

**CAPE COD REGIONAL GOVERNMENT - ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES**  
*Pursuant to Governor Charles Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of  
the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020, the Assembly of Delegates held a  
Virtual Meeting @ 4:00 P.M.*

**APPROVED Journal of Proceedings - August 5, 2020**

**Call to Order**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I'm going to go ahead and convene the meeting. This is the Cape Cod Regional Government, Assembly of Delegates. It's Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at 4 o'clock.

This meeting is held through remote participation by the Assembly of Delegates pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law on March 12, 2020.

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube. Anyone who wishes to make a comment can do so by calling 1-929-205-6099 and using the ID 996 7625 6854 or by Zoom meeting.

And we do have people who tried to make comments at the last meeting and because I was not aware they wanted to make comments and there was really no way of recognizing them, we missed a couple of public participation.

So for this meeting, the Clerk has sent the people who contacted us the Zoom link, and they can give public comment during the comment period through that. Or, if you have called in and you're on the telephone, you can do \*9 to raise your hand and then \*6 to unmute, and I'll mention that again during the public comment.

I cannot unmute people who want to speak if they've muted themselves. So if you're on the phone, \*9 to be recognized and \*6 to unmute and, hopefully, that will cover our bases.

It's very distressing to have public who want to comment and there's no way to accommodate that. So we're trying to fix that.

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

(Moment of silence.)

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. It's time for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you.

Will the Clerk please call the roll?

**Roll Call Attendance**

**Present (87.01%):** Douglas Brown (14.61% - Falmouth), (Mary Chaffee (4.55% - Brewster), J. Terence Gallagher (2.30% - Eastham), Lilli-Ann Green - (1.27% - Wellfleet), Elizabeth Harder (5.67% - Harwich), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), E. Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02%-Yarmouth), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

**ABSENT (7.42%):** Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Thomas O'Hara (6.49% - Mashpee).

**ARRIVED LATE (5.57%):** Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans - @ 4:10 P.M.).  
Randi Potash (2.84% - Chatham - @ 4:20 P.M.).

Clerk O'CONNELL: Madam Speaker, you have a quorum with 87.01 percent of the Delegates present; 12.99 percent are absent.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you.

**Approval of the Calendar of Business**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I'll take a motion to approve the Calendar of Business.

Delegate GREEN: So moved.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Is there a second?

Delegate HARDER: Second.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: All right. Any discussion?

All right. Will the Clerk please call the vote?

**Voting "YES" on approval of the Business Calendar of 8/5/20 (87.01%):** Douglas Brown (14.61% - Falmouth), (Mary Chaffee (4.55% - Brewster), J. Terence Gallagher (2.30% - Eastham), Lilli-Ann Green - (1.27% - Wellfleet), Elizabeth Harder (5.67% - Harwich), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), E. Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02%-Yarmouth), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).

**ABSENT (12.99%):** Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Thomas O'Hara (6.49% - Mashpee), Randi Potash (2.84% - Chatham).

Clerk O'CONNELL: Madam Speaker, the Business Calendar passes with 87.01 percent of the Delegates voting yes; 12.99 percent are absent.

**Approval of the Journal of Proceedings of 7/15/20**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the Journal of July 15, 2020?

Delegate OHMAN: So moved.

Delegate HARDER: Second.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: And a second, okay. Will the Clerk please call the vote?

**Voting "YES" on approval of the Journal of Proceedings of 7/15/20 (87.01%):** Douglas Brown (14.61% - Falmouth), (Mary Chaffee (4.55% - Brewster), J. Terence Gallagher (2.30% - Eastham), Lilli-Ann Green - (1.27% - Wellfleet), Elizabeth Harder (5.67% - Harwich), James Killion (9.58% - Sandwich), E. Suzanne McAuliffe (11.02%-Yarmouth), John Ohman (6.58% - Dennis), Brian O'Malley (1.36% - Provincetown), Patrick Princi (20.92% - Barnstable), Linda Zuern (9.15% - Bourne).  
**ABSENT (12.99%):** Christopher Kanaga (2.73% - Orleans), Deborah McCutcheon (0.93% - Truro), Thomas O'Hara (6.49% - Mashpee), Randi Potash (2.84% - Chatham).

