CAFE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT - ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
HARBORVIEW CONFERENCE CENTER @ 4:00 P.M.
BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMPLEX
3195 MAIN STREET
ROUTE 6A, BARNSTABLE, MA 02630

APPROVED Journal of Proceedings - December 19, 2018

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Good afternoon. Welcome to the Cape Cod Regional Government, this is the Assembly of Delegates. This is Wednesday, December 19th, 2018, 4 p.m. We are in the Harbor View Room at the Jail Complex in Barnstable County.

I would like to start with a moment of silence to honor our troops who have died in service to our country and all those serving our country in the Armed Forces.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you.

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call Attendance
Present (74.04%): Ronald Bergstrom (2.84% - Chatham), Mary Chaffee (4.55% - Brewster), Lilli-Ann Green - (1.27% - Wellfleet), Peter Hughes (5.67% - Harwich), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), E. Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02%-Yarmouth), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% Truro), Susan Moran (14.61% - Falmouth), Thomas O’Hara (6.49% - Mashpee), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O’Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne – Remote Participation).
Arriving Late (23.65%): Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans).
Absent (2.30%): VACANT (2.30 – Eastham).

CLERK O’CONNELL: Madam Speaker, you have a quorum with 74.05 percent of the Delegates present; 25.95 percent are absent.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Excellent.

Approval of the Calendar of Business
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Is there a motion to approve the Calendar of Business?

Delegate GREEN: So moved.
Delegate O’HARA: Second.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Any discussion? All those in favor? Aye.
Any opposed? It passes unanimously.

Approval of the Journal of Proceedings of 12/5/18
Speaker MCAULIFFE: The approval of the Journal of December 5th; yes, Delegate O’Malley.

Delegate O’MALLEY: Madam Speaker, I move acceptance of the Journal of December 5th, 2018, as electronically distributed.
Delegate CHAFFEE: Second.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Any discussion? All those in favor? Aye.
Any opposed?
Delegate BERGSTROM: Abstain. One abstention.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: One abstention. Thank you. It passes.

Summary of Communications from the Board of Regional Commissioners

- County Administrator Jack Yunits provided the delegates with a brief update on county issues
- Renovations at the East Wing are progressing and target date for occupancy is February
- Both dredges are working at this time – in Falmouth and Barnstable
- Remediation work is continuing at the Fire Training Academy site and an RFP for new props will be going out soon

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Our next agenda item is communications and report on County issues from the Board of Regional Commissioners. I do not see -- I see our County Administrator here. No current Commissioners at this point.

ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've been asked by Leo, the Chairman, to give this final report for the year, and I promised the Speaker I’d keep it to three minutes given the distinguished speakers sitting behind me.

Very briefly, we extended some contracts today that needed some year-end relief; they were due to expire. They were ongoing projects. One was with WHOI; the other one’s the town of Falmouth. And, generally speaking, it was just a routine business day, and I know you don't need to hear that tonight, so I’m not going to get into it.

But I do want to say I gave some updates to the Board of Regional Commissioners today regarding the East wing. Roof is done. HVAC system is done and in. They’re now doing the final sheetrocking. Painting will begin next week, and the HVAC system -- I mean the audio/visual system should be coming in and the materials should be coming in shortly.

So we’re still on target to have the beautiful new wing done in February, hopefully more towards the middle than the end but we will have it done in February.

On the dredge, the dredge -- the new dredge is working in Barnstable, Cotuit, at Dead Neck Island/Sampsons Island. The Codfish is in Falmouth. There are a number of projects pending with MassWorks approval in Falmouth, and we just had 4,000 feet of pipe delivered to Falmouth, brand-new pipe which will be fused over the course of the next two weeks and, hopefully, will be in the water pumping three major jobs in Falmouth, hopefully to be finished by the middle of January.

I want to say that Gregg Fraser has been an incredible, incredible help to us in helping us offload the pipe, setting it up for the fusing equipment which will start to arrive on Friday, just tremendous help. All the dredge -- all the harbormasters have been wonderful in these last couple weeks and helped us get the Codfish up to Falmouth, helped us out, fixed the pipe in Barnstable. It's just been a great team effort.

We hope to get Dennis-Yarmouth Bass River project done before the 15th of January, and we hope to get over to Truro by the 15th of January and get that project done as well, and there’s a project in P-town.

We are going to have to talk long-term about ordering a new dredge. The Codfish is hitting 20 years old; it needs to be replaced. So we’ll be back to you with
further discussions in the early spring about that.

And the -- oh, the Fire Training Academy. As you know, we talked last -- a couple weeks ago about the Conservation Commission here in Barnstable requiring us to take certain measures which we pretty much have finished. We’re doing the capping now of the hotspots. The berm is in. There are two berms; one is the more permanent berm, the actual bituminous berm, and then there’s a mesh berm that backs that up.

So we’re also ordering or preparing the RFPs to order the new props, which will be propane props so there will no longer be any smoke coming from the Fire Training Academy, and the amount of water that will be used going forward will be much less in the training process with the emphasis being on maritime training, which is obviously needed down here.

So those are your three major updates. Those are the updates I gave the Commissioners today. I wish you all a Merry Christmas. Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. Any questions? Yes, Delegate O’Malley.

Delegate O’MALLEY: Jack, if you could, can we get an update on how the new dredge has performed? I mean I understand that the job in Chatham was kind of challenging and was going to be a test run for it; how has that worked out?

ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Well, the new dredge is a tremendous machine. I’m not sure that perhaps when they ordered the dredge a few years ago they over-designed it for our needs. It’s extremely technical and challenging to the staff. And because of that, Ellicott has two engineers up on the dredge with us this week working it.

But when it pumps, it pumps three or four times as much as the Codfish. So the amount of time that we can make up using the new dredge is dramatic compared to the Codfish. That’s the good news.

And once, I think, our staff gets to know it a little bit better, I know that Steve Bradbury, the captain of that dredge, is feeling more confident in it every day, and he’s just awed by the amount of work he can get done with that new dredge. So I think once the kinks are worked out, it will be fine.

Delegate O’MALLEY: It’s a good workout?

ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Yes.

Delegate O’MALLEY: Good. Thank you.

Delegate O’HARA: I’m glad you asked that because my board asked the same thing this week.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Ohman.

Delegate OHMAN: Piggyback on that too, Jack, what’s the range? I know we have a booster pump on the Codfish that gives a greater range of ability to move the sand; is there a booster pump or is it needed with this new technology? What’s the range that the sand can be moved?

ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Even with the new dredge, we’re pumping right now 8,000 feet in Barnstable, and we’ll be pumping about 8,000 feet or 4,000 feet in Falmouth but that’s with the Codfish.

Delegate OHMAN: Yes.

ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: The booster pump will be with the Falmouth -- the Barnstable boat -- it’s with the Sand Shifter right now, and it will stay there.
with 8,000 feet of heavy sand.

Delegate OHMAN: So it's applicable to both dredges then?
ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Yes.
Delegate OHMAN: The booster pump, that’s great.
ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Yes.
Delegate OHMAN: I didn’t know, so thank you.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Bergstrom.
Delegate BERGSTROM: Yes, Jack, this thing is a boat, you know.
ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: Yes.
Delegate BERGSTROM: I mean it’s in the water.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Do you need this?
Delegate BERGSTROM: My question is how seaworthy it is in the sea? I mean, is there any difficulty getting it from one place to another under certain weather conditions?
ADMINISTRATOR YUNITS: The dredge itself is not an issue. We do have to upgrade our push boats; they’re 30 years old.
Delegate BERGSTROM: Yes.
Administrator YUNITS: But the dredge itself is fine; it’s the push boats that moves it.
Delegate BERGSTROM: Okay.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Great. Thank you, very much.
Administrator YUNITS: Thank you, Madam Speaker.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Our next item are communications from public officials, and we do have with us a roomful of Public Officials.
CLERK O’CONNELL: Kristy Senatori.

Summary of Communication from Public Officials

- Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Kristy Senatori submitted Proposed Ordinance 18-13, a 2018 draft update to the Regional Policy Plan
- Cape Cod Legislative Delegation - Senator Cyr, Senator deMacedo, Representative Crocker, Representative Hunt, and Representative Whalen provided the delegates with a legislative update on the following topics:
  - Status of the Early Retirement Incentive Program House Bill 4107
  - Bond bills related to a future county facility
  - Rt. 6 Rest Area, coordination and collaboration with County Human Service Department on funding and issues related to opioid addiction
  - Children’s Cove
  - Approach to Sheriffs Liability and county feedback
  - Risks associated with marine waters and recreation
  - Proposed Regional Fire Training Academy in Southeastern Massachusetts
  - Conversations with Army Corps of Engineers regarding replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges
  - State’s Rainy-Day Fund increased
  - Working on issues related to broadband access around Cape Cod
  - Challenges working with technological and jurisdictional issue surrounding
cannabis
-Efforts surrounding the decommissioning of fuel rods at the Pilgrim Power Plant

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Oh, before we go to the legislators, under “Public Officials” we have a delivery of the Regional Policy Plan, if I understand, from the Cape Cod Commission. We’ll just sneak this in.

EXEC. DIR. KRISTY SENATORI: Yes.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: And then we’ll have the rest of the meeting for the legislators.

EXEC. DIR. KRISTY SENATORI: Thank you. I will be very brief. Kristy Senatori, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission. I am here before you today to submit for your consideration the 2018 Regional Policy Plan.

The Cape Cod Commission endorsed the plan unanimously last week and recommended that we send this to you and the County Commissioners for adoption as a County Ordinance.

So I look forward to starting this process. I recognize you will have a Public Hearing, and we look forward to making a lengthy presentation on the draft plan.

The Clerk has also asked that we put together a one-pager that articulates what's new in this plan. As you know, we're required to amend this plan from time-to-time, typically every five years. And so we'll highlight some of the changes in the process that’s taken place to date, so that you have that for your review prior to your next meeting.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you, very much.

EXEC. DIR. KRISTY SENATORI: Thank you.

Communications from Cape Cod Legislative Delegation

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Our next item is communications from the Cape and Islands Legislative Delegation. I want to -- perhaps, we could pull five chairs up, pull three more up. And I apologize, these are temporary quarters for the Assembly. Our technology is shared, and our space is a little, as I said, temporary.

But I would, on behalf of the Assembly, thank you, very much for coming. We have with us Senator Julian Cyr, Senator Vinny deMacedo, Representative William Crocker, Representative Randy Hunt, and Representative Timothy Whelan.

And we are the legislative body of the County, as you know, primarily functioning as a fiduciary financial body. However, as you can see, we are very involved in all the ins and outs of a lot of the things that go on in the County because we need to know what's going on in order to be able to understand the budget and approve budgets.

So, with that, you know, a lot of people don't know what the Assembly of Delegates is, and I assume you do but I didn’t want to assume.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: I’m going to assume.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I didn’t want to assume too much because I think most of us didn't even know before we came onto the Assembly. And I think for today, what I had planned, and you can change this, is everybody, perhaps, just whoever wants to give a few minutes of comments or whatever.

We all have probably four or five main issues that are kind of front and
center for the County right now, if you want to address what you think would be important issues; we will certainly bring them to your attention. If you don't bring them up and then we'd like to, you know, ask some particular questions as well.

But once again, I can't thank you enough for making the effort to come. I know it's a tremendous juggle of your time, and it's taken us a long time to arrange this, and I'm just very pleased to have a roomful of legislators. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: Yes, you're the only one.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: Words out of my mouth.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you to the members, this meeting has been a long time coming, something that we had tried to do when I came into office or asked to come in. For me to come, and we realized scheduling-wise because you meet on Wednesdays, the Senate, typically, we meet in a caucus on Wednesdays and then we meet in full formal session on Thursday. So and I, typically, am overnight in Boston.

Members of the House typically meet on Wednesdays as well. And so we found this time and actually through a whole happy coincidence you have almost all the members of the delegation.

I would be remiss -- Representative Sarah Peake would be here with us, but she is participating -- she's an appointee to a commission on regional transit issues which is really important around RTA funding. And Representative Vieira and Representative Fernandes have family commitments, but you've got a solid chunk of us.

So what I think I'll do is because we, up until maybe a day or two, I just thought I was going to go solo on this, and then I found out we’re getting everyone which is great. I have a list of things that I’ll go through, and then we’ll go around, and we’ll try to be as efficient as we can.

I think first and foremost on your minds, you’re probably wondering about House Bill 4107, the early retirement package that was sent up to the legislature. After much cajoling by our House members, it was passed in the House. It's now before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. We had to do some finagling to get it out of the Rules Committee where we had a chair that was not interested in the Bill given just an opposition to broadly to early retirement initiatives. It’s in Senate Ways and Means. I think Senator deMacedo and I are cautiously optimistic. It will be taken up tomorrow. We have said cautiously optimistic before, so I don’t want to get too excited here, but essentially we have until the very last session, December 31st to get this done. I'm hopeful we can do that.

Other issues that my office and all of us have been working on related to County matters in no order of priority; I’ve been working looking at the Route 6 Rest Area along Route 6 with the County Commissioners, with the County Manager.

We have actually gotten some pretty helpful correspondence from federal authorities, much help from Senator Warren and Senator Markey to get that done. So now we’re trying to schedule a meeting with MassDOT and the County and members of the delegation on this in January.

The Federal Highway Administration has indicated that they are open to a public/private partnership for the site, so that is something that we’re cautiously optimistic of.
On other County issues, there was a number of bond bills that were taken up. There’s several pieces relevant to the County, most specifically 6.5 million for a new county office building on county-owned land closer into Hyannis, something that I think if folks are, you know, it’s an authorization so it’s not real money we have to get released, but I think something we could work with the County Commissioners on, something I want to make sure that you’re aware of on the County funding perspective.

This delegation worked very hard to secure a series of what we call local priorities, colloquially known as earmarks that benefit the region.

There’s been a lot of work with the Health and Human Services Department and Beth Albert, particularly on the opioid epidemic. Many of us, I think, have worked with the RSAC and have taken recommendations. Currently, right now in this fiscal year, they’re implementing $20,000 that we secure to take a program, a model that's used in Plymouth County around helping people who are really struggling with addiction. Of course, bring it into Barnstable on $25,000 in funding for both Narcan purchase, and they’re also coordinating on some homelessness issues. So we really appreciate their coordination and collaboration.

Another piece that my office has worked on is in looking at the states -- the support the state provides the Children’s Cove, this has traditionally been done through earmarks, which I find personally as sort of an inappropriate way to fund -- really is what is a real core vital service for some of our most vulnerable children and their families.

Senator Rodrigues and Senator deMacedo and I worked to essentially bake that funding into the line item within the Department of Children and Families and not have Children's Cove and others of other entities across the state that do this work funded as earmarks. And so we’re trying to do that again. Hopefully, that will provide a more -- steady funding source and a source that's not sort of subject to the ups and downs of earmarking.

I'm sure we may have some questions around the Sheriff's liability to the County. There’s been some varying approaches, so prior to -- and I’ll probably defer to other members of the delegation here. Prior to -- in prior sessions, Representative Peake had filed this as a standalone Bill. It didn't pass this session. There was past session. There was a consensus around strategy not to file it as a standalone bill but to instead work with our colleagues in southeastern Massachusetts to support House Bill 4000 filed by Representative Calter, and this is around more broadly looking at how do you get more monies for counties.

I think we'd appreciate feedback from you folks and from the County Commissioners as well on what approach to take. I think it is a very heavy lift just in my own estimation to get a standalone bill done for Barnstable County’s OPEB Liability as it relates to prior obligations from the Sheriff's Department. I just think that is, you know, if Sarah Peake is appointed Chair of Ways and Means, which could happen, maybe that's a different story. But to me, that seems like a very heavy lift. It’s just something we’re willing -- we can do but I think we would appreciate feedback on that.

And then I would just end certainly there’s been a lot of concern around risk as it relates to marine waters and recreation. On the Outer-Cape where I live and represent, you know, we had two -- one tragedy and one pretty scary incident as it relates to sharks.

Currently, as a delegation, we are working, one, to support the towns, the
Outer-Cape towns and the National Seashore and other partners in preparation for the summer season, effectively May/June 2019. There’s a working group among the towns, and what we’re trying -- what we sort of asked is, you know, let us know what resources is needed, how can we respond to that. We’re working hard and there’s been a commitment from the Lieutenant Governor to come to the Outer-Cape to have a meeting. And so we’re looking at recommendations from the Shark Working Group and the key pieces of how do we on the Outer-Cape, and these communities that are in the working groups, how do you share that information more broadly with other towns.

Certainly, the incidents and the most encounters have been on Outer-Cape area beaches, but we increasingly know that these apex predators are in many of our waters. So a lot of work is ongoing there.

We had actually hoped to get the Lieutenant Governor down here before the new year but we’re working to do that in January. So that is my update.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: That’s great.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: I’ll go to my left.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes. What I think I’ll do is --
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: The gentleman to my left.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: -- get comments from the legislators and then we can weigh in with questions and comments after. So, Representative Whelan.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: Yes, ma’am. Thank you, very much, for the opportunity. Senator Cyr gave you a very comprehensive and detailed account of particularly the questions that were posed to us that you folks were looking to get answered, and I know that we’ll probably drill down a little bit more on those as well.

But one thing that I wanted to make sure I brought to the Assembly’s attention is the work that I’ve been doing. I’ve been working very closely with the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and this is probably something that’s likely going to affect your Fire Academy operations going forward.

We’ve been making efforts, and all this is -- the discussion on this has come from behind the wizard’s curtain and it is now public. So, I want to make sure that you get the information as soon as possible.

We’ve been lobbying as a delegation for the past several years to try and get a regional Fire Training Academy located here on the Cape that would be run by the Department of Fire Services. A new facility, a new location; it would be less of a headache for the County to have to worry about.

What it looks like is going to end up happening, the discussions that I had most recently, then Secretary Bennett came down with the fire marshal, Fire Marshal Ostroskey to meet with me in Sandwich. And what they are proposing is they are proposing that they are going to build a regional Fire Training Academy which would be the third fire academy in the Commonwealth, and they’re looking at building it in Bridgewater. So it wouldn’t be on our side of the bridge.

The reason for this would be that right now the other two fire academies that are in existence, again, this would be a third, you have the main fire academy in Stowe; you have a secondary Fire Academy which is in Springfield; this one would be a southeastern Mass. facility, and it would accommodate more people, larger towns, larger cities, Norfolk County, Plymouth County, Bristol County, Barnstable County Dukes, Nantucket. And so
they figured it regionally was better; it was more commutable for more firefighters.

The other thing is if they do go forward with this and, again, they’re looking into it on the grounds of what used to be MASAC, the Mass. Substance Abuse facility that was run by the Department of Correction, and if they do this, one of the benefits that we would have regionally for us here as well that his would be the technical rescue training location for the entire state. So that would mean that locally our firefighters would have access to more detailed training and how to conduct technical rescues more safely.

So how does this affect your Fire Training Academy? Well, as you know, you have the career firefighting training level which is what this would be. You would still be able to, in discussions with the fire chiefs in my district, that there would still be very much a need for the Fire Academy that the County currently operates for the -- I believe it’s the Firefighter I and Firefighter II level training as well as any of the ongoing refresher in-service EMT training that they currently provide.

So this would be -- this is an exciting opportunity. It’s going to give our local fire service the opportunity to send their firefighters somewhere where they don’t have to put them up in hotels like they do currently in Stowe and save our fire departments anywhere from 6 to $8,000 for every single firefighter that they train because a person would now be driving to Bridgewater as opposed to driving all the way up to Stowe.

So as we go forward what we may find, and this is where the discussion is right now, is how does this affect the funding that the state has provided for the Fire Academy recently? Well, as we know, and this kind of goes towards what the Senator was stating earlier. Over the past few years, we’ve gotten a hundred thousand dollars earmarks for the Fire Training Academy. So $100,000 in each one of the past three years. We made it clear to the fire chiefs much as the Senator was speaking as it relates to Children’s Cove, this is not the way to do business. We can't do business through earmarks. It's not sustainable.

So what we’re looking at doing now is our negotiations that I’m having on behalf of the delegation with the fire marshal and with the transition now with Secretary Turco who’s the new Secretary of Public Safety is to see what we can bake into the budget for our Fire Training Academy here to see if we could get 25 or $50,000. We haven't arrived at a number yet, but that’s something that we’re looking at to get it annualized so it would no longer have to be done via an earmark.

So we’re still a long way away from seeing this come to fruition but, again, it’s something that I definitely want to make sure that I put out on your radar and certainly in our discussions with the fire chiefs. The ones that I have spoken to, which are probably about two-thirds of the fire chiefs on the Cape, they’re very excited about this possibility, and they’re very much in favor of it.

Lastly, as to what the Senator was mentioning earlier, I just want to make sure the conversations that I’ve had in the past with some folks over at A&F, please as you advance on this OPEB’s Sheriff’s legislation, eyes wide open because this may end up potentially being a liability for the County. You may lose more than you gain in the process with A&F in any negotiations going forward.

So, again, I just want to make sure that you folks have your eyes wide open as you decide your future and how you want this to be approached, and we’re certainly here to help you as you come to your decision.
Thank you. I’ll pass it out to Senator deMacedo.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDEO: Thank you. Thank you, very much. It’s a pleasure to be here and thank you for the invitation. We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you and kind of give you a little sense of what we work on, obviously, corporately and individually.

Corporately, I think the Senator touched on a lot of what we heard was important and we are there to facilitate and work on the issues that are important to you up on Beacon Hill.

I think it's pretty clear that this delegation has worked closely together despite the political differences, but what we have really focused on is making sure when it comes to the Cape that we operate as one unit and work together towards trying to be effective for this region. And I think that that's really worked well for this delegation and I’m privileged to be part of the delegation.

Some of the things that, you know, I’ve kind of worked on specifically outside of those issues that you've spoken of, but I do think have a relevance to this area. And I think I’m sure you’ve all heard of it, but it's what's going on with the two bridges and the conversations that are happening in regard to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Transportation.

And I have to say that this is probably the first time that I feel like things are happening. I really feel that there’s a sense, A., from the Army Corps of Engineers and, B., from the Department of Transportation that they want to replace these two bridges, which is, again, the studies are going on. We know what would happen if they have to do that upgrade in 2025. We all saw what happened when we had the small upgrade that they did and how that affected Sagamore -- the Sagamore Bridge. We know that's what we’re going to see pretty soon in regard to the Bourne Bridge.

But these next -- the ones they do in 2025 are far greater, far more extensive and the impact on our economy is going to be far greater.

And to that extent, there was serious conversation in regard to -- from the Department of Transportation to the Army Corps of Engineers is that we really need to move in a different direction. I think that direction is the ability of replacing those two bridges. I don't want to be like, oh, it’s definitely going to happen, but I have to tell you I’ve been around a long time; this is the first time I really believe that that's a serious conversation.

The Army Corps, from what we heard, the meetings we’ve had, we had Senator Markey brought down the Undersecretary of the Army Corps of Engineers six or seven months ago and had a serious conversation with us, the delegation. And then just recently I’m sure you all heard, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation Stephanie Pollack spoke and reiterated her significant concern in regard to these two bridges despite the fact that they are not under the Department of Transportation's control; they are legitimate concerns for them. Which means that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will work with them to participate, and I’m talking the federal government to participate to make sure that that becomes a reality because it's not just about replacing the bridges, it's the egresses to either side and how that’s going to have land takings and the like. And, again, some financial liabilities because it's going to be in, as I’m sure you’ve heard, in the billions of dollars to do, a billion dollars to do. So it's pretty significant. But I
think that's a big deal, and I think we’re making some progress, and I think that’s something that’s really, really important to the Cape economy.

And so to that extent, that’s something we’re going to continue to focus on, fight for, and we’re hoping that this year we will have a sense of what the Army Corps willing to do. And from that we, as a delegation, will work closely with DOT, if the word is to replace, do all that we can to make sure that the resources there are necessary to make that happen.

So I think that’s probably one of the larger and broader issues that I think that are at play.

In regard to the State budget, you know, I serve on Ways and Means. I’m a ranking member there. Just an update on where we are financially as a Commonwealth. You know what, this is actually pretty decent. You know, often times I come to these and I have to tell you the bad news about how the finances are.

The good news in the short-term is that we’re about $460 million above benchmark going into this year which is actually some pretty decent news. We thought the good news was last year in regard to the changes in the tax policies at the federal level; however, they’ve continued. I think that’s because we have a 3.5 percent unemployment rate, so things are moving.

We have increased our Rainy-Day Fund from 1.1 billion -- $1.1 billion to almost $2 billion, which is another very strong sign. That is good news. That being said, we really should be about $4 billion. I think 10 percent is a target. And then just to give you a sense of back in 2007 about a $27 billion budget and we had 2.7 billion at that time. That 10 percent target is really -- makes sense when you see the ebbs and flows. We’ve had a strong economy for quite a period of time. At some point, that's going to turn. I think we’ve all been kind of watching the news recently. It hasn’t been exciting in regard to what’s happening at the stock market.

So those are the things that we need to prepare for. But as a whole, it’s encouraging to say that we’re having revenue above what we’ve anticipated in the short term.

With that, I just want to throw a couple of things that I’m specifically working on. As you can see, we all work on different things, and I’m now going to turn it over to my two colleagues to my right.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Representative Crocker.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: Well, thank you, very much. Madam Speaker and through you to the members of the Assembly. Just a couple of things that I wanted to speak about. When you get further down the list here, things get a little less to talk about because everybody else has already said it. So I’m going to be very brief.

But one of the things I do want to reiterate is the fact that this delegation works together regardless of political affiliation to the best of our region, and we do that in times of emergency and also in times of nonemergency when we’re working for the long-term best gains and best outcomes for the region, we work together.

And that cannot be said to a lot of other regions in the state and a lot of other communities in the state. When there are delegations that do not work together as well as we do. So I just want to echo that.

A couple things with regard to the Route 6 Rest Area. We’re looking very
much forward to being able to in the new year start to have some more fruitful meetings with regard to that. I think another entity or another stakeholder that needs to be included in that would be the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce. They have been working very diligently on being able to maintain what they have with what they have. And I think they deserve a right to be able to sit in with regard to that negotiation as far as that goes along as well.

And just briefly, one of the things that -- one of the committees that I sit on is the Substance Use -- Mental Health Substance Use and Recovery Committee, and one of the things that my office is working for, and I have spoken with the Regional Substance Abuse Committee on a tertiary level with regard to this, and my office is working on is to try and come up with a permanent funding source for -- statewide for prevention programs in schools and nonprofits with regard to substance abuse. We’re still working on this, working with House Counsel on this. We’ve been at this for almost a year now. We’ll, hopefully, be able to bring this forward this coming spring because I believe that we’re obviously not going to solve the opioid addiction problem in a short term. How long it takes, who knows.

But what concerns me the most are school-age kids who are, you know, five, six, and seven years old who as we get -- we make forward progress on this are going to be six, seven, and eight years old, they’re going to be more and more exposed to the dangers of opiates.

And I think the same amount of time telling our treasurer that we spent back in the 80s and 90s with regard to tobacco use and how we’ve, for the most part, raised a generation of kids who do not smoke. We need to spend now with regard to opiates because they’re seeing it in their communities; they’re seeing it in their schools; they’re seeing it in their neighborhoods. We need age-appropriate material, but we need to be able to have a permanent funding source that schools and nonprofit agencies can be able to draw on to be able to have those programs.

Thank you for the time to be able to say those few things to you, and I will pass this back to Randy.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: It’s fine. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yes, thank you for the invitation to be here. When I heard Julian was going to fly solo, of course, all the rest of us --

So a couple of things that I wanted to touch on. One is that our office has been working pretty diligently to try and sort out some of the issues relative to broadband access around Cape Cod and, specifically, to residential buildings because there is literally one option for broadband high-speed Internet access in Barnstable County and that's Comcast for residential use.

So we’re totally aware. We’ve had plenty of talks with Open Cape about that, and we’ve had a lot of talks about what's coming along as far as wireless going forward and the timing of 5G which is, you know, it's theoretically a gig plus speed service, but the question, of course, is how long is it going to take before somebody would want to put up the transmission towers because they have to be much closer together than 4G. And given the sparsity of our population in lots of parts of Cape Cod, that may be something that is not coming too soon.
But we do have this Open Cape Mid-Mile Network that, perhaps, we can take advantage of. One of the things that I would love to see the County do and are, you know, Jack Yunits and I have had a number of conversations about this and had actually met with the town managers from around the County to talk about this issue and try and figure out if there's some way that we can put our resources together and take one of the bigger costs of putting up these fiber optic cables around the Cape out of the equation, which is the Open Cape the way it's set up right now has to pay fees to the pole owners all around the Cape.

And Steve Johnston has told me that that could add -- if we were looking at putting fiber to every house on the Cape, which is probably not realistic, but if we did, it would be somewhere between a hundred and $150 million investment and most of that $50 million difference is paying these fees to be on the poles.

However, a County or a town or a city can string up these cables without having to pay that fee, and that is a huge difference. So, I would encourage the County to have some discussions with Open Cape and see if there's some way that we cannot come up with some way that the County can manage such a roll out, or if even by, you know, municipal agreement, multi-municipal agreements have something that could be set up amongst the towns, the 15 towns on Cape Cod to do that.

One of the things that we have been talking about is, well, we have a wastewater issue; I don't know if you know. The latest we hear is 4 billion, who knows how much it's going to be eventually. Well, it gets a lot of attention and priority and it should. So it makes, well, connecting residents with high-speed Internet is kind of a neat idea. But, you know, Comcast, maybe they’re good enough and people are happy paying 200+ dollars a month for that service, but how do you prioritize something like that? And the answer, I think, is more along the line of perhaps having those areas that have a greater density of population be able to go first and possibly get a fund of a number of millions of dollars that would kind of work in a similar fashion to what we have for septic systems in the County that would be a revolving fund for the capital requirements to put these in place.

So a town or a portion of the town in this theory would say, “We want to sign up.” You’d have a period of time that you could sign up. And for all those people that did, they would also know that we’re not going to come around and string up cables for those who did not sign up for the next X number of years and encourage people to do that and have an assessment on their property.

The capital will be paid for from the Seed Fund but then it would be paid back. The average installation will probably cost somebody about $20 a month over five years.

And then if the service itself that Steve would be providing at Open Cape is in the $70 region, then you’re talking about having state-of-the-art Internet at your house for less than a hundred dollars a month, and that's been our target all the time is to try and hit that.

So we’re still having those discussions. It's going to be interesting that we have a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that is Open Cape and how it could work with the County and/or the towns to make that happen but we’re pushing for that.

The other thing that we’re pushing for is I would like to see retransmission towers for -- that would replicate the signals coming out of Boston be put right down here
on Cape Cod. This would be, obviously, the Cape Cod Commission issue as well as FCC and everybody else. But I would like to see a way that we could put up just a cheap antenna in your house, one of these black things you’d put on a wall or something, you know, even rabbit ears type of thing, and get the 40-some-odd channels that come out of Boston on digital signals. It's too far away for most of us to be able to access that. You can put up a pole high enough and have enough amplifiers, and if you’re an engineer you could do it because I’ve talked to people who have. But people who live on the south side of the brain are unlikely to be able to pick up those signals. And I think with over 200,000 people living here full-time and then, of course, the summer swell of population that we should be able to have people, especially people who don't have a lot of resources be able to take advantage of watching free over-the-air television without even having to have a contract with a cable company or a satellite company.

So those are a couple of things that we’re working on. Neither one of those actually requires anything in the way of legislation, but it does go to point out that we’re always trying to come up with solutions for various different things that are problematic around our areas.

So thank you, very much, for your attention.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. We've covered all the bases which is great. I would like to, perhaps, go to the Assembly and see if they have any questions or, as you said, dig a little deeper on some of these issues. First hand, Delegate Chafee.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Thank you. Thank you, all, for being here. We really appreciate it. And I have a question; you’ll be shocked that I'm interested in talking about marijuana.

A lot of people in Brewster are concerned about the issue of driving while impaired under the influence of cannabis.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: As I see Representative Whelan going for a microphone.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: …… a bifurcated district so parts of my district were very much in favor of recreational and others were not.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Right. And this is not a pro or con.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yes.

Delegate CHAFFEE: This is about the safety.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Tim’s the expert on this.

Delegate CHAFFEE: And so my question is for residents of Barnstable County and others across the state who are concerned about the growth of the industry and its potential effect. Is the legislature now working on giving law enforcement personnel the tools to deal with driving while impaired under the influence of cannabis?

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: That's a great question and the answer is no, and the reason why the answer is no is because what we’re facing here as we deal with cannabis is it’s a technology issue and it’s a court jurisdictional issue.

In order to -- am I’m speaking from experience of someone who's made over 1,000 arrests for OUI and probably of those 1,000 arrests for OUI close to a hundred were for OUI narcotics. I have a little bit of experience in it.

Under state law in Chapter 90, Section 24, we know that when it comes to alcohol there’s a per se limit which is .08 percent. Now what per se means is that the court
automatically accepts if your blood alcohol content is .08 or above, it’s basically stipulated to the fact that you are under the influence of intoxicating liquor in this case.

Liquor passes through the bloodstream; we know how it metabolizes. You know, the old thing with .02 percent per hour, one glass of wine, one beer, your body will process that out in one hour. So we have technology, a breathalyzer and a portable breathalyzer that allows us to determine the amount of alcohol that's in your system that’s actively clouding your judgment and your skills at that moment.

The problem with marijuana is marijuana stays in your system for up to 28 days. So someone smokes a joint today, they will show up if they were to take a drug test, they’ll pop a dirty test for the next 28 days.

The technology right now does not exist to determine what active THC is in someone’s system that is clouding their -- impairing their judgment, impairing their sobriety.

There are pilot programs right now that are being tried out in Washington State and in Colorado to measure mouth THC. Those mouth THC -- it swabs, they’re being used by the Colorado State Patrol and the Washington State Patrol. Those swabs, again, this a pilot program, so it's not even really accepted in court. It’s just they want to see -- they want to start building data and try and get it to the point that they have a scientific basis to get it accepted by the courts.

But the problem that they have with this is these pilot programs only detect smoked marijuana. They do not detect edibles. Speaking with friends in the law enforcement community right now, the greatest public safety fear that we have when it comes to the legalization of cannabis, it's not smoked cannabis; it's edibles.

There are 18, 19, 20-year-olds that drive around right now that are taking edibles and refuse to drink alcohol because they know that they can be convicted for OUI alcohol, and they know that it is impossible to convict or (Indiscernible) impossible to convict for OUI drugs. So they may get arrested and pulled off the road but they’re not going to get convicted; they’re not going to suffer license loss.

So that's the bad news. The good news going forward on this is the legislature right now cannot and, frankly, should not act on this until we get more data. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security about three weeks ago, two and a half/three weeks ago they had, for a week, they had a group come in from NHTSA, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. They came into Boston. I went, and I testified in front of these experts that they brought in from around the country. We had a retired judge from Indiana. We had a retired judge from Colorado. We had law enforcement and motor vehicle experts from around the country that sat on a panel, and they spent a week accepting testimony from people here in Massachusetts asking questions and getting answers.

They released a report, I believe it was just this past Friday; I don't have it yet, and this is going to form the basis of what the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security through the Governor’s Office are going to be looking for by way of legislation.

So I would caution any of my colleagues, and I’m not talking the ones sitting here; I’m talking any of the 199 colleagues of mine in the State House right now; I would caution them on filing any bills as it relates to OUI narcotics until we get a chance to take a look at this data that we got from NHTSA, see how it matches up against the lessons
learned in Colorado, the lessons learned in Washington state, and then work with the administration and the experts over at EOPSS to try and craft some type of legislation that can appropriately deal with this.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: I’ll just try. In the cannabis law that was passed in June 2017 signed into law, there is a Special Commission on operating under the influence and impaired driving related to marijuana; it’s Sections 18 through 25 of Chapter 30A. I can send it to you afterwards, but I just looked online and the most recent information I could find in the Cannabis Control Commission was that the meeting was postponed.

So, we’re reflecting Tim’s comments, but there is a commission that is looking at it. It’s a sticky challenge and issue.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: Right now, the way that the laws are set up is if someone is or appears to be under the influence of marijuana or any other narcotic -- any intoxicant other than alcohol, the police officer has legal cause to place the person under arrest and take them into custody, tow the vehicle; it gets them off the road. So we have that but then what happens after that is the ability to convict and get it on record as a conviction just, really, just doesn’t exist.

Case in point that I use is the last arrest I made for OUI was a gentleman who was driving Route 6 Westbound in Barnstable by the Burger King rest area. He was smoking a joint when he almost ran over one my troopers in the road and almost killed him. And during the course of the arrest, I conducted a field sobriety test which are designed for alcohol and hadn’t been trained in, you know, there’s no training really out there on how to do them for different narcotics. And I took into custody the marijuana joint he was smoking. Had a what we call a DRE, Drug Recognition Expert, come down to the barracks in South Yarmouth, conducted a review, took urine. We got the test, brought him to court, and he was found not guilty. That's how bad of a pickle we are in right now, and it's going to take us several years. I wish I could say that it wasn’t. It’s going to take us several years until we get this thing sorted out.

The Drug Recognition Expert Training Program is a three or four-week full-time training program. It teaches officers how to conduct field sobriety tests and also to conduct more hands testing to determine whether someone’s under the influence of a barbiturate and opioid, cannabinoid, cocaine, or what have you.

The problem that we have with it is it’s not accepted in more than half the courts. The judges in the Commonwealth -- they have the discretion to determine whether or not they want to admit testimony from the DRE. They have to recognize that the DRE has expert testimony to offer and greater than half the judges, the trial judges in the District Court of the Commonwealth aren’t allowing that testimony in the courtrooms which makes it even harder to get a conviction.

So we’ve got an awful lot of work left to do on this, and I wish I had better news for you. But when I was at that town meeting with you and I got up and I spoke about the concerns that we have going forward with an increase in impaired operation that, I believe, we're going to see across the Commonwealth, I think the problem may be greater than any of us expect.

Delegate CHAFFEE: Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate O'Malley, did you have your hand up?
Delegate O’MALLEY: I did. I appreciate the substance of what each of you have brought to this, and there’s some very weighty questions, but there’s an 800-pound gorilla in kind of in this room and it is related to County government, in particular Barnstable County, and where we stand and our long-term dependency on a revenue stream that is not predictable and not reliable.

Obviously, I’m speaking of the Registry of Deeds funding which is really the major piece for us. If we hit a bad downturn, we’re going to run into trouble. Our Commissioners have been saying this for quite some time.

I guess what I’m wondering about is how you all, the Barnstable delegation perceive -- how is our situation out here on the Cape perceived by the rest of the state which sort of says, “Counties, they don’t matter: they’re an anachronism.” Obviously, we don’t feel like we’re an anachronism. This county is -- is real; it’s vital.

I guess I’m looking for what do you see as our future? Is there some way we can stabilize that? Is there some way we could derive some revenue raising authority through the state and make this County long-term viable?

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: It’s a good question and we’ve all kind of tackled this, and this has been an ongoing challenge not specifically for Barnstable County but counties across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the record hasn’t really been that good for counties across the Commonwealth, and you’ll find problems pop up, you know, throughout the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There’s a problem in this County or that County and that’s what causes the issue.

And so I know when you go back many years when they changed, a lot of County governments got taken over. There were a few that stayed and, you know, Barnstable County, obviously, being one and Plymouth County being one of them.

And the perception though generally, and if you’re asking me what do the legislators generally think? For those of us who represent counties that have been active in our important part of government, we’re out there fighting for them. But we’re not the majority out there. And so if there’s any reason to be given that you’re going to see the legislature try to find a way to dissolve County government. They feel that it’s a challenge.

We, and I for one, you know, prior to being a Barnstable County legislator, I was a Plymouth County legislator for 16 years before that. Plymouth County was a county that has had its issues, but they did a lot of good things. And so I have consistently worked to try to empower -- empower Plymouth County government. But, again, it’s been a challenge and you have to work towards it.

So it’s not an easy thing that we’re trying to do because we are in the minority up there. We’re trying to, as best we can, give you the tools necessary because I do believe county -- I mean government closest to the people is the best government. And so it’s the Selectman understand exactly what’s going on; you as a county. I mean, just think about Cape Cod, I mean, this is a unique region. You as Delegates all come together and you give a much closer representation of what's happening.

So we’re going to be up there. So if you’re asking me what’s happening up there, there’s not a lot of love especially when you run into financial situations and you’re looking to the state to change the way we’re doing it now. And so that’s the biggest challenge.

But I promise you when you come to a consensus in what you’re looking
for, we’ll work together to try to make that happen. And I think that we’ve been more
effective than even our numbers, you know, show even though we’re in a minority. People
have an appreciation for Cape Cod because, guess what, they all come here in the
summertime, and so that’s a really good thing.

So as we, as a delegation, speak, they tend to listen and that’s why you’ve
seen us work despite sometimes having some disagreements. You’ll never see it publicly;
you’ll never see it up on Beacon Hill because we tend to speak as one voice when we go up
there and fight.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: I would say, actually, there is, you know, I’m
going to echo a lot of what Vinny said, but there is a willingness and an appetite on the Hill
I found, at least in my first two years, that if we can come up with solutions that solve our
own problems down here and that kind of doesn’t -- the state doesn’t have to kind of worry
about it, there is real acceptance of that. I’ll talk about two examples.

One actually is on local and regional health and how we do public health.
Most of our public health is implemented by the 351 cities and towns that we have in the
Commonwealth. That is really tough especially for those of us from smaller communities.
You know, you’re from a town of Truro like 2,000 people. It’s tough to provide all the
health services. Barnstable County’s really looked at as a model, and there’s actually a
push around the Commonwealth to look at that regionalization.

More broadly and something I didn’t mention -- we did mention earlier but
Randy alluded to it but that was wastewater. And this delegation has worked very
diligently with a whole list of stakeholders of the business community with the county and
others on coming up with a solution for us to generate revenue. That is authorized by the
state. It’s really revenue that’s generated here through short-term room occupancy. I think
that is -- I found there was a real acceptance to saying, hey, great, you know, you guys
want/need; the state’s committed through the 208 Plan, you know, and a billion dollars for
this $4 billion water problem, and if we’re able to come up with a solution that revenues
being generated here somehow, that’s been seen as very receptive.

The Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund passed both the Senate and the
House. It’s in the room occupancy, their B&B bill. It got stalled. There’re some broader
pieces in that bill that are stalled, although it could move before the end of informal
session. Either way, whether we pass it by the end of informals or we come back, that
Cape and Islands Water Production Fund is in there, and there’s sort of broad support for it
in the Conference Committee, which Rep. Peake sat on, that was the first thing they agreed
to. So they’re looking for, you know, if there are opportunities where we’re able to sort of
solve our own problems down here, there’s a receptiveness to it.

As far as actually getting counties revenue-raising authority, the
Commonwealth traditionally has been very tightfisted with giving any municipalities
revenue-generating authority, but when the municipalities are able to generate revenue, it’s
typically through a local option. I don't see that changing significantly in anyway, and so I
suspect that wouldn’t also apply to you folks.

But if there’s a roundabout way to generate revenue for Cape Cod issues
that’s generated here that’s staying back here, I think there’s a receptiveness to it. You just
have to figure out how to do it.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Hughes. Oh, I’m sorry. Delegate
Green.

Delegate GREEN: I was giving him the microphone.

Delegate HUGHES: Thank you. Thank you for all coming. I really think the elephant in the room is something a little different. There is one thing in my opinion that would change the shape, character, everything about this place we cherish about Cape Cod and that’s a significant event up at Pilgrim.

I don’t see any long-term plans at the moment of what we’re going to do -- what somebody’s got to do with the stuff, the spent fuel besides put it on site in concrete containers, whatever.

But is anybody working to get that out of here, somewhere else, and I know the federal government hasn’t come up with a storage facility, blah, blah, blah. But to me, that’s the danger, and that’s the one thing in one, you know, 20-minute release or whatever could ruin everything we have here potentially.

And I’m not trying to be a fearmonger, but we do all these great plans and we can go build two more bridges and we put all the wastewater stuff in, and we spend all these billions of dollars, and one morning we have a little 20-minute release, a burp from something and it changes everything.

What’s being done at the state level to push that? I know there’s no place to put it, you know, at the federal level. Those decisions have to be made and should be made at some point in time to come up with a repository. But until it does, I think we have a huge risk there and not many people are talking about it.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: I guess I’ll speak to this; it’s, obviously, in my backyard. So it’s something I’ve dealt with quite a bit. And as you know, at the end of May the nuclear power plant is going to be closed. And, of course, well we, as a delegation again working cooperatively, have made some demands. We actually worked to create the Nuclear Decommissioning Panel that is actually happening right now that has spent the last 20 months going over and with a fine-tooth comb what is going to happen when you decommission.

And because of that, I think that they’ve put some decent recommendations together. You’ve got to remember the challenge is is that when that law was passed many, many years ago at the federal level, it was made to make sure that those of us at the local level had no control. And the reason that was is because they understood nuclear power was an issue. And so when they passed it, because they wanted nuclear power, no matter what we say and I’m talking at a local level, a state level, you do not have authority. Even our own federal delegation trying to make demands has a real challenge dealing with the NRC. I wish that were not the case, but it is.

And so what we’ve done is we've created a, from this group that was created, they came up with and we got money in the budget this year to create an Interagency Working Group. The reason we have an Interagency Working Group is because there were some things that were under Public Safety’s purview, some things were under the DPH, some things were under the environment. And guess what, at the state level they were all pointing and they’re like, “Oh no, that’s his responsibility; that’s their responsibility,” and that is one of the biggest challenges.

So it is now all under the, and again, Secretary Beaton oversees this Interagency Working Group that has been coming up and conversing with Entergy who is
now selling to Holtec; I’m sure you’ve all heard, Holtec is the leading dry cask storage producer in, frankly, the world.

But we’re still concerned, and you have every right to be concerned. I’m concerned. That being said, we are doing everything that we possibly can to make sure that those spent fuel rods as soon as possible leave the spent fuel pool that they’re sitting in now and go into dry cast storage because, guess what, I get your concern but they’re a lot safer in dry cask than they are sitting in that pool.

And so that has been our number one priority, and they have agreed to do that. They’ve agreed to move those spent fuel rods which was another issue that this commission that we worked to create came up with and said too close to the ocean. They are now moving it 75 feet higher above sea level, which is, obviously, a cost, but we believe in a safer territory in regard to with the climate change and the things that we’ve seen with these storms that are coming.

And so those are the things that are happening. I wish I could tell you we could get them out. There’re over 3,000 spent fuel rods. I wish they weren’t here, but that decision was made long before any of us were here, not just this delegation but all of you.

And so now how do we deal with the hand that's dealt us? And the best way to do it is to put as much pressure as possible. And we have, I believe, done that, and I think that the good news is Holtec is saying that they’re going to do what they call prompt decommissioning. I know many of you understand that if Entergy chose, they could do what they call “Safe Store.”

Delegate HUGHES: Safe store.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Those could sit there for 60 years doing nothing, 60 years sitting in the spent fuel pool if they wanted to do that because of that federal law.

Now, of course, that has been our fight. We want those out, and we want that prompt decommissioning. They are promising a prompt decommissioning.

So to that extent, there are some positive things. I wish I could tell you they’re going to put them in those spent fuel rods -- I mean in those dry cask storages and they were leaving, but that is a much bigger animal.

The good news is in six months that place will be closed. I know that has been a big concern for a lot of people. So to that extent, it’s closed. And, guess what, we have with Vineyard Wind 800 megawatts of power replacing the 680 megawatts of power that are coming in. So, that’s good news too. And then there’s another 800 available after that, and I think you’re going to see a lot more activity in regard to deep shore, offshore wind that is going to be able to replace which was a big concern to that.

So, I know that’s a long answer, but I know you think it’s a big issue. There’s a lot of elephants in this room apparently. (Laughter.) But that being said, I promise you that we have done everything that we possibly can and it’s an issue that, you know, I, A., worked on for 20 years and have done everything I possibly can to try and make the case to get those things in dry cask storage as quickly as possible.

Delegate HUGHES: Yes. Thank you.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Sorry about the long answer.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Ohman and then I’ll go to this side of the room.
Delegate OHMAN: First of all, congratulations on all your recent hard-earned reelections, and we're grateful that we have a dedicated group like you serving us at the state level.

So you brought up some very exciting and some very sobering issues, and I’ve heard the big elephants. I want to go small but important.

Randy, we've not met but I'm very interested in the 501(c)(3) called Open Cape. Why are they a 501(c)(3) and why are they not part of government under direct -- is there any way we can make them more respective to what government, in specific, as opposed to being an independent -- semi-independent 501(c)(3) with $38 million of federal money?

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Okay. That's a great question. Open Cape is not semi-independent; they are independent, so we should start there. It's a 501(c)(3) organization that was created at the time when this era funding was available under the Obama administration that shoveled ready project money that was like 800 trillion -- 800 billion, I think. And you're correct, they got $32 million from the feds, five from the state.

They also got 2 million from a for-profit company that was going to sell this stuff. And then the County gave a million dollars of in kind relative to the building and said, “Hey, we’re a couple of doors down.” So there was a total of $40 million that came in; 38 of it was public money. And part of the frustration that I have is with $38 million public money invested in this, I’d like to see some services coming back to the average person that pays federal tax, county tax, and state taxes.

So, they set up as a 501(c)(3) organization which was fine to do that. They are running what is supposed to be at least a breakeven operation. I don't think they’re been breakeven yet, although I haven’t seen what's happening in 2018. I understand they’re getting closer.

But what the Inspector General said in his report when he came down several years ago when he had assessed the situation, they had a number of concerns. The biggest of those, in my opinion, was that this 501(c)(3) public charity had its own board that was not responsible to anybody else, no government, nobody else, just themselves and that in their charter they gave themselves the ability to spin off for-profit entities out of this nonprofit 501(c)(3) public charity.

They haven't done that but it's in the Charter, and the Inspector General took exception to that. And the overview of that report was that the IG felt like the accountability was the biggest problem that there was in this.

Now, my understanding is that even though they have this asset, they struggle trying to generate the capital to expand the network, and it's partly because they don’t own the asset. It sits on their balance sheet on the report when you look at the Form 990, it's there.

But the reality is that federal government has first dibs on that network if something happens to Open Cape. And I think part of the problem is that they're not able to leverage those assets to be able to borrow the money to get the capital to put these extensions off of that mid-mile network to satisfy what we would like to see happen, and that is to have some, at least my opinion, I think that I would like to have some residential areas that are serviced by that.
They have focused on governments, on for-profit businesses. They wired up Woods Hole, Joint Base Cape Cod and many others. I have a long list of all of these entities, some of those are government entities, some are nonprofits, and some are for profits, but they really haven't done much in the way of being able to put services into residential areas.

Now, having said that, there was an amendment that came into the -- I guess it was the Economic Bond Bill, correct?

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah, the Bond Bill, yep.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: To get some money for doing exactly that in Falmouth and in Barnstable.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: And in Provincetown.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: And in Provincetown.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: But there’s a little bit of a snag there, I think, and that is that the wording of that amendment said that this amount of money would be available to Open Cape and the amount of money is more than the $50,000 no bid that the town can do so they get themselves caught into this Catch-22 that, you know, Barnstable, for example, cannot put out a bid for 150,000, whatever the number might be without it being a competitive bid. So Chapter 30B says you’ve got to do a competitive bid. But the wording in the amendment in the Economic Bill was that the money had to go to Open Cape.

So I’m not sure what that means. It’s like, well, if they win the bid, is that okay? And if they don’t, there’s no money and how does that set up an even RFP process? I think somebody would probably challenge the merits of that. So we’re in a little bit of a pickle in trying to get this started.

Okay. Your original question is why did they set up that way? A bunch of people came together and thought it would be a great idea to tap into this federal money to do a mid-mile network and then use it as the basis for expansion later on. I think that was fine. They did that.

I think that we could better leverage this asset if we had the towns -- or the towns through the county actually managed this whole thing period. Because like I said earlier, we'd save cost in setting up new systems, get around the pole-hanging fees that are there. You don’t have to worry about that piece, and if we had that kind of support, then we could probably make a reasonable case to the federal government to allow the county and/or the multi-municipal participants to get first dibs at that asset so that it would not be in danger of disappearing from underneath our feet someday if we didn’t have the financial stability to keep Open Cape running.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Green and then I’ll go around. And it’s 5:15. I hadn’t necessary planned an end time, but I know the room’s getting warm and people are going to start to drift. So let’s --

Delegate GREEN: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you, all, for being here today. We all sincerely appreciate your effort to be here and to bring up very important issues for all of us.

The question I wanted to -- I have a lot of questions I'd like to ask, which I won’t, but the question I would like to ask is how can we, as a legislative body here in
Barnstable County, support your efforts as you bring forth bills that we have a mutual interest in passing?

I know we’ve written letters for Pilgrim for the bills that you supported and passed; there’s other legislation but how can we more closely work with you?

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Sure. And that's a timely question given that, you know, starting January 2 we’ll all be sworn in again. January 18 we have a bill filing deadline, and then shortly thereafter there’s opportunities for co-sponsorship, bills get assigned to committees, that’s when you sort of build momentum. So I think there’s sort of two tiers of bills.

One specifically related to legislation, you know, that’s germane to the county, its operations, you know, whether that's the Fire Training Academy, OPEB Liabilities, others, you know, an actual recommendation or advice from this body and also from the County Commissioners would be helpful. And we tend to have those conversations in an informal way it tends to be in my experience more so with the County Commissioners and the County Administrator. But advice on matters or sort of a sense of that would be helpful, and then more broadly when it comes to regional priorities. Certainly chiming in in part of that policy process whether it’s in letters or what have you is helpful.

I think what we can do if it, and I defer to the chair, and we probably want to talk about it as a delegation, you know, but we can share legislation that we’re working on so that you’re aware of it. A lot of sort of process is area rights so it’s hurry up and wait. And so but making sure that you’re aware of those that you can chime in.

And then when we have opportunities where I mean we’re having a hearing and whatnot, I think that’s the approach. I think I’d recommend it; I don't know if others want to elaborate on that, but I think that’s how we can work.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Just in our experience and, again, and just going back toward the delegation is we deliberate and we meet frequently and then try to find the issues. Just, for example, you brought the issue of the, you know, the sharks were an issue there. We sat down; we talked. We’re trying to find, okay, what’s the consensus and then when you reach a consensus and there’s, as best it can be unanimity in that consensus, you’re speaking as one voice. That’s often times what we do on Beacon Hill is that we try to, you know, we deliberate, and we try to find where we all agree.

Once we look into that, then when we go as one voice up on Beacon Hill, it's more effective. If I was saying that we should be doing this, and Julian is saying that, you know, no, we should be doing this; guess what, it’s just like it’s not, you know, it becomes more difficult, and I’m just speaking to the Senate.

But, generally, when we’re all rowing in the same direction and we get -- because our job is to do what you’re asking us to do. What is the consensus here? That's what we’re going to do on Beacon Hill.

And so to that extent, when you can come, and it's not easy, I know this, but when you can come to that unanimity of consensus of, okay, these things are, guess what, we can’t agree on these, but these are the things we can agree and you get that as a charge to us, that makes it easier for us because then we can speak as one voice, you know, as a Cape Cod delegation on Beacon Hill, and it makes us more effective. That’s my sense.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: I think, too, that in your
position as leaders within your communities you have access to your boards of selectmen; you have access to your town administrators. And utilizing them to join us in going forward as well and trying to push the ball further down the field is very helpful.

Suzanne, I’ll give you an example. In Yarmouth, Dan Knapik is fantastic in picking up the phone and calling the people in his speed dial to get stuff done. You folks can do the same, and you folks can also, in addition to calling the people that you know in state government to help us out and help us get these bills of mutual interest advanced, you can get your selectmen to maybe work on a letter of support. You could get your town administrator to go through their rolodex and see who they can reach out to. Because it’s all about how many voices, how big of a coalition can we get behind something so.

Like I said, your contacts within your own municipalities are going to be very important going forward.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Excellent.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: And one other quick thing that I’d like to add, I think to echo what Senator Cyr said when you -- when we come up -- when you come up with a regional recommendation as a regional body, I think that reflects on Beacon Hill the fact that you are a solidified body that is making recommendations and solidifies your position up there with other law makers with regard to -- I’m using the wrong word here and I apologize -- but legitimacy, and I don’t mean that in a negative sense, but it makes --

Speaker MCAULIFFE: You’re not (Inaudible).

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: Okay. It makes you -- your perception in Beacon Hill as a strong governing body because we have a lot of law makers who come from counties that, you know, the counties barely don’t exist. And I think recommendations from you as a regional policy board reflect up there and have some gravitas up there.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Great. Delegate McCutcheon, you had wanted to ask a question?

Deputy Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Yeah, I really do appreciate your being here and answering these questions and concerns that people have.

I look at America today and what’s going on with the federal government and the one thing I want to say from you with my message from Truro, which is I’m only 1.9 percent of one vote. So I’m not a big -- we’re not a big -- we’re not a big deal there, but we think of ourselves as being important.

And, you know, as Senator Cyr knows, in Truro there was a lot of support for the marijuana legislation, a lot of support for it, and part of that was because people had been supporting it for years and years. And now that it’s been passed, there’s a reluctance to implement.

And the one thing I would say is that your public face to -- your face to the public is often a bit confused as to what your message is. I mean, for example, we’ve all seen the evacuation route, and the evacuation route means that we, in Truro, are going to stay there while the radiation drifts across.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: You mean the Susan Baker T-shirts, “Swim East”?
REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: And Eastham.

Acting Speaker MCCUTCHEON: Sometimes it’s hard to take the hard issues and take a really principal position and stick to it because there’s a lot of pressure when you move to the middle, and when you move to the middle sometimes, you’re moving in a direction that is harmful for people for the little people like the little people in Truro.

I’d like to say that we -- one of the reasons why we appreciate Senator Cyr, even though he is lamentably young --

(Laughter) -- is he sticks to his guns when people are attacking him, and he doesn't change his position because somebody wants him to. And I think that's one of the most important things we can do in this day and age where -- I mean, don't you miss Dan Quayle? Isn’t he important and there was a refreshing innocence about him, and that’s gone from ….. I urge you to find it because I think that Senator Cyr has it, lamentably young or not.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yeah. Delegate Bergstrom.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: I think a lot of us find ourselves in the same

(Inaudible).

Delegate BERGSTROM: I just have a quick one, and it’s really not a local issue, but I’m hoping you guys can do something about it. I was handed an opinion piece as I walked in the door from one of the current County Commissioners.

Apparently, there was a movement afoot from Interior Secretary Zinke to reevaluate the usefulness of the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission. And it's odd to me because if you know anything about the current Department of the Interior, they’re all for local access and local input into the use of federal land. So why they were thinking of this I don't know.

Now I know that it’s a federal issue but I’m hoping that perhaps you, our delegation and working together with Senator Markey and also Senator Warren could weigh in on this and suggest that, you know, when this was established back in ’61, this was the 500-pound gorilla that sits on 70 percent of Wellfleet. And so the idea that they would remove any kind of local oversight from it is, to me, ridiculous.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah.

Delegate BERGSTROM: So, I’m hoping that you could do something about that. And if we can send a letter also and --

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah, Congressman Keating’s been docked on this, got the bill through the House. There’re currently some hurdles in the Senate is my understanding. Unclear -- I mean Secretary Zinke, I don’t think is Secretary Zinke anymore, or shortly will not be. (Laughter.)

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: So just --

Delegate BERGSTROM: It’s a moving target, I know.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah, it’s been a moving target and a lot of stop and go. Interestingly, I actually met way back when there was a Senate delegation that went to D.C.; we actually met with the Interior Department and their political person who was recently assigned. And that was the gist that I received as well, that we really want to work with the communities.

So, unclear why there’s such a mixed message, but, you know, I think -- the
question should really be to Congressman Keating and we can find out but just how do we support him because he has been really -- he described to me that he's never screamed at anyone more loudly and more angrily than the Interior Department folks on this.

So Andrew in Congressman Keating's office is the person who I think can give us our marching orders. I'd suggest reaching out to him and saying how do the, you know, maybe how does the Assembly get on record with that? But, again, unclear how to - - unclear what a push just given a lot of unknowns.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Killion, did you have a question?
Delegate KILLION: I did. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you, gentlemen, for an extremely broad discussion from marijuana to nuclear waste.

(Laughter.)

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: We've got guerrillas; we've had elephants.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: It says it all about the County; doesn't it?
Delegate KILLION: It really does.

(Laughter.)

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah.
Delegate KILLION: Representative Hunt and I, we've had some discussions about broadband and Internet.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah.
Delegate KILLION: It's a topic near and dear to both of us, and you've raised a lot of good issues. One of the things you did mention was extending over-the-air network. Where would that lie? Is that the FCC? Who would be the one responsible or push that up the Hill?

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Well, it's a business decision. For the same reason, I believe, that Fios is not coming across the Canal --
Delegates: Right.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: -- because of lack of density here in many of the areas. We have density in some places. The proliferation of a 5G network is going to be problematic. My understanding is that the first versions of that only broadcast out about a thousand feet from the transmitter. And now I'm hearing that they may be able to double that.

But if you want to draw a 2,000 foot in diameter circles all the way around Cape Cod, you’re going to find out that we have to have a boat load of those transmitters to make that type of system work.

So they’re only coming out in a dozen cities this year with 5G and Boston’s not one of them, but I think that we’re going to be shortly on that list to have 5G service.

The 5G is a gigabit service wireless. It’s probably not going to be free of all the other problems that we have with wireless service. I don’t know if all of your cell phones work perfectly; me doesn’t a lot.

The DELEGATES: Yeah.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: And so it would probably have some of those same issues with connectivity certainly during unusual weather storms and things that are going on like that. You probably have a better shot of having fiber optic transmissions to your home than your 5G.
But my problem with it is it’s probably out there 5 to 10 years away before we might even see some of the areas here on Cape Cod lit up.

And I have a real problem with that kind of service being just put out there in certain densely populated areas that can -- it’s not going to be free, by the way, so it’s, you know, where people can pay to $150-$200-$250 a month to have that kind of service. Yet we have some densely populated areas in this town right here in Hyannis where people just flat-out can’t afford that.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yeah.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Kristy at the Cape Cod Commission and I had a good conversation about how if the County was part of proliferating the fiber-optic network that she felt like we would be able to apply for grants and get some service in areas that are underserved because of the overall economic level.

So I think kind of going in that direction and leveraging those types of things would be good. I’m not saying that a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization couldn’t get that kind of grant but I just don’t think that it’s in their vision of what Open Cape will be doing over the network the next several years.

Delegate KILLION: So you don’t foresee any economic drivers outside of public to push this technology to the area or to get us that access to the main?

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Well, Verizon and whoever else is putting out 5G networks is going to put it out where it’s going to make money.

Delegate KILLION: Right, but it’s not here.

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: It certainly -- yeah. I mean take Fios’s kind of an example of, you know, why did it stop at the Canal? And the answer to that is twofold; one is the density. The second thing is Verizon’s not really interested in doing wired solutions anymore. I think the future of their company is with wireless. But I wouldn’t count on having 5G in much of Cape Cod anytime soon.

Delegate KILLION: So --

REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: We do have fiber today so, you know, if that ever happened -- if it happened in 10 years, then we’d all have to sit around the table and say, well, okay, can we survive having a de facto monopoly providing the only broadband service to residential buildings on Cape Cod for the next 10 years thinking that we’ll be okay in 10 years because 5G will be there. I just don’t know the answer to that. And if we had that question posed to us, I’m not sure what the consensus would be.

Delegate KILLION: Okay. Thank you for that.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I wanted to give -- we’re running short on time.

Delegate KILLION: Okay.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: So I wanted to kind of limit it so that everybody will have a chance. But plenty of food for thought and I know going forward we will be working more closely with the delegation.

Delegate KILLION: Just one more quick question. Senator deMacedo mentioned -- regarding the nuclear power, the Interagency Working Groups that are working on this problem.

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Yes.

Delegate KILLION: Could you or could we find a way so that we get frequent updates as to how that is going so we can kind of update the Assembly, update the
region as to how that’s happening? I’m not sure the best way to get into that information loop is.

SENERATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: That’s a good question, and I will try to see if that’s a possibility. I know that NDCAP themselves has been trying to get some information in regard to the negotiations that are going on right now specifically because there’s a change of ownership being requested at the NRC and that is, you know, Entergy trying to sell it to Holtec and really trying to dig down and say and find out to make sure that this is a good thing. On its face, it looks like it could be a good thing.

That being said there’s a liability issue above and beyond a billion and one dollars that are there to decommission. And so we and I believe the Interagency Group is working hard to make sure that that liability if there is any is taken on by, and I would say in that case Entergy and making sure that there’s something beyond this new entity that is being created with Holtec and another entity, which is a Limited Liability Corporation, and that’s one of the bigger issues.

And so some of that is kind of -- I wouldn’t say confidential but they are trying to negotiate that out. But I get the message and you’re asking as we get information to get that to you.

So I will make sure that as we get information through NDCAP that we pass it on to the Assembly of Delegates.

So thank you, very much, for that question.

Delegate KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Moran.

Delegate MORAN: Thank you. Time being short, quick and to the point for Randy. With respect to the funds coming in, one option, the EDIC in Falmouth noticed that folks couldn’t -- on Main Street couldn’t even run credit cards during the high summer season.

So there are creative bidding opportunities if you do go through an EDIC or maybe the county, so I’m hopeful that maybe those funds could be released through that avenue, just something to look at.

Another issue, one of the things -- I know that one of the reasons Randy must be spending a good amount of time on this is that it’s a really fundamental economic development issue for the Cape.

SENERATOR JULIAN CYR: Yes.

Delegate MORAN: If we can year-round have folks come to the Cape and be able to work, be able to be entrepreneurs, business connection, connection from the Cape to West Coast, all over the world, that’s why this is so important on a broader level.

On an individual level though, I don’t want to neglect to ask about the PEG fees. I mean, when we talk about outreach and communication, the only way that we all talk to our constituents and get the information to the supreme delegation, there’s nowhere in Massachusetts that has the delegation that the Cape does. You know, you do it well; you work so well together, and you get things done.

And part of -- it’s our local access and I’m concerned that we might lose that if we don’t pay some attention to it. So the fact that the PEG fees fund the local TV stations, that’s where our Town Hall reaches out to folks in their living room, that’s what selectmen do. So I think that that’s something that has to, you know, really, really be
supported.

And the last thing, I just want to say that I clearly heard the ask of the Assembly from all of you to please give direction with respect to the sheriff pension issue. And so I just want to ask, Madam Chair, if we can follow up on that agenda item at some point?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes. I think we have a year’s worth of agendas out of this meeting.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Our apology.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: No, no. This is all -- these are all things that have been in one shape or another partially before us. So this is great to get everything in one big piece.

Delegate O'Hara, did you have a question?

Delegate O'HARA: I do. Thank you, Madam Chairman. Again, I’m happy you guys are here. I really appreciate it and it makes a difference.

I’m going to have to do it in a different way. I’m just going to hit you each with a quick question. It can basically be yes or no, or I don't know, or you could go longer.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: No, I'm saying it should be quick.

Delegate O'HARA: And I am. Julian, the timeline for the rest area on Route 6, this year?

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: No, definitely not summer 2019. Summer 2020 or 2021, yes.

Delegate O'HARA: Gotcha. Tim, I don’t know if I missed it or not, I may have. Firefighters Academy, maritime, is that going to be a part of the firefighter’s academy? That was a big play/push for Jack Yunits. He thinks that that’s going to make a difference; that in or out?

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: I’m not exactly sure of the question. Are you talking about with the new fire academy would that interfere with --

Delegate O’HARA: In Barnstable at the airport; is that going to remain? Because there was a push to have maritime training here for firefighting.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: That is the first -- that’s the first I’ve heard of --

Delegate O’HARA: With props so they would have ships that look like ships, so they would learn how to put out fires on watercraft.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: I know that they’ve been doing their training here. This is the very first time I've even heard of them looking at moving the maritime firefighting elsewhere.

Delegate O’HARA: They were looking to establish it here. So whether they’re moving it, or they were looking to establish it here. So if you could look into that, that would be great.

I think of it as a revenue stream because we’re bringing all these new bodies into the community, and they’re going to have their lunches, their dinners, and they may stay over for the time. I see that as advantageous.

REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: Of course, yes.

Delegate O’HARA: Thank you. Will, I’ll go down; we were talking about
opioid addiction and the money that was being spent, and Dr. O’Malley knows more about this than I do, but we had it at our meeting last week at the Cape Cod Assembly meeting. And we talked about alcohol abuse, which alcohol is actually the biggest killer of all of them combined. And yet there’s no longer any discussion of this.

We had the director of the EDC come in and have a discussion with us. And you don’t even hear about it anymore but yet it’s the biggest elephant in the room, and it’s never discussed at all. Is that something that's still going to be left out or are we bringing that up and opening it, especially with the demographics changing on Cape Cod. Families are no longer moving here. We’re all becoming an aging population. In other words, we’re going to be all retirees here pretty soon.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: To what you say, absolutely yes because of the people that I’ve talked to about including alcohol abuse, it’s part of the equation as well. But, overall, we need to have a prevention program in schools.

Delegate O’HARA: Absolutely.

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM CROCKER: They are not -- they’re not -- it’s just something for whatever reason, you know. Maybe it’s being pushed by the opioid addiction issue; by the fentanyl addiction issues because fentanyl is the killer. But you’re right, alcoholism is, if you pardon, the biggest elephant in the room.

Delegate O’HARA: And I could tell you that in our town with the marijuana we’re going to have the recreational, and I’m going to make a proposal that most of it is going to, hopefully, wastewater, but I’m going to give them a proposal that we use some of it for our drug awareness programs within out school systems.

Randy, on the wiring on the Cape One, I think wireless is going to be here before you know it. I know it's expensive, but it can't be any more expensive than dragging those wires up through the towns.

So, I think it's going to be here before we know it, and most of the people that I know that come to Mashpee, they use their cell phones. They don’t have hard-lines anymore. They’re not there. Maybe on the computer they would, but most of them do not have hard-lines. They all use their phones or their wireless devices.

Vinny, last question. When I hear bridges being made, I think it’s a great idea. They’re going to do it, do it right. When I hear bridges and the cost of them, I hear tolls. What are you hearing?

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Yes, I don't think you’re going to see that. I know that there’s been conversation in regard to that. But if the federal government does this and, again, it’s as their responsibility, you’re going to see that borne by the federal government through as we do right now with gasoline tax, and I don't think you're going to see any support here in regard to tools.

But the conversation in regard to -- you’re going to have to move those most likely inward. So if you look at the two bridges, you would be on the inside of where the two bridges are where the land takings would probably most likely be required. So that’s where the conversation would go.

