

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Finance
Minutes
April 2, 2014

The Standing Committee on Finance met with the Standing Committee Chairs to review the 2015 proposed budget recommendations from each committee on April 2, 2014, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman John Ohman, Leo Cakounes, Christopher Kanaga, James Killion and Julia Taylor.

Recommendations from the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

Economic Affairs Chair Teresa Martin met with the Finance Committee to comment on the reviews conducted by the committee for the proposed FY 2015 budget.

The Chair reported that the Economic Development component is a section of the Cape Cod Commission budget and the Assembly has no budget oversight over this item. Some important information was presented to the committee and it was suggested that this information be presented to the full Assembly in the near future.

The Arts Foundation is seeking \$25,000 from the County and \$10,000 from EDC (from which the Assembly has no budget oversight) for a total of \$35,000.

The Chair reported that no recommendations were made or votes taken on the budgets that were reviewed.

Recommendations from the Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Natural Resource Committee Vice-Chair Leo Cakounes (standing in for Chair Julia Taylor) met with the Finance Committee to comment on the reviews conducted by the committee for the proposed FY 2015 budget.

It was reported that the Cape Cod Commission does have assessing powers and plans on increasing its revenues by 2.5% and using \$620,000 from its 1.4 million fund balance. The flyover mapping project with data base expansion will continue into FY15. The committee did not have any outstanding questions or problems with this part of the budget. However, some members of the public have expressed a concern regarding the 2.5% increase.

No recommendation or vote was taken possibly due to the fact that some committee members questioned whether the Assembly has the power to limit or control increases requested by the Cape Cod Commission. Julia Taylor said she did not believe the Assembly has the power to control increases. Leo Cakounes said that no County funds are being used for the Cape Cod Commission.

It was reported that the Cooperative Extension budget requested two new positions that were not approved by the Commissioners. Director Bill Clark said these two positions (a Home-Based Business Coordinator and a Community Rating (Flood Plain) System Coordinator) would have supported the County's Strategic Plan. Both of these positions would be helpful for people living on the Cape. Contracting these positions might be a consideration in the future.

It was pointed out that the budget had increased due to the fertilizer management program.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the Health & Environment Department has moved to the new lab and there were some unforeseen budget requests for equipment. Revenues are anticipated to increase by approximately \$50,000. There was a budget request of \$29,000 for a part-time sanitarian that

was not approved by the Commissioners. The request from Director George Heufelder was part of a plan to cover anticipated staff shortages due to extenuating health issues and at this point half the cost would be recovered from local communities using the services of the sanitarian.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative budget included funding for contractual services (for one individual) \$102,000 and \$325,000 for charges and obligations. The focus is on water testing and water monitoring.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

Recommendations from the Standing Committee on Health & Human Services

Health & Human Services Chair Christopher Kanaga met with the Finance Committee to comment on the reviews conducted by the committee for the proposed FY 2015 budget.

It was reported that Elder Services: Meals on Wheels Program has a budget request of \$80,000 and represents a \$5,000 increase over FY14. This program runs at a shortfall every year and the additional \$5,000 will help with their projected shortfall.

The committee recommended approval of the budget request.

It was reported that the Human Rights Commission has a small budget increase but requested additional salary funding for the Coordinator that was not approved by the Commissioners. The committee had an issue with the fact that the salary was increasing but not the hours of work. The increase would represent an amount greater than what the County typically allocates for its employees. Justification and support for this increase was needed. It was pointed out that the Coordinator is not a County employee but is a part of a service agency. Commissioner Mary Pat Flynn explained the complexities of the position and how it is all coordinated with the County's Human Services Department.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the Human Services Department budget request was recommended.

It was reported that the Children's Cove budget is up approximately 2% and the committee recommended approval of the budget request.

It was reported that the Affordable Housing budget was a part of the Cape Cod Commission budget and therefore no recommendation or vote was taken by the committee for this budget.

Recommendations from the Standing Committee on Public Services

Public Service Committee Member Cheryl Andrews (standing in for Chair Richard Anderson and Vice-Chair Patrick Princi) met with the Finance Committee to comment on the reviews conducted by the committee for the proposed FY 2015 budget.

It was reported that Registry of Deeds FY 2015 proposed budget is generally level funded and revenue projections are anticipated to be 8.75% higher than FY14.

The committee recommended approval of the budget request.

It was reported that the County Dredge has a proposed budget that is going forward as planned and there were no changes. Discussion focused on whether or not the old dredge would remain in service once the new one arrived. Interest was expressed in following the work schedule of the dredge via the internet.

The committee recommended approval of the budget request.

It was reported that the Fire Training Academy proposed budget had no significant changes. The Director reported to the committee that there is enthusiasm coming from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy that could lead to a significant expansion of the fire training program.

The committee recommended approval of the budget request.

It was reported that the Facilities Department proposed budget included construction of a vehicle/maintenance building and a campus building security system. Leo Cakounes asked if the committee would consider requesting a copy of the department's 5 year facility plan for review.

The committee recommended approval of the budget request.

Recommendations from Standing Committee on Finance

Finance Committee Chair John Ohman commented on the reviews conducted by the committee for the proposed FY 2015 budget.

It was reported that the Resource Development Office (RDO) proposed budget has a significant increase for equipment for AmeriCorps. A new truck was purchased in FY14 and money has also been budgeted for fuel and maintenance. This is the 50th national anniversary of AmeriCorps and the 15th anniversary of the Cape Cod AmeriCorps.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the BCC/Finance proposed budget for FY15 reflects administrative changes made in FY14 related to the new position of County Administrator and the separation of duties for the Finance Director. Health insurance is increasing 1.8% and dental is increasing 4.8%.

It was reported that the BCC/Shared Costs/Debt Service proposed budget reflects a 2% COLA for County employees. A classification study is currently underway and will be ready this fall. The committee requested, but has not yet received, a cost allocation sheet for departments that provide services to others. It was noted that the FY15 budget has no funding for OBEB unfunded liabilities. Commissioner Flynn said the County wants to create a plan first and the auditors will be taking a look at this.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the Information Technology proposed budget represents an ambitious plan for FY15. Two new positions are being proposed that will increase salaries and wages by 47%. These positions represent a shift from contracted staff to employees of the County. However, the contracted services account line did not decrease.

A telephone upgrade and hosting service contracts (outsourcing) are adding to the budget for FY15. There is a \$350,000 budget request for Microsoft licenses that will be on-going for an additional 2 years beyond FY15.

The committee recognizes the complexities and challenges that are facing the County and the Information Technology Department. The committee has questions regarding what will be accomplished and the end goals. Commissioner Flynn indicated that information from a study conducted by the Collins Institute for the County was used as a guide but is always being reevaluated. A presentation from IT was suggested for the full Assembly.

No recommendation or vote was taken by the committee.

It was reported that the Assembly of Delegates proposed budget for FY15 reflects a decrease due to changes in the benefits line account but otherwise is flat. It was mentioned that no legal funding is being proposed for FY15 in the Assembly budget but legal funds are available through the BCC/Shared Costs budget.

Motion made by Leo Cakounes, and seconded, to approve Finance Committee minutes dated March 12, 2014. Approved 3-0-2 (John Ohman, Leo Cakounes, and James Killion).

Leo Cakounes motioned, and it was seconded, to adjourn the meeting. 5-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Submitted by:
Janice O’Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates