

BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 19, 2014

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Mr. Ron Bergstrom, Speaker
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
Barnstable County Complex
Barnstable, Massachusetts, 02630

Dear Mr. Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

In accordance with Article 5 - Fiscal Procedures of the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter - the Barnstable County Commissioners hereby submit the Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget. The recommended total County budget for fiscal year 2015 is \$28,471,756. Revenues supporting this level of expenditure are derived from County General Fund revenues in the amount of \$18,195,831, general obligation bond funds in the amount of \$2,760,100, Cape Cod Commission Fund revenues in the amount of \$3,997,184, grant funds in the amount of \$1,934,600, License Plate funds in the amount of \$50,227, and other revenue sources in the amount of \$1,533,814.

The FY 2015 budget proposal identifies several priority areas for funding and preserves vital ongoing programs and services. Key priority themes include the following:

- Capital Investment in the County's facilities and infrastructure including the County Complex, Superior Court, the former Jail/HOC facility, sidewalks, and parking areas.
- Enhanced support for the County's critical Information Technology Department in the areas of staffing and capital investment;
- Continued support for the joint initiative between the County and the Cape Cod Commission to develop the Strategic Information Office (SIO) and the Regional Area Network (RAN) to take full advantage of the opportunities for technology based regional services presented by the Open Cape network.
- Continued support for important regional services such as Household Hazardous Waste collections, shellfish propagation efforts, Septic Betterment Program Loans, Public Health nursing, Regional Emergency Planning, and Human Services Department initiatives.
- Expansion of the Water Protection Collaborative Municipal Support initiative.

The FY2015 budget includes \$1,064,708 to pay for the remaining retirement unfunded liability associated with Sheriff's Department retirees. This annual amount will remain as long as the retirement actuarial schedule requires funding, currently through 2038. No other costs associated with the Sheriff's Department are anticipated or included for FY 2015 or beyond.

There was one request for a vehicle replacement during the budget process. Again this year, we are recommending that any replacement or new vehicles requested by County departments be funded at the end of the fiscal year through the Vehicle Replacement Fund. This fund currently has a balance of about \$25,000 and additional funds will be deposited into the fund at the close of the fiscal year to replace vehicles on an ongoing basis. This process will require that a supplemental budget ordinance be submitted to the Assembly for action.

There are a number of positions that have been included in the FY2015 budget to satisfy the deferred needs of our Departments over the past few lean years. These positions are as follows:

- Project Coordinator – Information Technology
- Technical Support Specialist - Information Technology
- Public Health Nurse (Part-Time) – Health Department
- SHINE Program Director (carry-over from 2014, grant funded) – Human Services
- SHINE Program Data Entry (part-time, grant funded) – Human Services
- Special Projects Coordinator (functional change from 2014) – Strategic Information Office

The Capital Improvement program proposed for FY2015 continues an emphasis on expenditures for improvements to County facilities and infrastructure. The FY2015 proposed budget includes \$791,500 for the IT Department's various capital projects. The FY2015 budget also proposes the following Capital Improvement projects for FY2015:

- \$220,000 for HVAC work at the Superior Court House
- \$60,000 for continuation of the sidewalk work at the County Complex
- \$425,000 for drainage improvements and paving of the County Complex parking areas
- \$70,000 for roof repairs at Old Jail/ House of Correction facility
- \$65,000 for a new lock system for the entire County Complex
- \$20,000 for redoing the siding of the Children's Cove

The budget is presented as six major programs which are further divided into sub-programs (departments). Sub-programs are further apportioned into cost centers for fiscal accountability:

- General Government
 - County Commissioners
 - Resource Development
 - Assembly of Delegates
 - Department of Finance
 - Information Technology

- County Services
 - Department of Facilities
 - Cooperative Extension Service
 - Registry of Deeds
 - County Dredge Service

- Health and Human Services
 - Department of Health and the Environment
 - Department of Human Services
 - Children's Cove - Child Advocacy Center
 - Elder Services/Meals on Wheels

- Public Safety
 - Sheriff Employee's Retirement Liabilities
 - Barnstable County Fire Training Academy

- Planning and Development
 - Cape Cod Commission
 - County/Commission Joint Initiatives
 - Water Protection Collaborative

- Shared Costs and Debt Service
 - Retirees Health Premiums
 - Salary Reserve
 - Legal, Insurance, and other County Wide Costs
 - Non-Contributory Retirement Benefits

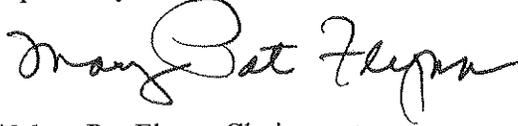
The budget includes \$265,000 for debt service on duly authorized debt of the County. The \$265,000 has been included in anticipated costs for long term bond issues associated with the FY2011, FY2012 and FY2013 budgets and short-term borrowing associated with the FY2014 and FY2015 budgets.

With this budget, we have provide for the strategic initiatives and investments necessary for the County to continue its commitments at the federal, state, and local levels to direct resources to achieve short and long term goals for the benefit of the residents of Cape Cod. Should changes to these budget projections prove necessary, we will submit such changes through a supplemental budget process when warranted.

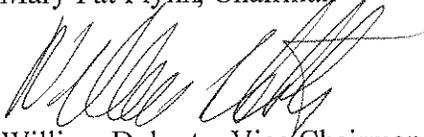
We look forward to working with the Assembly on the FY2015 budget and will, as always, have our department managers ready to respond in detail to any questions you may have. We also look forward to the public's participation in our budget process so that the final product reflects the intention of the Commissioners and Assembly Delegates to serve the greater good of Cape Cod and our communities.

In closing, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the department managers and staff who assisted in the preparation of the budget and program narratives, and who continue to provide valuable services to Barnstable County in a highly efficient and effective manner.

Respectfully submitted,



/s/ Mary Pat Flynn, Chairman



/s/ William Doherty, Vice Chairman



/s/ Sheila Lyons, Commissioner