

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Report of the Standing Committee on Finance
Proposed Ordinance 17-05
April 5, 2017

Dear Madame Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

This is a report on Proposed Ordinance 17-05. The proposed ordinance was submitted to the Assembly of Delegates by the Board of Regional Commissioners at the Assembly of Delegates regular meeting on March 15, 2017. A public hearing was scheduled and held by the Standing Committee on Finance on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Assembly of Delegates Chamber Hall, First District Courthouse Route 6A, Barnstable, Massachusetts. The public hearing was duly advertised in the Cape Cod Times on March 29, 2017.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to add to the County's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2017, as enacted in Ordinance No. 16-06, by making a supplemental appropriation for legal expenses in the amount of \$50,000 appropriated from the Statutory Reserve amounts for FY2017 as a supplemental appropriation for Barnstable County for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, two thousand and seventeen. Said funds shall be derived from the Legal Reserve Fund.

Committee members present: Chairman Ronald Bergstrom, Edward Lewis, John Ohman, and Patrick Princi. Deborah McCutcheon was absent.

John Ohman motioned, and it was seconded, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Chairman Ronald Bergstrom opened the committee meeting and the public hearing.

Finance Director Mary McIsaac explained that the funding request is for legal funding for the county general fund and is not specifically related to the Fire Training Academy legal negotiations. It was explained that funding would be used by the county for general legal matters for the remainder of FY17. Any money left in the fund at the end of the year would go to fund balance.

The hourly rate paid by the country depends upon the specific law firms that are used by the county. Expenses related to employee issues and other legal matters could result in increased legal services and expenses for the county. There are times when special counsel is needed for special issues and matters. There have also been instances when pro-bono legal services have been provided for Children's Cove.

The county only has one county counsel. In FY16 \$111,000 was spent on legal expenses and \$80,000 was budgeted for FY17. Proposed for FY18 is \$95,000.

There were no comments or questions from the public. The public hearing was closed by the Chairman at 1:45 p.m.

Edward Lewis motioned, and it was seconded, to close the public hearing. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Edward Lewis motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend Proposed Ordinance 17-05 for \$50,000 legal services funding, as submitted, to the full Assembly. Motion carried 4-0-0.

**Standing Committee on Finance
Report on Public Hearing for Proposed Ordinance 17-05**

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Respectfully submitted:

Ronald Bergstrom, Chairman
Edward Lewis
John Ohman
Patrick Princi