But I'm just saying Department of Transportation understands this to be a priority. Those bridges are 85 years old. They know it has to happen, and so they’re willing to step up to the plate and use the resources that we spend every year towards that to doing it. That’s my encouragement.
Delegate O’HARA: Sure.
SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: If it was an issue of tolls, I could tell you we’d have a much different conversation right now. I understand that they’re that important, and they’re that important that we’re not tolling them now and there shouldn’t be tolls in the future. So that’s how I stand on that.
REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Let me say one thing.
SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Oh, you want tolls. Randy wants tolls. And they’re going to be in Sandwich, right?
REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Yes, right. But there’s a more definitive answer to that. Without a Congressional Act to change what’s already on the books, those bridge spans that are managed by the Army Corps of Engineers cannot have tolls.
Delegate O’HARA: Oh.
REPRESENTATIVE RANDY HUNT: Now, that doesn't preclude MassDOT from making some access ways tollable ways, and we’ll have that conversation down the way. But the bridges, themselves, can’t have tolls.
Delegate O’HARA: It's easy to throw a speed pass on a plate and all of a sudden we’re paying. So I'm just saying.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Kanaga, had you wanted to --
Delegate KANAGA: Thank you. And thank you, all, for coming, and there’s nothing I have that that’s probably better followed up individually. So I will do it that way if there’s no objection, and I will pass whatever time I may have had to my colleague to my right.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Delegate Princi.
Delegate PRINCI: I don’t have any questions, but I just want to thank you all for being here during this busy time of year. It's very much appreciated.
And more so, all of your collaboration amongst each other on a lot of these regional issues, it just speaks volumes as far as what we get back here on the Cape and some of the work that we do and the correspondence we get back from you. It’s just very much appreciated. Thank you.
REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY WHELAN: If I could just add to that, to which you say. One of the things that struck me as I was sitting here is the majority of our state is Democratic, but the majority of the people you see sitting before you today, you have four Republicans and one Democrat and none of that matters to us. We work wonderfully together.
We keep joking that we’re not members of the Democratic party or the Republican Party; we are members of the Cape Cod party and we through one hell of a party.
So thank you, very much, for your recognition of that as a delegation. I’m very proud to be a member of this group, and I think that normally everybody else in Boston, and I think certainly Washington, D.C., could learn an awful lot about how to get things done in the interest of the people. So, I’m blessed with my colleagues.
Thank you.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Very much. I think this is very apparent in this room. What I’m taking from this is a clear need to be in closer touch. So I will work on
how to figure out channels of communication back and forth to keep us up-to-date and to also channel what we have to you. And I also, realistically, getting everyone in the room may not happen again for two years --

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yes.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: -- but perhaps individually if there’s specific issues that come on an agenda, someone might be available at certain times to come forward.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: Yes.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: And certainly we’d try and work that out.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: And, Madam Speaker, I would just echo with what the Delegate from Orleans said around, you know, please reach out to us individually. And, actually, almost all of you do reach out to us and please use that channel.
I'd also be remised if I didn't acknowledge, this is the most festive public meeting I've been to. Janice, are you responsible for these?
Clerk O'CONNELL: Yes.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: These are incredible. You did these, and we just had our holiday party in the Senate, and the Senate President's office is all --

SENATOR VINNY DEMACEDO: Notice I'm the only one with a festive tie though.

SENATOR JULIAN CYR: These are far nicer than anything.
Delegate O’MALLEY: That’s festive, Vinny. That’s festive.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Complements of the Clerk and her sister.
SENATOR JULIAN CYR: She’s available for a fee.
Speaker MCAULIFFE: Well, thank you, so much, for coming, and this was incredibly informative and very, very helpful. And as I say, a year’s worth of agendas I think are coming forward.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I do want to move on. Next we have communications from members of the public. Seeing none.

**Assembly Tribute to Ronald Bergstrom**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Our next item is a tribute to one of our own, and I will read this into the record.

*We, the members of Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, hereby recognize and pay tribute to the exceptional record of service by our colleague, Ronald Bergstrom, Delegate from the town of Chatham since January 2007.*

Ronald Bergstrom has in numerous ways demonstrated qualities of leadership and commitment as a public servant that have contributed to the accomplishments of the Assembly of Delegates of Barnstable County, and that we thank Ron for his outstanding work as a Delegate.

Ronald has held several leadership positions during the past six terms. He has diligently supported these measures important not only to his own community but to the entire County.

*It is not possible to recount the extensive involvement of Delegate Bergstrom within this community and on County issues, so we cite the following*
examples:

Ron served as the Assembly Speaker during the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th session 2007 through 2016, and has the honor and distinction in the history of the Assembly as its longest serving Speaker to date.

Ron served on the Special Commission on County Governance.
Ron served on the 2013 to 2014 Charter Review Committee.
Ron served on several Standing Committees including Governmental Regulations and Finance as its Chairman during the 15th season session.

Ron served the Town of Chatham as a Selectman for four terms, 1998 to 2010.

Ronald has a sound background and solid experience in government, and he provided effective insight and recommendations when reviewing the County's fiscal policies and expenditures.

Ronald supported ideas that generated interest in delivering high quality regional services to the citizens and towns of Cape Cod.

Ronald Bergstrom earned the respect of his fellow Delegates because of his fairness and forthrightness on issues.

As Ronald leaves offices as the Chatham Assembly Delegate, those of us privileged enough to have served with him express our gratitude for his dedication and wish him success as a Barnstable County Commissioner and with all other future endeavors.

And this is signed by the 15th Session of the Assembly of Delegates and all our names are affixed.

And, Ron, I can’t say enough personally. You calling me the day I lost my reelection to the Selectmen and said, “Would you consider coming to the Assembly?”

Delegate BERGSTROM: I got you in a weak moment.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: But it has been an honor to serve with you. It’s been a wonderful experience, and this tribute just kind of scratches the surface on what a wonderful addition and contribution you have made to the County. Thank you, very much, for your years of service.

Delegate BERGSTROM: Well, I’d just like to say that when I decided to run for County Commissioner, the only reluctance I had was not that I might lose but that if I did lose then I would be no longer part of this group and no longer part of County, you know, interact with all these wonderful people here so.

But, fortunately, I’m not going very far.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Delegate BERGSTROM: I’m right across the parking lot, you know, so not just the obituary. So, you know, when I was here, as you know, and the Commissioners would come before us, I would grill them on every issue. So I expect exactly the same from everybody here when I'm sitting there.

So, thank you, very much, and it has been a great experience and especially meeting all these wonderful people over the years.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: And I reiterate that I look forward to working with you. I think that coming from the Assembly, you have a very good idea of what the
relationship should be (Indiscernible.)
   So I think I see nothing but more work for us.

Delegate BERGSTROM: Thank you.

Assembly Convenes

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Now I will convene the Assembly. Are there committee reports? Seeing none.

Summary Report from the Clerk

- Mileage logs to be submitted
- MMA Conference registrations due
- Swearing in of delegates on 1/2/19 at 3:45 p.m. with a group photo
- Assembly reorganizes on 1/2/19

Speaker MCAULIFFE: A report from the Clerk.
Clerk O’CONNELL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. A few items to report on this evening. First of all, there are mileage logs in your folder that you need to sign, complete, return to me. A few of you may also find there are a few other documents, anything with a little yellow “Sign” sticker on it needs to have some attention given to it and returned to me.

Also, last call on the MMA Conference registration. At this point, we have seven Delegates plus the Clerk attending and I think that’s it. But if there are any last-minute people that are going to change their mind, I would appreciate it if you would let me know as soon as possible.

With regards to the next meeting which will happen on January 2, that will start at 3:45 with a swearing in of all the Delegates. And we will have an opportunity to take a group photo, maybe the only opportunity we get to have a group photo with everyone present. So, just be aware of that.

The organization of the Assembly will happen at that meeting as well. You will reorganize your leadership.

And last, but not least, the centerpieces that you all have in front of you, and there is one for everyone, please take it home and enjoy. There may be some water in the base. Just be a little careful about that. And I also want to thank my sister who is here tonight because she really helped me quite a bit with it this time around.

And that’s it. I want to wish everybody Happy Holidays.

Summary of Other Business

- Delegate Green took exception to the opinion piece written by Commissioner Beaty that was featured in the Cape Cod Times regarding the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Committee

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Other business. There’s a quick other business.
Delegate GREEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be quick. As
Delegate Bergstrom remarked earlier, there was an Opinion piece in the Cape Cod Times yesterday that Mr. Beaty -- Commissioner Beaty wrote.

I just wanted to draw attention to the fact that he sent this letter in a link to -- and I want to back up. I am the Wellfleet's representative to the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

The letter is about the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission on County -- in his County email, he sent this link to the Superintendent of the National Park here at the Cape Cod National Seashore, and he copied every single member of the Advisory Commission, the alternates, many of the senior staff, and many staff members at the park and also the Cape Cod Times reporter.

So I just want to make absolutely certain that everyone in this room understands and anyone watching out there that his opinion is his private opinion, not the opinion of the County. And even though he says at the bottom of his or it says at the bottom of the letter that, “The writer is a member of the Barnstable County Commission,” he does not represent the Commission or the County in his opinion, which is not very helpful at all, in fact.

And since Mr. Beaty has asked to be the County Representative to the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission and was approved by the Commissioners, he has not, however, been appointed to that position by the Secretary of the Interior. That is who appoints the Commissioners to sit on that Commission. He was not actually appointed.

I would call on him to -- since this letter is so derogatory and he, obviously, does not understand the importance of the Advisory Commission, which I would say over 99 percent of the people living from Chatham to Provincetown see the importance of this Advisory Commission, especially given the fact that coming from Wellfleet my town is 61 percent National Park. So it's very different than many of the National Parks throughout the country where they’re so separate from the towns. This Advisory Commission is crucially important, and I think that 99 percent if not more people living in Chatham to Provincetown see the importance of this Commission.

I hope that he voluntarily withdraws his name and withdraws that interest to represent the County, and I hope that the Commissioners in the new session in 2019 appoint someone else, whether it's another Commissioner or someone else in the County to represent the County on the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

Thank you, very much.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. Now I’ll take -- any other “Other Business”? Okay.

Delegate BERGSTROM: Move to adjourn.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Delegate BERGSTROM: For the last time.

Delegate OHMAN: For the last time.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: We are adjourned.

Whereupon, it was moved to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 5:55 p.m.
List of materials used at the meeting:

- Business Calendar of 12/19/18
- Unapproved Journal of Proceedings of 12/5/18
- Memo Cover Letter and Proposed Ordinance 18-13: DRAFT RPP Update submitted by the Cape Cod Commission
- Assembly Tribute to Ronald Bergstrom
- Copy of Cape Cod Times Opinion Piece written by Commissioner Beaty and submitted by Delegate Green