

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT
ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**

APPROVED Journal of Proceeding - February 4, 2015

Speaker BERGSTROM: Good afternoon. Welcome to the February 4th, 2015 session of the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates.

I'd like to call this meeting to order. Is anybody recording this besides our normal recording?

If not, before we go into our moment of silence, I'd like to recognize Julia Taylor as our longest-serving member. Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I was very sad to hear of Paul Lebel's death. Paul served as the Barnstable Delegate from 1995 to 2001. And I was fortunate to serve with him for his entire time on the Assembly when his hard work and his rock solid judgment led to some notable achievements.

Dedicated to the town of Barnstable and excited at the prospects of regional cooperation, Paul embodied a conservative approach to government in the best sense of the word.

A longtime active Republican, he always took a nonpartisan approach in Barnstable County matters and was usually my favorite ally.

Careful with finances but creative in his thinking, he worked tirelessly in cooperation with the Commissioners, and his influence on other Assembly members because of his ideas and his expertise far exceeded his important percentage of the vote.

To pick only one of his accomplishments, I think immediately of the 100 percent affordable assisted-living project in Bourne. After the County hospital closed, the Commissioners saw a need for a low-income assisted-living facility on Cape Cod, none existed, and hoped this property could, in part, be put to this important use.

Fortunately, despite our fears that the price tag would be well beyond our means, Paul, with his experience as a builder and as a finance expert, took on the complex financing systems necessary. He mastered it. And because of his hours and hours and hours of work made us understand and accept that the project could succeed.

I miss Paul.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. We'll add his name to the moment of silence that we'll commence now, along with our troops who have died in service for 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 (90.78%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Edward Lewis (4.55% - Brewster), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Edward McManus (5.67% - Harwich), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Julia Taylor (14.61%- Falmouth), Linda

Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

Absent (9.22%): Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee).

Clerk O'CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, we have a quorum present with 90.78 percent of the Delegates present; 9.22 percent absent.

Committee of the Whole

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. You have in front of you today's Calendar of Business. Any additions or changes to the Calendar?

Hearing none.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move the Calendar.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor, say "Aye." Opposed? Okay. (Motion carried.)

Speaker BERGSTROM: You also should have received a copy of our last meeting, the Journal of January 21, 2015. Anybody have any corrections? Yes, Doc.

Mr. O'MALLEY: Mr. Speaker, on page 26, the name of Senator Wolf's Chief Aid is Rolbein, R-o-l-b-e-i-n.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We will make that change.

Okay. With that correction, do we have a motion to approve the Journal?

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Move to approve the Journal.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. All those in favor say "Aye." Opposed? (Motion carried.)

Communications from the Board of County Commissioners

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. We now come to Communications from and Discussions with the Board of County Commissioners.

Commissioner LYONS: Good afternoon. How is everybody? Well, I mean I can tell you that we're moving along in our budget process. We reviewed the Cape Cod Commission. We've gone over the Dredge. All these will be coming before you.

We did have a conversation with the Arts Foundation. You can look at the minutes of that. I won't get into detail now. And we did, going forward, we've gotten our RFP out for consulting firms to assist with the search for the Administrator. So that has been decided today. We voted on getting that out today. And also we have put together a committee. I think Leo came here last week; I was unable to discuss appointments to a building needs committee. Now a lot of this work has been done. A lot of work has been done over 10, maybe 20 years looking at different plans and, you know, they're all sitting there nice and dusty.

So we're going to be putting together everything that has been done and there has been some activity as you can kind of surmise from different sessions that we had, some sort of ad hoc discussions last year, which I am looking for an opportunity to bring both Leo and myself up to speed on some of those discussions I wasn't involved in either and then go forward.

But right now as far as our meeting, I believe that Leo put out here if anybody

was interested in this committee appointment that they should say something. I was unaware of that and some people had, so they were appointed. Janice is one of them. Leo is going to be on that committee. Scott Nickerson, Paul Niedzwiecki, John Ohman happened to walk in the room at the right time so he put his two cents in. And also Ann Canedy and Joe Berlandi from the Barnstable Village Association because they've been involved in some talks as well.

So what we hope to have is an assessment report as to where we are and where we want to go. And that should be I thought the end of March; Leo's giving them to the end of May. I think maybe April 1 would be a good compromise. I don't think it's going to take that long to do this type of assessment. The rest of the work is going to take -- much more involved and have different people on it and strategic positions on that.

And I think that's it for right now unless you have questions. I don't think I've left anything out.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Could I just add a couple things?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, sure.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: We've mentioned the Buildings' Needs Assessment Committee that you just got a report on, so that's moving ahead which I'm thrilled about. As I reported the last time I was here, the Commissioners also voted together to put a County Administrator search committee. Sheila has just reported to you that today we voted to put out an RFP for a consulting firm that we will hire to help that committee.

But I just want to remind you all and to the people at home that are listening that on the website there is a form available to fill out to apply to be put on that Administrator Search Committee. I encourage all of you to go back to your towns; if you personally don't have the time or wherewithal to maybe put your names in then maybe you can try to recruit someone from your towns.

This is a very important position, and we really want to move forward quickly, and we're hoping that we get a lot of candidates that we can choose from to put on that search committee. So I ask you to do that.

Secondly, you did pass a Resolution 15-01 that was sent to the Commissioners. And to report on that, our attorney took a look at it and came back with a decision. Many of you probably saw that decision. Because it was an internal affair of the Assembly in creating a subcommittee here reporting to you that it wasn't necessary for the Commissioners to take action on it.

But as all of you are well aware of the Charter if no action is taken and the Resolution, in fact, goes forward, but I'm happy to report that we did take action. The action was to approve it. So we voted that so you guys can move forward with that.

So with that, thanks.

Commissioner LYONS: And if I can just add on that, I think it was, you know, I think it's a great idea. We're moving with the times having a subcommittee that's now looking at Energy and Telecommunication issues. And so that involves we have a Regional Policy Plan that's being finalized and there's an energy component in there. And our telecommunications and SI -- the Strategic Information Office and those types of conversations with services to the towns are going on with IT. The Cape Cod Commission is the lead of that committee that is occupied by all town Administrators. So it's made up of all 15 Town Administrators that are dealing and guiding that process of

telecommunications and what their needs would be in the future and how can we can meet those needs.

So those are the types of, you know, I know that we think of Cape Light Compact and CVEC immediately when we think of energy but there's a lot of other different components going on.

So I just wanted to make sure that the committee invites all those voices to the table and not just focus on what we look at as energy.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. John.

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Commissioners, there was some talk that because of the weather that there may be a chance that the budget would not be brought to us by February 18. Has there been any further discussion, and can we -- can you assure us that we will have that on the 18th?

Commissioner LYONS: Well, we will have a budget and I do think that we have a little bit of room, and I know that you're going to be talking with Bob Lawton and Michael Brillhart in a little bit, and I think they can probably give you a better idea of what their needs are at this point.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Can I comment on that?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: I believe the Charter requires us to have an approved budget by the Commissioners by a certain date, and I think that is two weeks from now. So we really only have this coming Wednesday as the scheduled meeting a week from today to actually vote the budget unless we may have another meeting, two meetings next week.

So I appreciate your concerns, representative from Dennis, because I, too, believe that, you know, there is no leeway. I mean this is a Charter requirement for us to get it to you.

So if we don't, and I'm prepared to vote on a budget, and I'm new to the process and I admit that, so I'm kind of just going along with how things are done because I certainly have a lot of personal comments and amendments, if you will, to the presented budgets that have been presented to us. And I have not had a chance to air those concerns publicly or had a chance to run them even by the Commissioners. I'm hoping that that will be done prior to us being able to vote the budget to at least give me a chance to get my thoughts into the record.

So with that said, I think by Charter we have to get it to you. And if that means two meetings next week, that's two meetings.

Mr. OHMAN: I thank you for that. And I know Janice has been working absolute and up to speed up our end of it too so if there is a reconciliation process, which there may likely be, that we'll have a little bit extra time to do that to make sure that Barnstable County can support a great budget for their citizens of Barnstable County.

Commissioner LYONS: I do think that there will be other ideas coming from Bob and Michael, so I'd like you to hear those.

And I do know that the Charter -- I said this, but I think last year we also went into overtime and it's not going to be the first time nor will it be the last that we go outside what the Charter dictates. So maybe that's something that we should change in the Charter as far as maybe making that a little bit more flexible and a date like no later than. But that's something for you guys to take up.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Just to clarify, the Charter indicates that the Commissioners have to submit the budget on a date established by Ordinance. So, technically, the Ordinance, the current Ordinance -- now we could change the Ordinance; unfortunately the timeframe for that has expired already.

Commissioner LYONS: Not necessarily.

Speaker BERGSTROM: But we could change it without changing the Charter, we'd have to change the Ordinance. Just so everybody out in the world there understands how it works.

Now, do we have anybody else? Did I see a hand up? Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes, I can appreciate the issue with the budget for the Commissioners, but also it really pushes us back against a wall as well. There isn't a lot of flexibility in our timeline by Charter. We are required to have a budget. And I know last year it got a little tight since there were issues and questions.

So I think everybody's just going to have to try and --

Commissioner LYONS: We're working very hard.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I know. I'm just saying you and we will have to try and squeeze this in.

Commissioner LYONS: Right.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I have a question and I don't know where to go with this. And since you're the senior Commissioner, I can't ask this of our new County Administrator since you'd probably be the more appropriate or perhaps someone at this table.

I have been told over the past two years that there are certain budgets that we really don't have authority over, yet its County funds that are voted by County Commissioners. And they're parts of the budget or pieces of budget that somehow we don't have authority over. So that's one of the reasons why we just -- we hear presentations but we don't necessarily take a vote. And I'm just curious how that came to be. You don't have to answer that now.

I don't know if you could at some point get some information to me and some of the new members about how that came to be that they are County funds that are voted by you that we don't have authority over. That would be a good question.

Commissioner LYONS: Certainly. I will try and figure out what that is and --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Could I ask a question, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Go ahead.

Commissioner CAKOUNES:

Commissioner LYONS: You mentioned County funds, and I have no recollection of anything where County funds are spent without your input in the Executive branch's input.

Things like the Cape Cod Commission, which has its own funding source, and then you'll notice in the budget there will be County funds given to a portion of that, which I think they call it the special projects or --

Commissioner LYONS: Yes, it is a special --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: I forget what they call it. There's a section of that. And we -- you, certainly, as a Legislative body and we, as an Executive body have the authority to not put that in there if we decide not to or increase it if we decide to.

But as far as funds that -- anything that's County funds, to my knowledge and

I'd be very happy if you would be specific either privately or through Janice to us, --

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I believe some of the Arts money and I believe --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: The Arts money is a donation, and it's a donation of County funds. Also, it's a donation made up in part, and in the past it was \$10,000 of license plate money. So, it was a \$35,000 donation, 10,000 of it was of license plate funds. And that has been raised this particular budget season and has not been raised because of any reasons that the Arts Foundation is not a good organization, but it's been raised in how a nonprofit organization that is not affiliated with the County has been getting a donation on pretty much a yearly basis and other equally as good organizations have not been able to get access to that donation.

So, you have the authority as the Legislative body and we, certainly, as the Executive body have the authority to not authorize that expenditure. The fact that it has been in the past, you have to go back and ask why, but that process is one thing that I bought up at the Executive branch and has asked that it be clarified because it's a granting situation like that no matter where you go, they have criteria. You have to submit budgets. You have to submit why you want to do it, and there's kind of a pool that gathers all that and then the committee reviews it and then you decide whether you want to donate the money or not. So that's the case --

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I don't want to take a lot of time, but I do remember there were a couple of instances where it was, "Oh, we don't have authority over this." So, I will put together the specifics.

Commissioner LYONS: Okay. The Arts Foundation you've reviewed and you've passed it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: To clarify this, every year you get every document, a little glossy thing that says this is the "Fiscal 2015 Budget of Barnstable County." All right. Now when you say "County funds," are you including everything in that booklet?

Commissioner LYONS: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Because there's all sorts of stuff in that booklet. See, so when you say "County funds," you're using the word "County" to mean something different than that budget means. So how do we delineate between what that budget says as County and what you say is County?

Commissioner LYONS: No.

Speaker BERGSTROM: In common parlance, that's what I'm looking at.

Commissioner LYONS: If you go to the budget, you'll see that the Arts Foundation is listed there and it is something that has been passed by --- when I was on the Assembly and everybody was in there. Everybody's in there.

Ms. TAYLOR: We always voted that.

Commissioner LYONS: So it's always been voted.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Commissioner LYONS: So it's not as though it hasn't been voted by you. The question is, is it appropriate? You know the Arts Foundation came --

Speaker BERGSTROM: No, forget about the Arts Foundation. Talk about the Cape Cod Commission or the Registry of Deeds, everything that's in the Barnstable County budget, there it is.

Commissioner LYONS: Right.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Now somebody has made a decision as to what parts

of those budgets we look at and what parts we don't at some point. And I'm wondering when that decision was made, when they were --

Commissioner LYONS: I don't understand -- I don't understand what parts. So if you give us the list of the parts that --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Cape Cod Commission; is that in the budget?

Ms. TAYLOR: We vote that.

Commissioner LYONS: Yes, I'm not sure what they -- Number 1, they do have their own funding stream and they have their own act.

Ms. TAYLOR: We vote that.

Commissioner LYONS: So you vote that every year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Commissioner LYONS: You vote it every year. It's in the budget. So whatever we see, you see. If there's something that we don't see and you don't see and there's something going on that we don't know about -- but that's not happening.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. All right.

Commissioner LYONS: So, everything that's supposed to be in the budget and everything that you're supposed to be aware of is in the budget. Sometimes you/we didn't pay attention to it and all of the sudden we realize that it's there after it's been voted. But it's in there. So.

Speaker BERGSTROM: The other --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Can I just reply directly to that too?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: If you take the time to actually look at the budget and I apologize I didn't bring mine with me; it's out in the car, but you will look at the sheets that we normally get that show the expenditures at the top. And at the bottom there's a box that shows where the expected revenues come from. It will say "General Funds," "County General Funds."

If we talk about the Cape Cod Commission just because I want to use them because it's a good example, it will say the "Cape Cod Commission Tax." That's where the majority of their money, in fact, in their budget all of it comes from that.

We have a joint initiative with the Cape Cod Commission and there's a portion of that joint initiative that you will see. It says "County Funds."

So, do you have direct jurisdiction over how the Cape Cod Commission spends their funds? I would argue that you do, but you have to keep that separate because that is money that they're bringing in from their tax. And, yes, by voting their budget, you have an input on that. But there is limited County funds which goes into operating the Cape Cod Commission. And all of it is really spelled out in the budget.

I'm so thrilled that people are taking interest in this because for six years I've been trying to get people more interested in the budget. So, thank you, all. We're going to have fun this year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Not to change the subject, Leo, but in the RFP that you sent out to the town for the County Administrator, there's obviously going to be a description of the requirements; certain years of experience, M.A.? Did anybody write that up?

Commissioner LYONS: That is not -- that's not been done yet. This is to get the consulting firm.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Oh, just the consulting firm.

Commissioner LYONS: Just the consulting firm. We haven't put together the committee and they haven't been given their charge. When we have the consulting firm, we will work with them to put all those pieces together.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Yes, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We received an Ordinance some time ago about a bonding and a bonding issue. And it is my understanding that it was deemed it wasn't necessary to come to us. Has that been included? That bonding issue?

Commissioner LYONS: I think it's in process and the two gentlemen behind me can answer that better than I at this point as to where it is exactly as we speak.

Mr. KILLION: Can you tell me the last time that the County went out for bonding?

Commissioner LYONS: I believe, according to Michael, it was 1998?

Administrator BRILLHART: Nine.

Commissioner LYONS: 1999.

Mr. KILLION: So the other bonding that we had in our budgets previously, we never bonded that revenue?

Commissioner LYONS: Apparently not.

Mr. KILLION: So did the revenue come within the budget some -- from within the County somewhere?

Commissioner LYONS: I would assume so.

Mr. KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Commissioner LYONS: I mean the bills got paid so.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. If that's it, then thank you. You've been a prong of information.

Commissioner LYONS: Thank you.

Communications from County Administrator and Interim Finance Director

Speaker BERGSTROM: We'll move on now to Communications with our County Administrator, Michael Brillhart, and Interim Finance Director, Bob Lawton, and we'll leave Sheila there.

Commissioner LYONS: Yes. Okay. Before I leave, I was just looking at what you're going to be discussing when you convene. And the -- something about to direct the level of funding is that, Number 1, we're not the Administrators, and to direct that immediately I don't think is really a wise thing. I think we have -- there are some things that are more of a priority than others, and you might want to fund and not fund something else as equally as strong.

So I think that those are the things that we have to really discuss this year as opposed to a bottom line. I think we have to look at what is it we're doing? What is our core mission, and how are we fulfilling that? And to the best way we can. That's all I have to say about that.

I just think it maybe should be -- it could be a deterrent as opposed to having a better outcome than anticipated.

With that, I think you all for your time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Gentlemen.

Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker/Delegates, good afternoon.
Michael Brillhart and ---

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Bob Lawton.

Administrator BRILLHART: We're here to talk a little about the current fiscal year '15 budget. I believe we've given your Clerk a copy of both the six-month Revenue and Expenditure Budget Report for the current fiscal year '15, along with the same six-year (sic) period for fiscal year '14, the previous fiscal year.

And wanted to discuss a little bit about where we stand as of the end of the first six months of the fiscal year and try to address any particular questions that you may have.

The very first sheet, and I'll hold it up for fiscal year '15 is called the "Revenue Sheet, Revenue Source." And it has all of the various revenues that come into the County that this body, along with the Board of Commissioners has under its authority to approve.

The tax sources include tax revenues, intergovernmental fundings, the grant contracts, and the department revenues that equal up.

Of those four sources for the operational costs, you'll see a yellow line called "subtotals." All of the various revenues within the adopted budget would equal approximately 24.8 million, and then under it, it goes into the capital dollars so that it's a total of a \$28.3 million budget which was adopted by this body.

When we looked at the second column, it talks about the July 2014 through December '14 revenue column, and the numbers 11.9 million; those are all the various revenues that come in from the tax, the intergovernmental, the contracts, and the department revenues.

And, in essence, that equals approximately 47 percent of the total fiscal year proposed revenue source.

Similarly, if you look at the second page, it's called "Year-to-Date Expenditures," and these are reports that are given to our Board of Commissioners and created by the Finance Department.

And if you look at the overall expenditures for the operating budget, it talks about the original budget expenditures and so forth. And you go over to the very last column and it says "Percentage used 44.6."

So of all the total expenditures in the adopted budget -- for the "Operating Budget," we're at 44.6 percent. And on "Capital," the second section at the bottom, where various components depending upon the capital projects for the Facilities, Information, and Health, but, overall, we've expended about 42.8 percent which is the very bottom number, very last line.

So that gives you kind of a synopsis, a comparison of the revenue and expenditures for this particular current year.

If you look at the third and fourth pages, it's the same timeframe for the fiscal year 2014. So it's the July 2013 through December 2013. And it looks at the actual revenues and that percentage collected.

So as an example, on the third page, fiscal year 2014 Revenue Source, we would've collected during July through December of 2013 timeframe 11 million which represents about 45 percent of the total budget.

So if you go back and look at our current status at 47 percent collected versus

the previous fiscal year at 45 percent, we're really very comparable in what I would call nearly on target as far as the revenue collection for the first six months of the fiscal year.

Similarly, if you look at the last page under the expenditures, "Total Expenditures," 45.4 percent expended based upon the adopted budget for that year, as compared to 44.6.

So from the first six months of this fiscal year, revenue collected expenditures or expenses paid out were really very, very consistent with the previous fiscal year.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. John, did you have a question?

Mr. OHMAN: The big missing part of this I think is when we go back to the third and fourth page on the revenue side. So we're on track, if you will, for the six months to date, the first six months of the fiscal year. But what you're not giving us and should be -- we should all have it, is what was the final result? Did we run a deficit for fiscal '14 for this? You know, we should have that number too.

So even though this is on track, did we meet our end goals? And I know that there's a very big fluctuation of how we collect revenues and how we spend money. I understand it's not a straight line.

Administrator BRILLHART: Yes.

Mr. OHMAN: But that would satisfy me a lot more if I found out what the end result was. Did we run a deficit because that 45.14 percent never became 100 percent?

Do you have that number handy?

Administrator BRILLHART: We actually came in -- Bob, do you have those numbers? At the end of fiscal year '14, a few months ago we, I say we, I and JoAnne Nelson presented the Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year which showed you the exact numbers as far as where we were comparison to the budget.

And we actually, as you brought up, we did come in short on the Registry of Deeds tax numbers. We had projected about 3 million and we came in at 26-27. So we came in a little bit short on that. That's from a revenue point of view.

Comparably though, we came in short on the expenditure side, meaning we spent less. So even though we're only showing you a six-month timeframe, at the end of the year, we did have sufficient revenues to meet the expenditures because the expenditures were less than what were projected in the budget as well.

Mr. OHMAN: And as Mr. Killion had brought up, we borrowed money or we spent money that we intended to borrow. I know that this is pretzel logic for a Town Administrator turned County Administrator.

So we have never bonded. So we have a structural deficit within that structure too, within that number too of probably up to maybe two million dollars.

Is that an accurate statement?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: That's correct. There are some funds that have been expended. And what I found is in fiscal '15, which is what we're dealing with now, those will be, on my recommendation to the Administrator, that those will be bonded anticipation note and then borrowed during this fiscal year.

Though '15 is fairly easy. The Commissioners have not decided on what facilities bonding is going to be done. There is some because the Administrator had put a hole on most of them.

Mr. OHMAN: Right.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: So that's '15. So the prior bonding or the prior authorization for bonding, in my research, the funds have been spent legally. I talked with the auditors several times. They are -- in a County financing, you can spend the money and run -- I wouldn't call it a deficit, but there are funds that need to be borrowed and they're booked as to -- spent but to be borrowed.

Mr. OHMAN: Right.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: And so my plan, what I'm going to suggest to the Administrator and then to the Commissioners, is that we make that happen because obviously the rates are some of the best we've seen in many years. And I believe you should or the County should borrow those funds which are sitting there not yet borrowed but mostly expended.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Yes. That was my question because if you look on the '14 budget right at the bottom, right above total revenue, right in the middle there, is "Bond Issue Revenues," it's 3,691,000. And because I guess bonding is a source of funding throughout the budget, we're not really aware that we're voting that much money. It's just sort of marbled through the budget.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Right.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: And it turns out that that's how a lot of operations are covered without us really saying, okay, we're going to borrow 3.691 million. We don't really know that because it's sort of where we are.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Right.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: And I just wanted to make the point that in addition to this year's 2-8 which we're going to cover, the 3.69, excuse me, the 3.6 last year. And then in '13, 1.38; in '12, 1.28; in '11 1.265. So we have -- this is how the County has traditionally done its operational budget is bonding but not really borrowing from a bank.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: That's correct. And the Administrator and I have talked about that and we are planning to do it differently this year.

That what I'm doing is extracting all of the bondable items from the budgets and you will see those in the capital budget. And then when the Ordinance is written, the Administrator and I have agreed that we would have bond counsel write the Ordinance.

So those people are happy and we all know what is being voted on. That's for '16.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: And just a follow-up to that. I believe the town of Yarmouth has a policy on what's capital.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: The capital could be anything from \$1,000 to whatever. I think ours was so much money and a so many year lifespan.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Correct. You're correct.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: So I don't know if the County has that sort of policy, but if it doesn't, that might be helpful because smaller items could be part of operational budgets and bigger items that can go into bonds (Inaudible).

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: And that's exactly what we're doing. We've had discussion in the past couple of weeks, and I've been changing the way people are presenting their budgets.

We had one today that we met and I told him we're not going to borrow \$5,000. So put it in the budget and then on a maintenance -- there was one maintenance item, even though it was \$30,000, it's a maintenance item. Put it in the budget and if there's something new, not even vehicles, vehicles are going to be within the budget.

But you're right, we do not have a policy. We probably should. The Administrator and I will certainly be working on that to present to the Commissioners.

But I think for '16 you will see -- you will not see any bondable items within the budgets. They will be in your capital budget which would mostly be bond. And I assume the Commissioners are going to approve them.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I have one last question.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: If we have never officially bonded from a bank, then we don't have the track record to really have a credit score yet.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Correct.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: However, knowing how bond counsel is, they're going to come in and look at everything that we have liabilities on and that is going to impact our interest rates.

So it's going to be in our best interest to get on top of this --

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: -- this whole bonding thing that we've done and not having continued....

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Correct.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Linda.

Ms. ZUERN: I have a question about the public safety. It says 100 percent of the budget has already been spent. So could you just explain that and how much is going to be needed for the rest of the year?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: That's a charge that is made as a retirement. When the County let the Sheriff's office go, I guess the County was obligated to continue the employees who were there at the time for their retirement benefits. So that's a one-line item we make a one payment per year. So are no -- there will be nothing additional.

Ms. ZUERN: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Bob and Mike, you know we're starting at square one on this because of this bonding issue. But to me, basically you bond money because you haven't got it. I mean you borrow money and you use it to cover the budget.

So the thing is if we don't borrow it, where is it coming from? I mean where does it originate from? Is it simply being covered by some kind of the excess in the budget at the end of the year?

