

BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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HOME RULED CHARTERED
IN 1989

February 17, 2016

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 2017 Operating Budget. The recommended total County budget for fiscal year 2017 is \$27,733,930. Revenues supporting this level of expenditure are derived from County General Fund revenues in the amount of \$14,557,202 which are increased by a \$.36 increase in the Deeds Excise Tax, Cape Cod Commission Fund revenues in the amount of \$4,039,679, grant funds in the amount of \$2,322,081, License Plate funds in the amount of \$34,835, and other Department revenue sources in the amount of \$6,780,133, of which just over 25% is County Dredge revenue and just over 35% is Registry of Deeds business income.

The FY 2017 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 by moving forward with renovation and upgrades to existing buildings in the County Complex;
- Continued support for targeted joint initiatives between the County, Towns and the Cape Cod Commission to continue 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 and continue work on the Planimetrics mapping.
- Continued support of the Water Protection Collaborative which has funded water quality monitoring baseline studies of Cape Cod embayments and fresh waters.

- Continued support for important regional services such as Regional Emergency Planning, Septic Betterment Program Loans, Public Health nursing, Child Protective Services – Children’s Cove, Household Hazardous Waste collections, shellfish propagation efforts.

- Developed new opportunities within Health Services and Information Technology to provide needed services to the Towns and receive income to lower the net cost of these services.

The FY2017 budget includes \$1,334,120 to pay our annual assessment 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 2036. No other costs associated with the Sheriff’s Department are anticipated or included for FY 2017 or beyond.

There are no requests for new vehicles during the budget process. All such requests will be made through the Capital Plan and funded through the Vehicle Replacement Fund. This fund currently has a balance of about \$10,000 and additional funds may be deposited into the fund at the close of the fiscal year to replace vehicles on an ongoing basis.

There are no new positions included in the FY2017 budget as we are unable to add personnel at this time. In addition there is no cost of living increase for employees for FY17. Steps and merit payments are included in the proposed budget.

The separate Capital Improvement program ordinance proposed for FY2017 in the amount of \$850,000 has been submitted for your review. The Capital program has been pared down from prior years to the basic minimum requirements.

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
 - Water Protection Collaborative
 - County/Commission Joint Initiatives

- 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

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

- Planning and Development
 - Cape Cod Commission

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

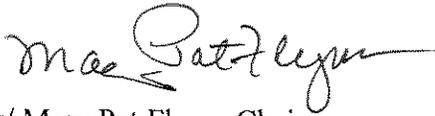
The budget includes \$315,000 for debt service on duly authorized debt of the County. The \$315,000 has been included in anticipated costs for short-term borrowing associated with the FY2015 and FY2016 authorized capital spending.

With this budget, we have provided 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.

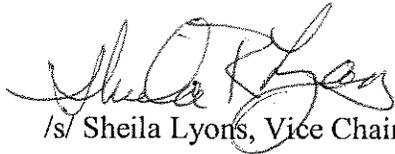
We look forward to working with the Assembly on the FY2017 budget and will, as always, have our department managers ready to respond in detail to any questions you may have. We also look forward to the public's participation in our budget process so that the final product reflects the intention of the 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 our new Finance Director, the Interim Assistant Finance Director, the Department Managers and Finance Department 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.

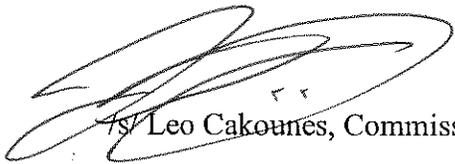
Respectfully submitted,



/s/ Mary Pat Flynn, Chair



/s/ Sheila Lyons, Vice Chairman



/s/ Leo Cakounes, Commissioner