

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
Minutes
March 18, 2015

The Standing Committee on Health & Human Services met to continue its review of the 2016 proposed budgets of Human Rights Commission and Elder Services on March 18, 2015, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Committee members present: Chairman Patrick Princi, Christopher Kanaga, Edward McManus, and Brian O'Malley.

Human Rights Commission

Patrick Princi reported there were some questions surrounding contractor versus employee status of the Coordinator position with the Human Rights Commission. The proposed budget recommends a change from contractor to employee in order to comply with IRS rules. All County contracts were reviewed for IRS compliance and resulted in status changes within several departments.

Regional Commissioner Sheila Lyons informed the committee that the Commissioners voted to establish an advisory committee that will be charged with a review the Human Rights Commission Ordinance 08-12 including the Coordinator's position. The committee will consist of seven members with three coming from the Assembly.

The committee discussed the benefits pro and con to recommending the budget as proposed versus removal of the funding for an employee position with benefits.

Brian O'Malley motioned, and was seconded, to recommend the Human Rights Commission budget as proposed for FY16 and forward to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Elder Services

Patrick Princi reported there were some questions regarding the legality of funding a non-profit through the County. In the opinion of County Counsel it is allowable under certain parameters. This organization meets the parameters.

Patrick Princi reminded the committee that the Elder Services Representatives were not made aware the budget cut made by the Commissioners. They also indicated the programs would continue despite any cuts to funding but it would be difficult to find the money that was being cut.

Commissioner Sheila Lyons informed the committee that the Regional Commissioners took action to reduce funding for Elder Services and other non-profit agencies due to funding issues and difficulties facing the County and its departments for FY16.

Patrick Princi would prefer to recommend the budget as proposed and consider supplemental funding during FY16 if revenues are better than estimated. Christopher Kanaga feels that direct aid to people in need has a high value and is the thing to do.

Patrick Princi motioned, and was seconded, to recommend the Elder Services budget as proposed for FY16 and forward to the Standing Committee on Finance. Motion failed 1-3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

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