I mean if you say I'm going to spend X number of dollars on this, that, and the other thing, where's the source of it? That's the question.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: As I understand it, and again I had to learn some new things because I'm not as familiar with County finance as I am with municipal. Municipal is very simple. On June 30 --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Everything is simpler.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: -- you better have all the money -- done all your bonding completed in you're good and everything balances. In the County

system as I understand it from our auditors that that is not the case with the County.

So I think it has been rolled over for what reason, I do not know. But it has been paid out of Available Funds but it is not been appropriated --

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, do I know what these Available Funds are so maybe I can get some of them too? I mean are they saved somewhere or?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: We usually keep it in our mattresses at home because it's fairly safe there, and the interest rate is so low it doesn't make any difference.

But on a more serious note, the County has a certain amount of cash for a certain amount of reserves. Those have been used. Those need to be replenished.

What the rationale was for doing in the past is fine, it's done. I believe and I think the County Administrator believes too that we need to get on a little better footing for that and borrow those, borrow those funds.

And I'm concerned mostly about the interest rates. I don't think they're going to be going any lower, and I believe that we should make a conscious effort to get fiscal '15 fine. We're on top of that, but the older authorization should be bonded.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Have you given any idea, for instance, I know that I come out of town finance too, so this is all a new world to me. But for instance in Chatham, we established a number of reserves, 2 million or something -- threw a number there and we would hold it up. Have you guys considered having some kind of a set reserve policy/reserves and try to replenish them?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes. But it's not locked in concrete. I don't think the Administrator's made a recommendation to the Commissioners at this point.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: But, yes, that is something we should do.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: I just have a brief question about how this has been handled in the past and how it impacts our ability to bond and to pay our expenses going forward.

Over the last several years in the budgets, what we've seen is capital improvements put in with the regular operating budget, and then those capital improvements aren't done so that the cash is then used for ongoing operation. Okay.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I don't believe so. The --

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Well a lot of capital improvements that had been showed up recurred in the budget over 4 or 5 years were not done.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: That's correct. That's my understanding also.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Right. So that money -- the money that was theoretically going to cover those things ended up covering ongoing expenses.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I don't believe so because it was specific on those capital items that the funds would be borrowed. So if they weren't borrowed, you can't use the funds for -- even if they were borrowed, you can't use those funds for anything other than the borrowed -- the authorization for which you borrowed it so that funds were not -- were not used again.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Right. If you borrow the money, you

can't use it for anything.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Correct.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: But if what you've done is you've sort of padded your budget by putting all these capital improvements in your operating expenses, you then kind of switch things around to cover the budget in the end.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Well, it wasn't in the -- it was in the operating budget simply to show it there for whatever reason, but the appropriation was not made in any type of cash or tax. It was specifically to be bonded.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Right.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: And if the project was not done, then there was no money left over.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Well, that's sort of the question I'm trying to get at here because when you say "for whatever reason, these things were included this way," --

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Oh yes.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: -- is there any reason other than to have some fat in the budget to be able to cover shortfall in revenues?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: There was no extra money. I believe that the rationale was to show the full cost of the particular department. So in facilities, it might be that you would see facilities operating portion in the budget, this is going back to a town, you'd show that in the operating budget, and then you would have the capital budget.

And I guess at some point in time people wanted to see what is it costing for, and I'm picking on facilities? We want to know the salaries, wages, all the expenses and we want to know what the capital bonding items are.

So that you would see in the facilities plan not a let's say a two and a half million dollar budget for operating, you would see maybe 4 million with two and a half million in facilities improvements.

But there is no, to the best of my knowledge, there is no cash that was sitting in some account that could be used for other purposes based upon the votes that you and the Commissioners took on capital items.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Well, maybe I misstated what my understanding is. I'm not of the understanding that there was some special account that things were set aside in.

My impression in what appears to be revealed by the audit and by the comparison of the audit to the budget is that when revenues didn't cover expenses, the expenses were covered with ongoing operational cash that had, theoretically, been included in that budget for capital improvements that were never bonded.

Now my question for you in terms of going forward is how are we going to ensure that the -- it's sort of like you have a family here that is not running month-to-month or year-to-year living within their means, and they want a new car, or they want a new television, or they want new stuff. So how are you going to break this habit of needing more money than is generated by operational considerations? I mean isn't that what part of the problem is?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: As we said earlier, I think you will see this year a different budget. You will not see capital within the operating budgets.

You will see it in the capital budget to be bonded. So it will not be part of the operational budget.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: so I just have one more question. Does that then mean, are you telling us, that we will have a budget by our next meeting?

Commissioner LYONS: No.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: You will. I didn't realize you were going in that direction. But the question is, are we working to get the budget to you by the 18th of February, the answer is yes.

The Commissioners do have to vote it. It may be a situation where what we have presented and modified so far would be voted and presented to you with the understanding that there are going to be additional changes. But the Commissioners will take the appropriate vote to meet the legal requirements to get you a document that will be changed as it always is throughout the budgeting and review process.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Okay. Thank you, very much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Jim.

Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker, if I could just follow up on a question. In the current fiscal year capital budget, it was identified approximately \$2.8 million worth of capital projects under this budget.

If you look at the second page under "Expenditure," the operating budget item 920 is called, "Debt Service and Interest." The original budget is 265,000. There's been nothing expended to date.

The reason why there's been nothing expended to date was because that 265 was the expenditure for the first year of bonding. Because we haven't done that, we haven't expended any funds on capital projects, and we feel that unless you do that, you shouldn't be spending capital as mentioned if the revenue is not there.

So we understand that concern and that's why we're moving forward to ensure that if the revenues aren't there, then you can't do those capital projects.

So you've put everything on hold as far as capital until we know that these can be -- that the source outside of the County, cash, can be -- is there.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We received a Treasurer's Report last fall, and some of the information I have never seen in other reports that we've gotten. I think there was a little bit of confusion here regarding the number of bank accounts that the County has.

And I'm no expert on County budgeting and finance either; however, the way I understand it is we budget X amount of dollars for fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, and, theoretically, after the end of the year we have no money left over because we've spent it all.

Now we have a bank account balances here on the last day of the fiscal year. One account has 3.2 million in it, which is a TD Bank Now account. We have a Government Investment account which has 11.9 million in it. We have another Money Market account with 1.6 million in it.

So are these essentially operating revenues of the County that are being carried forward? And is this where these funds are coming from that we're spending?

Administrator BRILLHART: As an example, we have a \$28 million annual budget this year. Over, as you know, the expenditures come in over a month. So every

month we have to have a certain amount of cash to be able to pay those expenditures.

Under the TD Bank, the Government Investment account of 11.9, that's the County's primary checking account where revenues come in and expenditures go out. So it's an ongoing, ever evolving, similar to a house checking account.

So those accounts that you're showing there, most of those are for a variety of things that are not touched.

As an example, the Money Market account, the cash, the letters of credit, none of those things are attached. But what we do use the funds from are the government investment account, the 11.9. We have 3.9 in the Now account which we can use when we have a shortfall in any particular item for a month, and in the payroll, which we intercede with the Government Investment account.

So in other words, that's a checking account that we use to do our monthly expenditures and revenue coming in. So that number changes each month. It will never be consistently the same number because it's our operating account.

Mr. KILLION: No, I understand that, but my point is that that is essentially we're starting, rather than zero, we're starting at about 12 million and that carries us as the revenues, theoretically, catch up.

So we have not been taking unrealized revenue from that account to pay for expenses or have we? In other words, do we just continue to draw off of that account and we're not transferring anything. We're simply coming from that account to pay expenses for which revenues have not been encumbered or have been collected to pay for?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: That could be possible because the receipts have not been -- this is a snapshot on June 30.

Mr. KILLION: Right.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: So you're correct that that would be available cash to be used which would be replenished based upon --

Mr. KILLION: Or not.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: -- or not, that's true.

Mr. KILLION: Okay.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: But in general I think the County was solvent on June 30.

Mr. KILLION: And just one more question, Mr. Speaker. When we talked about the deficit, we received a revenue report which showed a deficit on revenue of 1.409 million. And you're saying we came in significantly -- or we had a significantly smaller deficit than that? Can you explain the disparity between those? We had a grand total of 17.97 as opposed to 16 actually collected and a deficit of 1.409.

This was given to us again last fall by the Treasurer, comparing FY budgeted revenues with the actual revenues.

Administrator BRILLHART: I'm looking at the Department of Revenue sheets from the end of the fiscal year, and I'm just trying to see the exact columns where those numbers may be so that I can look and be on the same page.

Mr. KILLION: And the greatest number of that was the Registry of Deeds which showed an \$858,508 shortfall between projected and actual, along with Courthouse Rental Revenues. There was number of different items but it all tolled to about 1.409.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I don't have the sheet, so I'm not

sure.

