

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Report and Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance
Proposed Ordinance 15-07
September 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

This is a report on Proposed Ordinance 15-07. The proposed ordinance was submitted to the Assembly of Delegates by the Board of Regional Commissioners at the Assembly of Delegates regular meeting on August 19, 2015. A public hearing was scheduled and held by the Standing Committee on Finance on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 3:15 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 August 26, 2015.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance was to add to the County's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2016, as enacted in ordinance 15-02, by making supplemental appropriations for the Fiscal Year two-thousand and sixteen for the water quality monitoring, assessment and remediation at the Barnstable County Fire and Rescue Training Academy in the amount of \$232,000.

Committee members present: Chairman John Ohman, James Killion (alternate), and Suzanne McAuliffe.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded, to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Chair John Ohman opened the committee meeting for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on Proposed Ordinance 15-07. Interim Finance Director Bob Lawton and Cape Cod Commission Watershed Management Director Tom Cambareri were present to answer questions regarding the funding request of \$232,000.

A short summary was provided that stated the \$232,000 is being requested from the General Fund Non-Restricted Project Stabilization Reserve (which currently had \$500,000 available) to fund a portion of the clean-up process at the Barnstable Fire Training Academy site for FY 2016 to date. If approved the funds will be used to continue the pond and groundwater assessment on the site, operate and maintain the treatment facility, continue soil analysis, treat the "hot spot" contamination, and continue the monitoring of this problem. A draft budget was provided. James Killion brought attention to the fact that the budget provided did not add up. Tom Cambareri will correct the error and forward an updated budget to the Clerk for distribution.

Suzanne McAuliffe asked how many phases this project is anticipated to have. Tom Cambareri indicated there would be a number of anticipated projects but at this point professional help is needed to continue with the assessment. The \$232,000 will be used to start a pilot assessment but other money may be requested as the project goes on. There are some unknowns. However, this assessment must be done regardless of whether or not the Fire Training Academy shuts down.

John Ohman asked if the source of the contamination could be identified. Tom Cambareri said the source has been identified and it came from the Fire Training Academy. "Foam" has been identified (as an emerging containment – with an associated health advisory) as the source and consideration may be given to a shared cost responsibility with towns that used this product at the academy training site. Separate from this issue, Tom Cambareri indicated there are other issues and other sources of contamination that will not be associated with or be the financial responsibility of the County.

Separate from the \$232,000, the Town of Barnstable is also looking for restitution for the remediation that has already been done at the site. However, the town is satisfied with the plan that is being put forward by the County regarding the site assessment.

It was suggested that suspending water use at the Fire Training Academy may lessen the spread of the soil contamination. It is unknown and needs a scientific determination. The area of the site where the “hot spot” is located has a restricted use zone.

There were no other comments. Chairman John Ohman closed the public hearing at 3:45 p.m.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded, to recommend Proposed Ordinance 15-07 for this phase of the assessment to the full Assembly. Motion carried. 3-0-0.

Suzanne McAuliffe motioned, and it was seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

John Ohman, Chairman
James Killion (alternate)
Suzanne McAuliffe