**Clerk O’CONNELL: Madam Speaker, the Journal passes with 87.01 percent of the Delegates voting yes; 12.99 percent are absent.**

**Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you.**

**Summary of Communications with Board of Regional Commissioners**

- **COVID19 updates from Commissioner Bergstrom**
- **Commissioners had discussion regarding proposed solar lease ordinances 20-08 through 20-14 that failed at the Assembly**
- **County made request for emergency funding with the State Revolving Loan Fund for the Fire Academy cleanup**
- **Commissioners approved contributing money towards Rt 6 signage for the rest area food notification to travelers**
- **County Commissioners took no action on County Administrators contract and therefore it will automatically be extended until 2/2022**
- **Commissioners approved filling a vacancy for a grant-funded Operator Position at the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center**
- **Commissioners met with a committee to discuss and analyzing Municipal Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion**
- **Commissioners reported that revenues are strong for the month of July at the Registry of Deeds**
- **AmeriCorps Program reduced to 18 participants and housing issues are being addressed by the Commissioners**
- **Commissioners discussed the Barnstable County Personnel Policies. And what to determine if they will give employees a full paid day if they work at the polls in their individual towns**
- **Commissioners approved the hiring of Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission hire a part-time person**
- **Commissioners authorized the creation of the full-time Food Access Coordinator position**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Next is communications and updates from the Board of Regional Commissioners and County Administrator. We have Ron Bergstrom. Hi, Ron.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Hi. Okay. We've had two meetings since I last talked to you on the 15th. We did not meet on the 29th, so I'll start with the meeting of the 22nd.

We had our normal update from Sean O'Brien of the Health Department on the COVID-19 epidemic. Things are looking optimistic down here in Barnstable County as far as the number of cases and hospitalizations.

You may have heard or read about an outbreak of cases among restaurant workers here in Chatham and also, I understand, lifeguards in Falmouth. We didn't discuss that on the 22nd but besides that it sounds good. We're way ahead of the plate as far as a number of -- the number of cases. I don't think there's anyone that -- there's two or three people in the hospital, no one in ICU.

Okay. We then had a request for Emergency Funding in the State

Revolving Fund Site Capping and Related Stormwater Improvements at the Barnstable County Fire and Rescue Training Academy site. So we had some -- we had to throw some more money at that.

We had a letter, a letter of support from municipal Chief Executive Officers requesting more funding in Fiscal Year 2021 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to support local Health Departments and we certainly agreed to that.

We had a discussion regarding signage at the Route 6 Rest Area. I don't know if you're familiar with this, but the concessioner wanted a sign on the highway saying that there was food available and, apparently, you have to go through Mass. Highway to do that. They go through a contractor who puts up all the signs and that contractor was going to charge \$6,000, which we thought was quite a bit of money. And considering that the sign will stay there regardless of who gets the food contract, we decided that the County would kick in the money to put that sign up. So there will be a sign up indicating that there's food available ahead at the food truck.

We discussed the Assembly of Delegates actions on Proposed Ordinance 20-08 and 20-14. These are the ordinances regarding the solar leases located on various County-owned properties. So we put that to bed at least for the immediate future.

But then we had a discussion regarding the renewal of the Employment Contract with Jack Yunits, County Administrator. If you go into the previous Employment Agreement, we were obligated to give the Administrator a head's up whether we would renew his contract within months of the expiration of the current contract which expires in February. The alternative would be to take no action in which case the contract would be extended for a year which would go to February 2022.

There was some brief discussion, but at the end the Board decided to allow - to take no action and to allow the contract to continue on to 2022. I'll let Jack speak to this himself, but he gave us some indication that when the new board is sworn in on January 1, he'll have discussions with them as to what they plan to do and, of course, it's also up to Jack what he plans to do.

So it's not written in stone that he will be here. I hope he will be here for a while, but we took no action and so he can stay as County Administrator without any further action until February of 2022.

Okay. Other than that, we filled a vacancy for a grant-funded Operator Position at the Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center.

We had a couple of housekeeping items. I don't know if you know, the household hazardous waste collection for this month is this Saturday. I remember that because I missed the last one. Don't miss this one. If you have gasoline or oil or anything you have to get rid of that will be, at least here in Harwich, it will be on this Saturday. So that's an opportunity for everyone to get -- scour their shed and their barn and see what they can get rid of.

We came to contract with the property that's leased to the Cooperative Extension, added an additional year. And, basically, just a couple of housekeeping articles. Then we author -- of course, we had septic benefits -- septic betterments. That concluded the meeting of the 22nd.

So that brings us to this morning. We, once again, had an update on the COVID-19. Once again, an optimistic update from Sean. A lot of the people who have

tested positive, and I questioned him on this, are asymptomatic. So even though we are getting positive tests from people who have been engaged in social activities, let's say, they don't seem to be sick, which is good, but they can pass it on to, as (Inaudible) would say, you can pass it on to others who could become sick so you have to be careful.

We got an update on the County finances. Oh, first we had a discussion on Analyzing Municipal Solid Waste Disposal and Diversion. This is something that should be of interest to the towns because, as you know, the tipping fees have increased. Solid waste disposal is going to continue to be a more expensive issue and a more difficult issue.

The Cape Cod Commission is going -- we threw some money at the Cape Cod Commission. They're going to study the issue. They're going to look at the alternatives both on-site alternatives -- by on-site I mean here on the Cape also off-Cape. They're going to look into possible funding streams.

