to bring this down to Sir Speedy or something and say I want 15 copies? Could they do that?
Clerk O’CONNELL: Too much money. I’m pretty sure I can do it -- this is not a big deal.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Not a big deal?
Clerk O’CONNELL: Hey, I did like 18,000 pages for the IG’s office.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Let’s not bring that up.
Clerk O’CONNELL: This is probably only two hours at the copy machine. It’s not bad. I can do it.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Well in that --
Clerk O’CONNELL: I’ll send you an email and you all will let me know whether you want me to mail it to you or whether you want to come and pick it up? How’s that?
Speaker BERGSTROM: So they are available and you can express your preference if you want it mailed or picked up at the County.
All right. Ed.
Mr. MCMANUS: Presumably the document exists already as a series of files on Bob Lawton’s computer. Rather than scanning it, it would probably be much more efficient and the file sizes would be much smaller if you asked him to share his files --
Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes, I’m going to check all that out with him.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Is it available electronically?
Commissioner LYONS: Yes, you know, we’ve been able to receive as we’re reviewing departments, we were able to receive those department sections several days ahead of time.
Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.
Commissioner LYONS: So they are there.
Speaker BERGSTROM: And the Assembly voted to suspend the rules and let you speak---
Commissioner LYONS: Thank you. Well, he recognized me so I’m sorry. But I think that even to get you started, you’re going to have your different subcommittees, so those subcommittees are going to be reviewing so many different departments. If we can get those to you for those subcommittees, that’s at least a start then you have something that you can start chewing on.
Speaker BERGSTROM: In advance of the meeting.
Commissioner LYONS: And it does make sense to have it at least 48 hours in advance so you can walk in with questions as opposed to trying to read it and have to do it over again.
So I would ask Justyna for some assistance, Jan. That was my suggestion.
Speaker BERGSTROM: In that regard, I’m a big fan of giving the people who come into these subcommittee -- I’m talking about the staff, a heads-up. If you have some questions it’s often in our interest to, you know, they’re available, you know, send something online, an email or something, saying I have concerns with this part of the budget; I’m going to ask this question. That way you save a lot of time when you get to the committee meeting because a lot of times people don’t know what’s coming.
But so far, so good, so I think it’s going to be a good process. All right. Have we got anything else?
Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move to adjourn.
Mr. MCMANUS: Second.
Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor? “Aye”.
Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 4:50 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by:
Janice O’Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates