

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**  
**Report and Minutes of the Standing Committee on Finance**  
**Proposed Ordinance 14-08**  
**November 5, 2014**

Dear Mr. Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

Proposed Ordinance 14-08 was submitted to the Assembly of Delegates by Harwich Delegate Leo Cakounes and Barnstable Delegate Patrick Princi at the Assembly of Delegates regular meeting on October 15, 2014. The Standing Committee on Finance met on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed ordinance and take comments. A public hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance was to restrict the transfer of monies from Special Revenue Accounts, Savings Accounts, or any account in which unrestricted funds are placed for the purpose of increasing the income revenue if projections fall short.

Committee members present: Chair John Ohman, Leo Cakounes, and James Killion.

Chairman John Ohman opened the committee meeting and Leo Cakounes read Proposed Ordinance 14-08.

Leo Cakounes explained the purpose of the proposed ordinance. It was submitted due to concerns regarding shortfalls in revenue and the current practice followed by the Finance Department to compensate for budget revenue shortfalls. Transfers of monies from reserve accounts have been used to cover the revenue shortfalls. Leo Cakounes would like the Finance Department to come back to the Assembly to request approval to transfer monies to cover revenue shortfalls, cut the expense side, or find savings within the budget to offset revenue shortfalls.

Chairman Ohman asked County Administrator Michael Brillhart to make comment. Michael Brillhart made mention of the fact that the Assembly should be receiving quarterly reports. Reports will be coming to the Assembly going forward in order to keep the Assembly informed of the expense and revenue status of the County. The Committee is concerned with the length of time it takes to advise the Assembly of shortfalls in revenue projections. Michael Brillhart indicated there may be times when the County may not know there will be a revenue shortfall until the late in the fiscal year budget cycle (third and fourth quarters) which makes it very difficult to make adjustments. Michael Brillhart indicated that stabilization funds were touched.

Leo Cakounes is indicated in FY14 there was a revenue shortfall that necessitated the County to dip into its savings account and the Assembly was not notified. This is the practice he objects to and would like to see stopped. James Killion believes this happens because there is a large reserve available to make up the shortfall. John Ohman agrees that this would be a good practice and will lead to better budgeting.

The Chairman asked for questions from the audience. Suzanne McAuliffe asked the Committee in what specific account surplus money is located. Leo Cakounes responded that it was the General Government Investment Account.

**Leo Cakounes motioned, and was seconded, to forward Proposed Ordinance 14-08 to the full Assembly.**

**Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Respectfully submitted:

John Ohman, Chairman  
Leo Cakounes  
James Killion