

BARNSTABLE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
Standing Committee on Telecommunications and Energy
Minutes
December 2, 2015

The Standing Committee on Telecommunications and Energy met at the Assembly Chamber Hall at 3:00 p.m. to:

- a) Receive an update from the Information Technology Department regarding department progress in outsourcing of services to towns; and
- b) To discuss electric rates and the impact on Cape Cod residents and consumers.

Committee members present: Chairman James Killion, Deborah McCutcheon, John Ohman and Patrick Princi. Absent: Teresa Martin.

Information Technology Department

IT Department Director Bill Traverse and Finance Assistant Bob Lawton met with the committee and provided an overview of the services being offered and the revenues that are being generated, and the prospective revenue increases relative to the demands for IT services by municipalities. Memos dated November 9 and November 10, 2015 from the Department Head to the County Administrator were provided to the committee for reference. These memos will be considered an attachment to these minutes.

Bill Traverse said inquiries have been made from 10 out of 15 towns for services. The department looks at what is in place that can be shared. There are several contracts in place. A letter of intent from Eastham has been received. Chatham and Falmouth are new and receiving some services and support from the County. There are concerns with regards to stretching County staff and resources too thin. Chairman James Killion reminded the director that the committee had discussed funding a staff increase if the volume of contracted work warranted it.

John Ohman asked if there were advantages for towns to aggregate some of the services offered by the County. Bill Travers responded and offered threshold licensing as an example of where more users could be a financial benefit to the County and towns. Consideration regarding hardware costs could also be a consideration when developing a cost structure for towns.

Bob Lawton said a calculation needs to be made regarding department staffing thresholds followed by a plan to ask the Assembly for more money. Some communities need temporary services while others are looking for long term solutions. The revenue generated by existing contracts annually is \$214,125. Expected new revenue annually is \$59,398 and it could increase more in FY16. Additional revenues beyond \$59,398 might be considered for the funding of additional staff support in the future. Bill Travers has been hesitant to oversell County services without adequate staff support to meet the demands.

Electric Rate Impact

Deborah McCutcheon addressed the committee and said consumers are paying more for electricity on Cape Cod than other towns in Massachusetts. The factors that affect the rates are unknown and should be explored. The relationship between the suppliers and the providers should be discussed.

James Killion said Maggie Downey, from the Cape Light Compact, has offered to come in and speak to the committee. It may also be helpful to have other suppliers come in to speak to the committee. The committee and the people of Barnstable County should understand how their rates are structured. Patrick Princi said something similar to a seminar was done several years

ago and it was helpful at the time – but it may have changed. Deborah McCutcheon would like to have some light shed on the process of electric rate setting and the structure.

James Killion said it would be a good idea to start out with a presentation from Cape Light Compact at the next available date for the committee and the Compact's representatives. After brief discussion the committee agreed to go forward with scheduling Cape Light Compact.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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