Mr. KILLION: Okay. Maybe we can -- this was sent to us by the Treasurer, so we can certainly get that --

Commissioner LYONS: Because it's by JoAnne?

Mr. KILLION: Excuse me?

Mr. OHMAN: Yes, she brought it to us.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Maybe we can get an answer for you and give these guys a chance to look that up.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Find out what the document is. Sorry. So it's the two thousand -- at the end of 2014?

Mr. KILLION: Correct. It's entitled General Fund revenues. It's comparing FY budget with FY actual and obviously the difference.

Administrator BRILLHART: We'll get that info.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Linda, did you have a question?

Ms. ZUERN: I just had a question about the reserves that we're talking about, the reserves and -- is that in a special account? And how is that shown on the budget? In Bourne, we have a Stabilization account and a Reserve and it's based on percentage of the total budget. So I don't know where to find those figures.

Administrator BRILLHART: Mr. Speaker/Delegates, we do have a number of Stabilization Funds and they're broken down according to various topics. As an example, we have a legal reserve. We have an insurance reserve. We have an early retirement liability reserve, a project stabilization reserve. All of these funds are established in specific stabilization accounts and they are not touched.

In other words, the County doesn't use those for expenditures of anything within the capital budget. They've just been set aside in case of an emergency. And in case of an emergency, they would have to come back to both boards for approval of any transition of funds out of those accounts.

Ms. ZUERN: Will we get that information next week on how much is in each reserve account?

Administrator BRILLHART: Yes.

Speaker BERGSTROM: John, do you have a question?

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that they came before us to show us, and I'm grateful you gave us these numbers. I know that there's updated ones coming any day now for the seven-month period and that will be equally helpful.

But we're going to run a structural deficit, especially with the Registry of Deeds. Have you identified any places that we can, right now with the Commissioners, help right the ship and get back to a smaller deficit or no deficit at all? Have you identified any savings, new hires, anything?

Administrator BRILLHART: We realize that on the revenue side, within the Registry of Deeds' fees we're going to come in probably short. We'll know exactly over the next couple of months. So what we're doing is we're looking at the expenditure side more than the revenue side. We're making sure that we're cutting back on expenditures, capital projects, or debt service haven't moved forward. We're doing everything that we can to keep costs in line at the department level, such that when we get a better idea as to what the revenues are that we can have a better idea on handling those.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Doc.

Mr. O'MALLEY: A question on these reserve --

Mr. LEWIS: Turn your mic on. Turn your mic on.

Mr. O'MALLEY: Sorry. Right. On these reserve funds, it seems to me it would be of interest to know where each of those stood over the past three/four years. In other words, are we draining them down or are we building them up as we'd like to be doing? Is that information that could be made available?

Administrator BRILLHART: Yes, we can do that. But as previously mentioned the County has not drawn any funds out of those Stabilization Fund accounts. In fact, one or two of them have been developed over the last three years as an example.

There's a project stabilization fund in the amount of 500,000 that was created two budget years ago, none has been touched, none of the funds out of any of these stabilization accounts have been touched.

But I will get you a synopsis on where those accounts have stood over the last few fiscal years.

Mr. O'MALLEY: Thank you, very much.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, following up on that, the \$11 million that we have that is basically our checking account as we pay expenditures and revenues come in, have you had a chance to review that over the last let's say few years? I mean has it dropped down to five? Does it stay at 10? Is that enough? Is it too much? Any idea; do you know?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I think because it fluctuates every week/every month. You'd have to take a snapshot at various times. You could do it on June 30. That may show some trend but --

Speaker BERGSTROM: No, I'm looking at over/under. I'm looking at saying, gees, you know, in May of 2012 it was down to five. In other words, how far have we gone down? And you know if you find you only went down to nine, you know, over the last five years, well, that's could be a million that you could use for some other purpose.

And nothing else comes out of that account. I mean there's a lot of revenue streams that go through the County checking account, but basically what we're talking about is the County budget as we get it that comes out of that checking account. Okay. That's all I wanted to make sure on.

And the other thing is, so following up on John's question, my concern was that while we were reviewing the fiscal 2016 budget you guys are not going to come to us with Ordinances and so on to shift things around. I know you can't say at this point, but right now you're not anticipating -- nothing specific you anticipate coming before us and saying we need to take this money out of reserves and put it over there.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I don't think the reserves would be touched. There may be some other transfers.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Transfers.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: But I don't believe from reserves that where we're going is to make -- like go to the Stabilization Fund or go to some other fund, no.

Speaker BERGSTROM: So you're aiming at this point to go within the budget one way or another with minor transfers between departments?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes, sir.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Suzanne, did you have your hand up?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I think one of the things that is confusing is that there aren't that many accounts. I think there's sort of like one big checkbook and all the money's coming in and getting spent out of it. So there's no -- there may be some comingling going on. But I think that's part of our problem. I think we're far more used to having specific enterprise funds or accounts for different things.

So it's part of our job to clampdown on, well, was there unexpended funds from this department or this project or this grant and it all getting kind of thrown into the \$11 million account, not all of it, but a lot of it. I think that kind of can lead to confusion.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Sheila I can recognize you. We haven't convened yet.

Commissioner LYONS: May I?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, so you can say whatever you want.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Mic. Use the mic so they can hear you.

Commissioner LYONS: You know, I agree and I think that the problem, and I'm learning as much as you are as we go along because, Number 1, I'm studying this right now, but it's also, you know, I'm able to kind of put what I'm learning into practice here.

But you know really it's trends that we really need to look at, not snapshots because a snapshot is not telling you what's been in and what's, you know, you're just seeing a snapshot as opposed to the trends.

And I look at this 11 million, you know we all have our own budget. We have our utilities and our cable, and we have our insurance payment and our car payment, we have all these things; we don't have a separate checkbook for each of those. We have them in our bank account and we write out different checks on that. And then our paycheck comes in and it replenishes.

So our balance looks different but we sort of know what we have to pay for that month. And it's very much the same thing. This is for the checking account that you have to keep a certain amount of funds in to get a certain rate, so you have that solvent. And then you have this cash. But what goes in should be coming out. And I do think that we can look at trends of that account over the last several years, and then you will see that it is a rotating checkbook just to have to be able to do daily payments and expenses. But it's basically how we would run our own.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Except that we don't have someone approving our budgets. And that's just our frustration.

Commissioner LYONS: No, I understand.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: We get papers. We study them. We spend hours going over budgets. We listen to people, and we have some faith that that's what's going on. And I think that's just what we want to be sure of is that what we're voting is actually what happened.

Commissioner LYONS: You know, there were many mistakes made and for many years ahead of me and you. And we can't do anything about those. They were all made with decisions and approved by some people on this board that were there then and maybe some of them aren't here today.

So people did what they thought was best at the time. We find out differently,

and we're all working to make sure we're all doing the right thing.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I guess what I'm wondering about, I mean I understand the idea of these reserves are specifically set aside for purposes, you know, legal reserves and so on.

About the \$11 million, if I had \$11,000 in my bank account just to pay bills, and I looked up all of my bank statements over the last five years and I said, you know, Ron, that \$11,000 never dipped down below nine. I mean I paid -- the electric bill came in; I paid it. Then I got a paycheck and so on.

After a while I would say, hey, here's that trip to Mexico I wanted to make, you know, I have a little reserve. So I'm wondering if why 11 million in the account? Why not 20? Why not 4?

Commissioner LYONS: Do you remember when this body -- Julie was the one that really fought this when on my years on here. You balance the budget with your reserves. There was all kinds of things going on and that was when you had surpluses.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Commissioner LYONS: And gave it away. Just gave it away. So these are all --

Speaker BERGSTROM: We used it for purposes outside of the normal purposes that we would use it.

Commissioner LYONS: Exactly, and that we were probably even legal to use it.... So these are all practices that many, many people participated in and the more we dig down, the more we can see where it's the presentation that makes it look funny. But mistakes were made and we're, unfortunately, playing catch-up over the last several years over that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you. Yes, John.

Mr. OHMAN: Thank you once again, Mr. Speaker. The three bright spots I see -- well, actually four, I would like to know if there really are as bright as they look on this sheet.

One is Regional Services. It appears that we budgeted \$924,000 and we've only spent 10 percent of that. Is that going to be unspent further on in this budget cycle or is that a place that we can see some savings? Number 260 on the original Budget Fiscal 14 as of 12/30. Its fiscal '15, I think, but in other words right now. Item 260, I think it's on page 1 of the four pages.

Commissioner LYONS: Yes.

Mr. OHMAN: Number 260. It says that we've only spent 9.7 percent of 924,000; is that a potential place for helping balance the budget or there will be some exorbitant expenditures going forward? We've only spent \$89,000 of it after six months.

Administrator BRILLHART: I have to look at that.

Mr. OHMAN: And the second one is Number 560, Water Quality Initiatives. We budgeted 427,000; we've only spent 32. Is that something that's going to be --

Commissioner LYONS: Some of that --

Mr. OHMAN: So I'm looking for a bright spot. I'm wondering if I'm just looking with rose-colored glasses?

Commissioner LYONS: Money not yet spent. We still have several months.

Mr. OHMAN: In Facilities, that might be under the capital plan. You're holding all the money on facilities because that's a million down on the capital side.

It's the actual number after six months that we've actually spent, right? Because that's what the sheet indicates.

But with half of the year gone and these are notable exceptions on the monies that have not been spent yet, I mean I'm looking for a bright side to this. I just wondered if I was looking through rose-colored glasses?

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Can I bring some light to that one?

Mr. OHMAN: Absolutely.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Commissioner LYONS: But then we're going to stay out of the spotlight.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: I asked those specific questions, to the Assembly member from Dennis. And the only one that I got an answer on was the Water Quality Task Force one, and that has to be wrong because there is a coordinator there that gets paid on a monthly basis. And I believe the salary for the year is around \$70,000, and that's not even -- if you do the numbers, that's not even reflected in that sheet.

Mr. OHMAN: Right.

Commissioner CAKOUNES: And there was some water quality testing done and there is going to be some done in the spring. So some of that money is expected to be expended.

So, I would not label it personally as a bright spot. I would label it as an area that we should be looking at.

And if I may, Mr. Speaker, I would just put my two cents into this. I can't thank you enough for having this conversation. I, unlike my colleagues and even the gentleman that are sitting next to me, do not believe that things are as rosy as they appear to be.

And I have some really personal concerns on the FY '15 budget. And I believe that when we're told that we should be looking at trends, I agree with that. The unfortunate thing if you look at trends, we have not been bringing in the revenues that we have been expected to bring in or budgeted to bring in; you can go back as far as 2011 that, to me, is a trend.

And if that's the case, we really should be looking very closely at not only now -- I'm not the one to tell you to wait another month, two months, or three months to get some answers to the budget that we're in now. I'm concerned that we don't do this sooner rather than later. I don't want to wait. And these two gentlemen have been doing that work, and I give them a lot of credit for that.

I wish the Commissioners had taken a vote to give them some more authority or give them some more concern from the Commissioners' level, but I tried that and it didn't go anywhere.

But I do want to say that as you look forward into 2017 -- 16's budget too though, the information that we're going to gather from this, we really should be doing our due diligence to make sure that our next budget process is also done correctly.

If, in fact, there are these areas that consistently return funds to the County, those should be brought to our attention so that we don't fund them in 2016.

I'm one for, you know, actual funding and actual balancing of a budget. And if that's the case, then maybe we need to find out where these areas are especially if they're consistent.

But I know the Delegate from Truro mentioned that while there's certain

things that aren't done, and that's how some of that money that was allocated for that balances the budget, I'm kind of not sure if that is not what's been going on because it's not clear in the way we've been budgeting what actual items are considered capital expenditures and are considered to be bonded.

I had to, as I said to you before, I had to put a lot of time into it and so didn't these two gentlemen to go into the budget and kind of backup to find out what was supposed to be bonded as opposed to being spent out of free cash. It's in there, but you have to work very hard to do it.

And I'm just hoping that as we move forward we change our process and we do things a little differently.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Leo, the famous, "The moving pencil writes and moves on." So --

Commissioner CAKOUNES: Well, again, I just thank you guys very much for doing this, and I just want you to know that I personally am concerned of FY 15's budget. And I think that if we do show the trends that we did from last year's budget, as which was explained to you, we're running very close to last year, then I project, and this is a personal projection, that we're going to come up about 700,000 shy. And that has to be made up somewhere, and if that's made up with either revenues that have not been expended or, you know, for example there is money in the budget for bonding of 250,000, well, we know we're not going spend that because even if we would go out for bond now, you're only looking at interest two months as opposed to 12 months. So there's savings there. And those savings would, in turn, be, what, allocated to make up the shortfall? This is the information that I would like to make sure that you get because I'm going to be asking for it.

But thank you. Thank you for doing this; I really appreciate it, believe me. And I want to thank these gentlemen too because both of them have been doing an absolutely great job as far as I'm concerned.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, I'd like to echo that. I mean I can't say what's going on with 2015, but Bob and Michael have given us assurances that they've looked at how the budget is going to be presented, which is something the Assembly has been looking at. For very selfish reasons, we want to understand it.

I mean, you know, so if you are going to separate the capital expenditures into large bonding issues and things like a building rather than a typewriter, that would really go a long way in making a lesson for all of us.

And I know that the Commissioners will approve a budget and send it to us on the 18th. Their job will be done until they hear from us again. Okay. So then we will take it and we'll see what we're going to do. All right.

Yes, Doc.

Mr. O'MALLEY: Mr. Speaker, if I could ask concerning the Capital Improvement Program Budget for the Health & Environment and with a Cooperative Extension and Information Technology, it's broken out into a timeline over the next five years.

However, the Facilities is all budgeted under FY '16, you know, and that looks like a \$1.24 million -- why is that not broken out over the next number of years? That looks like a place where we've got --

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: I think the issue was on facilities.

Mr. Tebo was concerned with what the authority or what the direction from the Commissioners was going to be as far as long-term.

The things that you see in FY '15 and '16 were one time -- if you want to take a snapshot of these are the things we really need. There are some ongoing discussions with the Commissioners saying -- thinking of doing something with the County Complex and that's why the Administrator has held on all bonding for facilities for this year.

Not a good explanation and it should be -- it would be preferable to be spreading those out over a period of five years so there's not an impact in one year. But those for '16, the estimate was those are the things that were really needed. They were very necessary.

And then once the study is done as far as the County Complex, then Mr. Tebo could then go further and say, well, if I'm getting new buildings, I don't need the maintenance on X, Y, Z. So he would recast that for future years.

Mr. O'MALLEY: So these are the priority projects you're saying?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes, sir.

Mr. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: For '16.

Mr. O'MALLEY: For '16.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Yes, sir; '15 is in flux at the moment based upon the Administrator's directive.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Ed.

Mr. LEWIS: Here we go. Just a quick question for the rest of the Assembly. Have you gone over this entire Facilities Capital Budget as all needed for in the next year? Because that's an awful lot of stuff regardless of how you finance it. That's an awful lot of stuff to do in one year.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Right.

Mr. LEWIS: It just doesn't appear to me, from my limited experience with -- in Brewster that you can do that much work in one year. Number 1, that's one.

And Number 2, it appears to be a laundry list of what everybody wants, and if that's all needed, that's fine. But I think hopefully the Commissioners and you two gentlemen will look at it and prioritize it because you're not going to do that in one year. That's crazy.

Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: I guess that's it. I can leave it at that, but just preliminarily --

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Patrick.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Oh, okay. Patrick.

Mr. PRINCI: Just a very quick question. The ARC purchase at 250,000 is that consider a capital improvement?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: It could be; yes, sir. That would be a bondable item for purchase of property.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Have you got a ballpark figure on what you're looking for a bond as far as numbers? In other words, to gather all this previously bonded stuff together, together with what we may project we need in the future and go out, would you go out with a single bond to bond this money?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Probably not. We would probably

do three. We don't know what '16 is going to do, so we would do that in '16 obviously.

In '15, that number needs to be refined and we would do a bond anticipation note and then the regular bonding for the projects that are going to be approved for '15. We're still working on this prior 5 or 6 million, whatever is in. Most likely we'll do that in phases because we will not be able to -- if you had to do 6 million plus another 2, plus another 2, that's a pretty steep principal and interest payment.

So were trying to keep it reasonable so that in the first year you would have the 265,000 which has been appropriated, a portion of that based on half of the fiscal year being gone. And then in the next year another 265-plus to do the 2 million out of the 6 and then the maybe 2 million that's going to be ending up by '15.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yeah. Is there any Department of Revenue requirements on bonding that suggests that you can only, for instance, you can't bond for less than a certain amount of time. In other words, you can't bond for something that's only going to last five years; you can't bond for 10 years. I mean you're not on any kind of restrictions as to how --

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: There are restrictions. In my reading of the Ordinance, you have told us we can only bond for 10 years for FY '15, which I would believe you, is a little short, frankly. I don't think you go bond '15 but some of the items -- but within that, some of the items would only be five years. And there is a schedule within any bonding based upon what bond counsel recommends.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: But a maximum of 15 for be for 10 years.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, I think you've covered it. We're going to see you again in two weeks, so you're not out of the -- off the hook yet. So we'll get you again.

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: We look forward to coming back.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Really?

Interim Finance Director BOB LAWTON: Oh absolutely. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have any Communications from Public Officials? Hearing none.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Communications from Members of the Public?

Assembly Convenes

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. The Assembly will now convene, and we will discuss the first item on the agenda. It's Proposed Resolution 15-02 to direct County Commissioners to level-funded FY '16 budget.

And I will turn this over to the submitters, Patrick Princi and James Killion, whoever wants to take this.

Proposed Resolution 15-02: To direct the Barnstable County Commissioners and all county department heads to level fund the FY 2016 budget.
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
Proclaims:

With a revenue deficit in the FY 2014 budget exceeding \$700,000 and a revenue deficit in the FY 2015 budget projected to exceed \$700,000, all budget requests submitted to the Assembly for FY 2016 shall not exceed FY 2015 spending levels.

Mr. PRINCI: Sure. It's pretty self-explanatory as it reads. It just basically says that -- it reiterates more like what we've been hearing for the past.

It's basically just reiterating everything that I've been hearing since I've become an Assembly member about a term and a half ago. And it's one of these issues whereas, you know, the revenues aren't getting any better. And that last year they weren't where they should be; this year they're not where they should be. And we have a small budget. It's a \$28 million budget. And it simply said level funding. Keep it as is. No increases in this department or that department.

And I think it's in our interest to begin to start that process as we go forward. I mean we've got a lot on the plate here, and I'm certainly not opposed to if the anticipated revenues are coming in higher than anticipated to entertaining any supplementals in future years.

I think this is a matter that shows fiscal responsibility. It might make the task of the County Commissioners a little bit more difficult. However, their job already is extremely difficult as we just saw, but I think it's a fiscal responsible measure to take. It's not as if the County Commissioners really don't -- they won't likely do anything with this. They have two weeks to submit their budget. But it just does send a message, and I know that I heard that from my colleague from Falmouth is, you know, why do we have to keep sending messages and so forth? But it's important.

I come from the biggest town on the Cape, and we do get plenty of services from the County. A lot of the smaller towns get services from the County. However, if we don't maintain our budget and live within our means, we could be in some jeopardy in the future.

Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes.

Mr. KILLION: Just to continue with that conversation as we saw here today with the Administrator and Acting Finance Director, there is a little bit of uncertainty about our revenues. And I think this is good fiscal discipline. I've only been here, this is my fifth budget and I've been in on many sub-committee meetings where an individual is giving a revenue projection and he's typically overruled by the gentleman who's going to be spending the money.

And we run into shortfalls I think now going on close to four years. It might've been one year when it was fairly even.

But I think it's important to give this message to the County that we prioritize where we want to spend. And as Mr. Princi illustrated, certainly if our revenues improve and the financial health of the County improves, we can entertain some spending the revenues at that time.

But I think it's important for us to recognize that we do have a problem, and clearly the method that we've been using to project our revenues is flawed and we need

to correct that.

And I think this is a foot in the right direction of doing that. This isn't some sort of austerity measure by any means. We're not trying to cut anything. We're just saying let's look at this from a couple different angles here. Let's say, okay, we're going to level fund from the budget; we know we can afford that. And going forward as our revenues improve, we continue to address the needs and prioritize them accordingly.

As we just saw here today, there really isn't a lot of dispute that there's a revenue shortfall, but there seems to be a reluctance on the part of the County Commissioners to look at the budget, the '15 budget and make some cuts now while we can avoid, perhaps, some issues later on down the road.

But this allows us to give us more control because people are going to be more likely to come to us looking for supplemental appropriations when the money comes in versus trying to take it away from them sometime in the middle of the year.

So I hope you'll support the Delegate from Barnstable and myself on this measure to try to tell people that this is a serious matter and this is a responsible step in our budget process. Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Do we have anybody? John, do you want to start?

Mr. OHMAN: Yes. My concern on this is this is too broad a directive. There's a lot of moving parts to a budget. I have been fortunate enough and watched with admiration of Mr. Cakounes' ability to dissect the budget and really work hard to keep it under control.

I think this budget's going to come in under the \$28 million. I don't think it's going to be an issue this year, frankly. Even with the increased healthcare spending and everything like that. I think we're going to come in under.

I just think this is too broad of a directive to give them. I think that we should give them some leeway. And if they come in too high, we'll cut it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Mr. OHMAN: And I'll be happy to entertain any thoughts on that as the Chairman of Finance.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: Yes. I mean we could really simplify our lives by passing this and just saying okay, that's it; we don't need to -- there's really no point in reviewing the budget then. We know what level funding means and this would be simple, very, very, very simple.

But I would prefer that people thought a little bit out-of-the-box. Yeah, I mean, Leo, do I always agree with him? But I think he might be capable of stirring up a little bit of trouble. And maybe some things should be eliminated. Maybe we shouldn't be spending money on some things. Maybe we should be spending much more money on other things. Level funding? Now that's kind of childish to me.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. I'd just like to say that, of course, I -- but there's a few of us here that have had to deal with town budgets; I know Linda has and myself, and Suzanne, and both Ed Lewis and Ed McManus. And the first thing that they tell you when they give you the bad news is that before you consider any spending, here's the increases that automatically occur each year: healthcare costs, step increases, labor contracts that are built into the budget.

In other words, you know, I want you to understand that level funding the

budget doesn't mean we're going to do everything that we did last year. Level funding means we're going to have to cut somewhere to cover the increase in salary increases or so on. Now salary increases aren't mandated, but normally people get step increases. They get cost-of-living allowances. I don't know if the County has any contractual obligations to its employees or not. But healthcare cost is something we can control. And its retirement benefits and maintenance of efforts, so there are automatic increases built into every budget that are out of our control. And in order to level fund the budget, we would have to cut something that we're doing now.

The alternative to that we'd simply say we're going to stay with what we're doing now. We'll accept whatever automatic increases come with the salary increases and so on, healthcare costs, and we won't do anything else. We're not going to buy another typewriter or stuff.

So I agree with John, this is a broad statement and it really has to be looked into if we're going to understand what's going on.

Yes, Ed.

Mr. LEWIS: Yes, I tend to agree with what the Delegate from Falmouth said. I'd like to give the Commissioners the opportunity, through the budget, give the two gentlemen behind Leo an opportunity to do the budget.

I don't like directives that come down and eliminate the responsibility that we may have as an Assembly to go through a budget and see what we want to spend, what we don't want to spend, and just automatically say because there's been a deficit we've got a new budget process that's been described by Mr. Lawton.

And I think that when you give directives it's not a good message to send to the people who are doing the budget. You're sort of telling them that they don't know what they're doing and this is it.

I think it's the wrong message, and I don't support it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Doc

Mr. O'MALLEY: Coming up here today, I was inclined to support this for the reasons that I've heard over the last couple of meetings about the declining revenues and the shortfalls each year.

But listening to what the Delegate from Falmouth has just said, it seems to me that in certain ways abrogates our responsibility to direct funding to the programs that need to be done. That's a decision that really rests here in this body. Where does the money need to be spent and where could it be held back?

So as I come around, I think I'm not going to support this. I think it is -- it's appealing in the notion of maintaining budget imbalance. I think we have to do that by -- do that creatively and deliberately, item at a time, section at a time.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Deborah.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: You know, I tend to agree with Delegate O'Malley. I like this approach in part because it starts us looking at entitlement theories. As someone who bargained for many, many years for labor unions in public sector, I no longer support the idea that public employees are to every year get a guaranteed raise. I think that -- it puts an unconscionable burden.

But leaving that aside, what we had done in my experience over the years I've been on this Assembly is we grasped and complained about the budget and then we passed it. And we've gone through to committee hearings where we unanimously

support the budget. And we don't cut anything; we don't challenge anything.

Last year, we did challenge something and it caused a big brouhaha, but I think it was worthwhile to do it. And I think that we abrogate our job to look at each of these budgets and to consider what we would recommend be eliminated, what things should be funded in other ways, how capital improvements -- this is our job, and I think we need to do it.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, Suzanne.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Being on a regional school committee for 16 years was under the gun to keep the budget, I'm not afraid of hearing things like spending freeze, level services, level funding, knowing that level funding does not mean level services.

And I think that what it does is it laser focuses the people who are in charge of the money to spend it on what they view is a priority. I'm not sure that this body really has the time or the -- I guess we think we have the authority to go in and gain line item access to budgets where we think this one should have \$80,000 as opposed to \$50,000.

And with all due respect to the current Commissioners, I think that we know that there have been budgeting issues that have not been the way we would like them to be over the last several years. I'm not saying anything's wrong because I have approved the last two budgets. But I am saying that I don't believe that the current Commissioners really have the kind of the depth of knowledge of some of the things that I would like them to have that we are all beginning to understand and that we are all beginning to get.

That's why I don't see anything wrong with putting a limit on a budget as a goal for them to really focus in on what's important, what they need, or what they don't need.

I see ARC coming up with \$250,000, and I don't know, you know, where we're going to get that. I see that the home consortium needing another hundred-something thousand, and I don't know where we're going to get that.

So I'm not sure that unless you send a message that we want to hold expenses down and we will deal with priorities in a supplemental fashion, I don't see that it's going to really occur this year. And that's why I would support this Resolution.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Well, yes, Pat.

Mr. PRINCI: I just want to just comment on a couple of things that were said. First of all, as far as childish goes, to me, childish is just spending money that you don't have.

And regarding Doctor O'Malley's comments, I think I agree with him in that sense. Despite us passing this, we're still going to -- this is us saying we want it level funded, and it's likely to come back to us not level-funded, and then we are going to get a chance in the committee process to get very creative.

I've already begun trying to think of some maneuvers and so forth through the human service budget to try and save money and get that in check. And I'm sure a lot of the other committees are going to be doing the same thing.

So, basically, this here, the Assembly of Delegates saying we're in trouble. We need to be cautious with our spending, and we feel that that's the right thing to do at this point. And we'll certainly get the opportunity through our budget process to make changes and recommendations that we feel that -- Thanks.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Yes, go ahead, Jim.

Mr. KILLION: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to echo the sentiments

of the Delegate from Yarmouth. And I recognize that the County hires some very talented people running these departments, and they're far more qualified than I think most of us here are to decide what their priorities are in spending. We can't judge any better if the IT department needs more computers or more servers. I think this just sends them a message to say look, this is the situation we're in. You're the ones who need to decide what are the priorities from a financial point of view and give us your recommendations. It's easy to sit here on the committee and sort of throw these things around as we've done in the past, but it's very hard for us to recognize and prioritize things for these departments. These are the professionals that the County hired. This is what they do. We should rely on them to help us or guide us to make sure that we get a budget that's balanced.

Thank you.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. I'd just like to say because our next meeting is going to begin the budget process, and even if we take two approaches; we can take the approach that both Jim and Pat are suggesting and simply say, okay, here's where we want to level fund the budget.

Now you've got to remember the Commissioners and the Administrator are going to come to us with a number. That number's going to represent their projected revenues for the next year. So we're going to have to accept that number or we're going to have to say you missed the mark in the past and we're not going to accept that, and we're going to go towards a different number.

But speaking from my position here as Speaker, it's going to be you're all going to get the budget and if there are recommendations to limit some spending, they should be made specifically. In other words, toward the end of the budget process when the budget presents to us, rather than come out and say, you know, I think that IT budget is too high, let's bang it around for a while. Somebody should say I'm going to put this amendment on the table to cut X number of dollars from this line item and then return it. Because otherwise, unless we do that, it becomes a long protracted process.

So I mean I don't care if I get 50 amendments. I'll go through them like they do in the Massachusetts House and they just gavel them all through. We'll take votes on them, but I'm hoping that we are specific with our comments and that if there are changes to be made in the budget, those changes are presented in the form of an amendment to the main Ordinance which would be the budget Ordinance; do you understand?

Julia.

Ms. TAYLOR: I just wanted to apologize. I didn't mean -- I shouldn't have used the word "childish." I certainly mean to say the Delegates proposing this were.

I would say I don't think this is an imaginative way to do it or a sophisticated way to do it. I don't know that we've always been good at that, being imaginative and sophisticated, but I think that we've all at various times in budgeting taken a tough position. I've done it over using reserves in the past and others have too.

And I just would like to -- I just don't think this is our best way to approach this. I think it's very -- I think we've given the message with the questions before this and now.

But I do apologize. I should not have said that. I didn't really mean that.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All right. So we got a motion to put this Resolution on the floor; right? I might've missed on that. I asked you to explain it but I didn't ask

you to put it on the floor.

Mr. PRINCI: I'll move Proposed Resolution 15-02.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Okay. I'll call for a voice vote on this.

Roll Call Vote on Proposed Resolution 15-01 as amended:

Voting YES (51.60%): James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02% - Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

Voting NO (39.18%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Ned Hitchcock (1.27% - Wellfleet), Edward Lewis (4.55% - Brewster), Teresa Martin (2.30% - Eastham), Edward McManus (5.67% - Harwich), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Julia Taylor (14.61% - Falmouth).

Absent (9.22%): Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Marcia King (6.49% - Mashpee).

Clerk O'CONNELL: Mr. Speaker, Proposed Resolution 15-02 passes with 51.60 percent voting yes; 39.18 percent no; 9.22 percent absent. Now known as Resolution 15-02.

Whereupon, it was moved, seconded and by a roll call vote with 51.60 percent voting "yes";

VOTED:

To direct the Barnstable County Commissioners and all county department heads to level fund the FY 2016 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE,

***BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED* that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates Proclaims:**

With a revenue deficit in the FY 2014 budget exceeding \$700,000 and a revenue deficit in the FY 2015 budget projected to exceed \$700,000, all budget requests submitted to the Assembly for FY 2016 shall not exceed FY 2015 spending levels.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All Ordinances and Resolutions have to pass by 50.01 percent with a minimum of eight delegates in the room. That's for the new Delegates.

Okay. We've moving right along. We have a Health and Human Services committee meeting?

Committee Minutes/Reports

Mr. PRINCI: Did everyone receive the minutes from the meeting? Is there a motion?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Move the minutes.

Mr. PRINCI: Is there a second?

Mr. O'MALLEY: Second.

Mr. PRINCI: Okay. All on the committee that were present and those in favor “Aye”

(Minutes passed.)

Report from the Clerk

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay. Report from the Clerk.

Clerk O’CONNELL: Yes, I wanted to remind the people who participated at the MMA Conference that they submit their receipts as soon as possible.

And I also want to let everyone know that in your folder I placed a list of committee membership, including alternates, and I also produced a list of assignments for committee meetings to review the budget that hopefully we are going to get on the 18th of February.

As you can see, it’s no different than previous years. We start with the Wednesday after the second meeting of the Assembly and roll through everything until we get to March 25, which will be the date that the chairs will meet.

April 1 will be the date of the public hearing. And then on April 15 will be the Assembly vote on a budget. Now that’s two weeks earlier than we voted on the budget last year, and I don’t think it can get better than that. That allows some time for some possible train wrecks along the way. And that’s it.

So once the budget gets delivered, I will be delivering that list to the Selectmen of your communities. It will get posted on the Web, and everyone will be in the know, and I think we accomplished it and we’re all good with it; right?

Speaker BERGSTROM: Don’t press your luck. Yes.

Ms. MCAULIFFE: I’ve been giving the Speaker a lot of grief over the schedule because it’s very challenging to get to meetings sometimes when they’re not on scheduled days.

But I really appreciate the hard work that the Clerk does and the difficulty of getting 15 people going in 15 different directions together with County staff.

So I’m going to just back away from this. And if I can’t make meetings, I can’t make meetings, which is something I’m not used to doing but that’s just the way it’s going to be.

But I appreciate all the work you do. It’s got to be like a Rubik’s Cube. And thank you.

Other Business

Speaker BERGSTROM: Is there any other business to be brought before the Assembly? Yes, Pat.

Mr. PRINCI: Just a quick note for everyone, there’s a chocolate festival in Osterville this weekend. There’s not much going on right now this time of year. It’s from 11 to 2. Some great Valentine’s Day gifts and lots of chocolate, prizes, all --

Ms. MCAULIFFE: When?

Mr. PRINCI: This Saturday from 11 to 2 on Main Street, Osterville.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Ed.

Mr. MCMANUS: Well, another event that is dear to my heart is the Annual

Boat Builders Show at the conference center hotel, wherever that is on Scudder Lane. It's a very good show. We have some very talented local craftsmen have their boats and they're real pretty.

But in any event, additionally, next a week from Friday, the Selectmen's Association is scheduled to take up the issue of beach erosion, which we've been whacked pretty good over the last couple weeks. And I know some people will be making comments about that. It might be an interesting program for those of you who can attend.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Okay.

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Motion to adjourn.

Speaker BERGSTROM: Motion to adjourn; do I hear a second?

Ms. MCAULIFFE: Second.

Speaker BERGSTROM: All those in favor? "Aye" Opposed?

Whereupon, it was moved, seconded, and voted to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates