

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Barnstable, ss.

At the regular meeting of the County Commissioners held in the Barnstable County Superior Courthouse Chambers on the twelfth day of February, A.D. 2016.

Board of the Barnstable County Commissioners

Chair Mary Pat Flynn	Present
Vice Chair Sheila Lyons	Present
Commissioner Leo Cakounes	Present

Staff Present

Michael Brillhart	County Administrator
Mary McIsaac	Finance Director
Robert Lawton	Interim Finance Director
Denise Bradford	Administrative Assistant

List of Documents

- Agenda for February 12, 2016

Commissioner Flynn called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a Moment of Silence.

I. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

II. General Business

- a. Motion to convene in Executive Session under M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to Conduct Contract negotiations with Non-union Personnel Specific to the County Administrator Position and to Reconvene in Open Session.

Commissioner Cakounes made the motion to convene in Executive Session under M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to Conduct Contract negotiations with Non-union Personnel Specific to the County Administrator Position and to Reconvene in Open Session; Commissioner Lyons, 2nd.

Roll Call Vote:

- *Commissioner Flynn: Aye*
- *Commissioner Lyons: Aye*
- *Commissioner Cakounes: Aye*

The meeting reconvened at 10:31 am in Open Session.

Commissioner Flynn announced that the Board agreed in Executive Session to a five-year Contract with Mr. John Yunits as the new County Administrator. He has a strong municipal background and was the Mayor of New Bedford for ten years. His start date is February 29, 2016.

Commissioner made the motion to approve and execute the sustenant terms and conditions of the Employment Agreement of the position of Barnstable County Administrator between the Board of Commissioners of the Cape Cod Regional Government known as Barnstable County and John T. Yunits, Jr. pursuant to the action taken by the Commissioners on February 2, 2016 appointing John T. Yunits as the County Administrator. Commissioner Lyons, 2nd. The motion was unanimous and carried 3-0-0.

The Board thanks the interim, outgoing County Administrator, Michael Brillhart for his services.

III. Budget Workshop for the Proposed FY 2017 Budget

a. General Budget Discussion

General budget items were discussed, with a focus on revenue, as an extension of the Budget Workshop discussion held on February 10 (which focused on expenditures).

- Commissioner Cakounes discussed use of County property as a revenue opportunity to increase the line items, especially the Fire Academy and the revenue opportunities with its training services. There are other revenue opportunities in this proposed budget.
- The Registry of Deeds was reduced by \$84,995 due to two, unfilled/open positions, which may be eliminated. Commissioner Cakounes reiterated that he was opposed to the increase in the excise/Registry tax.
- The Fire Rescue and Training Academy was mentioned and the greater appreciation for its value to due the Needs Assessment. Fire training is an ongoing, continuous need. It was recommended that Town Managers consult their fire chiefs when discussing their fire budgets and the effect of not having an academy as some Towns can provide internal training; some cannot. Carver is building a similar facility, and it may be an alternative for the sake of fiscal viability for the County.
- The possibility of consolidating water quality initiatives into the Health Department and Lab was discussed.
- Commissioner Flynn said the Board has a duty to get the Budget to the Assembly. Also, the Board made serious commitments to joint initiatives and to abandon it at this point is to throw out the best part of the regional services they have provided. The deeds excise tax is there to use. Revenue generation is also an option.
- The proposed removal of \$162,000 of elected officials' health insurances was discussed. If the Board were to enact this budget, on January 1, 2017 two people would be affected: the Register of Deeds (because he both a full-time employee and an elected official), and Commissioner Cakounes. It may be possible for elected officials to buy into the health care.
- Regarding the overall Budget, the Board was charged this day with moving a Budget document to the Assembly. The budget is being supported by a 1.1 million dollar increase in tax revenue. Also, the Finance Director, Ms. McIsaac, has also cut it by 1.7 million dollars. Commissioner Cakounes commended her for her work.

- It was recommended by Commissioner Lyons that an evaluation process commence in order to better determine what services were vital or not and how they pertain to the County's mission.

Commissioner Flynn requested a motion to increase the Registry of Deeds tax by .36 cents. Mr. Brillhart noted that the actual action would be to direct the County Administrator to prepare an ordinance on paper that they would then present to the Assembly.

Commissioner Cakounes made the motion to approve the increase of the Registry of Deeds tax by .36 cents as presented in the FY17 Budget and instruct the Administration to prepare an ordinance to accomplish this act. Commissioner Lyons, 2nd. The motion passed, 2-1-0 (Cakounes voting no).

b. Further Budget discussion ensued.

- The excise tax is a one-time tax for home transactions.
- The Board determined not to vote on the Budget until they are absolutely convinced that all aspects of it are satisfactory. Commissioner Flynn asked about the impact of cutting healthcare for elected officials. Ms. McIsaac said that the County could not single out a class of people. They would need special legislation, which is slow process. It's not a controversial bill so there would be no roadblocks, but it would take time to pass it and language would have to be considered.
- The possibility of the Assembly amending the budget was also discussed. It could be returned with many changes.
- Commissioner Flynn discussed its impact on water quality, which is the environment and for the Cape, the environment is its economy. The County and the State have made an enormous commitment to water quality programs.
- County Department heads in attendance were instructed to review their budgets and look at opportunities to bring in more money. Be prepared for the next, final Budget meeting of the Board.
- There was no further comment.

IV. New Business – Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

Barnstable, ss; at 11:27 am on this twelfth day of February, A.D. 2016, Commissioner Cakounes made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Lyons, 2nd. The motion was unanimous and carried 3-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Bradford – Administrative Assistant

Attest:



County Clerk

The foregoing records have been read and approved.



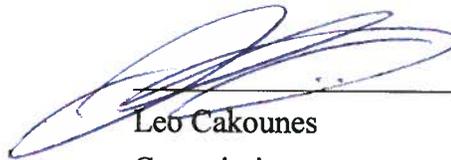
Mary Pat Flynn

Chair



Sheila R. Lyons

Vice Chair



Leo Cakounes

Commissioner