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BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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RONALD BERGSTROM
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HOME RULED CHARTERED
IN 1989

January 31, 2020

Mrs. Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker
Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates
Barnstable County Complex
Barnstable, Massachusetts, 02630

Dear Mrs. Speaker and Assembly Delegates:

In accordance with Article 5 - Fiscal Procedures of the Barnstable County Home Rule Charter - the Barnstable County Commissioners hereby submit the Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget. The recommended total County budget for fiscal year 2021 is $28,163,077. Revenues supporting this level of expenditure are derived from County General Fund revenues in the amount of $20,262,689, Cape Cod Commission Fund CCEPF revenues in the amount of $3.695.920, grant and department revenues in the amount of $2,023,175, and other Dredge revenue in the amount of $1,849,437, of which just over 42% is Registry of Deeds business income.

The FY 2021 budget proposal level funds services historically provided by the County. Grant funds continue to subsidize these efforts. Certain key elements are defined as follows:

- The continued focus on Structural Balance meaning the matching of recurring revenues and recurring expenditures. Further, estimates of revenue are conservative and expenditures are those required as a part of the normal ongoing operations, such as salaries, debt service, and pension payments.
- The preservation of the County's established reserves providing the flexibility to overcome budget shortfalls or other extraordinary or unforeseen events in a timely manner.
- The funding of the position of Communications Coordinator to contribute to the building of a strong centralized communications team whose focus is to create greater transparency for the benefit of all Cape Coders and accountability across the county' s operations.
- Personnel levels are maintained county-wide with administration addressing the consolidation and streamlining of efforts to maximize efficiencies and reduce costs

The FY2021 budget includes $1,702,310 to pay our annual assessment for the liability associated with Sheriffs Department retirees. This annual amount will remain as long as the retirement actuarial schedule requires funding, currently through 2036. The total liability, inclusive of the years 2019-2036, as calculated by the Segal Company's actuaries is estimated to be $41.2M. No other costs associated with the Sheriff's Department are anticipated or included for FY 2021 or beyond. Our Administration and Finance team are working in concert with State delegation to address this concern.

The separate Capital Improvement program ordinance proposed for FY2021 will be submitted for your review. The Capital program has been generously funded in the past and is able to support most of the County's capital and Infrastructure needs for FY2021. Therefore, the FY2021 requests are minimal.

The budget is presented as six major programs which are further divided into sub-programs (departments). Sub-programs are further apportioned into cost centers for fiscal accountability:

- General Government
  - County Commissioners
  - Resource Development
  - Assembly of Delegates
  - Department of Finance
  - Information Technology
- County Services
  - Department of Facilities
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Service Registry of Deeds
  - County Dredge Service
- Health and Human Services
  - Department of Health and the Environment
  - Department of Human Services Children's
  - Cove - Child Advocacy Center
- Public Safety
  - Sheriff's Department (former) Retirement Assessment
  - Barnstable County Center for Public Safety Training: Police and Fire
- Planning and Development
  - Cape Cod Commission
- Shared Costs and Debt Service
  - Retirees Health Premiums
  - Salary Reserve
  - Legal, Insurance, and other County Wide Costs

A separate Dredge ordinance is added. The Dredge continues to operate as an enterprise fund. Dredge operations are supervised daily by an operations Superintendent and Dredge management is presently under review as part of a scope of services provided by a private consultant, Foth Engineering.

The budget includes $505,000 for debt service on duly authorized debt of the County, of which $370,000 is general Fund and $135,000 is for Dredge. The budget also includes $293,312 of short-term debt paydown obligations and continuing interest costs relative to the issuance of short-term notes.

With this budget, we have provided the necessary financing for the County to continue its commitments at the federal, state, and local levels to direct resources to achieve short and long-term goals for the benefit of the residents of Cape Cod. Should changes to these budget projections prove necessary, we will submit such changes through a supplemental budget process when warranted.

We look forward to working with the Assembly on the FY2021 budget and will, as always, have our department managers ready to respond in detail to any questions you may have. We also look forward to the public's participation in our budget process so that the final product reflects the intention of the Commissioners and Assembly Delegates to serve the greater good of Cape Cod and our communities.

In closing , we would like to express our sincere appreciation to our County Administrator, our Finance Director and the Finance Department staff, and the Department Managers who assisted in the preparation of the budget and supplemental schedules, and who continue to provide valuable services to Barnstable County in a highly efficient and effective manner.

Sincerely,

Ronald J Bergstrom

Ronald Bergstrom
Chair, Board of Regional Commissioners