As you know, we've talked about one of the possibilities is having a treatment facility at the Base where the towns could send their solid waste to be, you know, distributed, basically to take the recyclables out and to deal with the rest. So that's something we should continue to be concerned with because it is a big issue and the County is going to do whatever it can as I discussed and the financial abilities of the towns as we go forward, especially in this situation now.

Okay. We had an update on County finances. The Registry of Deeds income is way above what it was last year. I think by -- and I don't know if Elizabeth is there, but I think it's either \$600,000 or \$900,000 in the black. So we had a very good month. David Murphy said that perhaps some of that was delayed from May when we did not have a good month, but we're going to finish -- Elizabeth did not have the numbers for the last fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, but we expect to be quite a ways in the black and we're certainly starting off the new fiscal year with a healthy balance.

The housing market seems to be very strong. I don't know why that is. You can't buy a house in Chatham anymore unless you're quite well-heeled. So it's good for us but it's not necessarily good for everybody else.

Okay. We have -- we discussed the status of the Program Year 2021 for AmeriCorps and because of housing issues and the COVID, we're reducing the number of AmeriCorps volunteers to 18 from 24. As you know, some of you have been around, it was originally 32, reduced to 24, and now it's down to 18. But this is the third year of our contract and I'm hoping that when we get through this we can increase the number of AmeriCorps volunteers. There's housing available in Chatham, Barnstable; we have to do some work in Wellfleet, and I think there's a house somewhere on the Upper-Cape which needs some repair.

So we're trying to distribute -- we're trying to get away from the dormitory-style housing for the AmeriCorps volunteers and be able to spread them out so we won't have the problems that we came up with last year when one person in a house would test positive and they all had to be quarantined. Okay.

We had a discussion on updates to Barnstable County Personnel Policies. And what this is is we're going to give our employee a full paid day if they work at the polls in their individual towns. I don't know if you know that the towns are having trouble getting poll workers. A lot of the poll workers, especially in my town, are elderly. They're reluctant to be in a situation where they're meeting with a lot of people.

And so we are providing compensation to the County employees for poll work on election days. There was some discussion whether this would be a continuing policy every year, but at this point, we are simply saying election days which could include election days in 2024 and so on. But it could be -- that could be amended as we go further.

We got quite a bit -- I'm not going to go through everything under "Commissioners' Actions." We are going to hire the Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission is going to hire a part-time person, five hours a week to help out the director of that agency.

We also authorized the creation of the full-time Food Access Coordinator. As you know -- I don't know if you read the stories, but there was food given out from -- the federal government provided some and it was distributed here on the Cape -- I think it was in Mashpee, and the line to accept that food was about two or three miles long, to the surprise of everybody. So apparently that's an issue.

You know, it's not brought out but there are a lot of people -- even though some of us can weather this, there are some who are in dire need and there are many, many nonprofit agencies and other organizations that are willing to be part of distributing food to the various towns on the Cape. What they need is some organization and some direction and so we are authorizing an 18-month position, which will be advertised probably today or tomorrow because we got the vote, unless it has to come to you, maybe it has to come to you first, I think. But if it's passed, it will be advertised right away and that will be for approximately \$65,000 to basically coordinate the various food distribution organizations throughout the Cape and see that that food gets to the people who need it and also go out to farmers and to Buy Fresh Buy Local, and to the federal and state governments who have, you know, a part to this -- important part to this.

Other than that, we received a bunch of money for the homeless -- we had previously received a grant, and this is something that should get out there to the public, of nearly \$600,000 -- \$595,000 to fund the Homeless Youth Program for a period through June 30, 2021, and now we are adding \$362,000 of funding to increase the maximum obligation of the contract amount.

So Beth Albert has done some terrific work on that reaching out to homeless youth here on the Cape. I think she mentioned the number of 130,000 individuals have been contacted by this program. Some of that money went to HAC -- went to Housing Assistance Corporation as a subcontractor, \$119,000.

Children's Cove got an additional \$75,000.

The Cape Cod Commission received an award from the United States Economic Development Administration to the Cape Cod Commission in the amount of \$400,000 to fund COVID-19 pandemic recovery and resiliency consistent with the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, that's the CEDS, for a period of July 1 to June 30. So they're going to be reaching out to businesses, reaching out to state, federal, and local governments to see what we can do to keep businesses afloat while we go through this pandemic.

And that is about it except for a few minor contracts.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Excellent. I wanted to make a comment on the food coordinator. I know years ago when the food pantries on the towns started popping up more frequently, it's almost every town or church or group had food pantries, and one of

the big problems was coordinating and getting facilities organized because you can get help from the Boston Food Pantry if you have certain basic criteria. So it was a challenge getting the food banks together.

So I think this is something the County really can help with because you have a lot of really homegrown help out there, and it will be nice to be able to pull it together in a networked fashion so that we can take advantage of anything that's out there but also alleviate the issues that people had trying to get their food and, you know, and also maybe pool resources as well. So I think that's an excellent opportunity for the County to be helpful.

Yes. Delegate O'Malley.

Delegate O'MALLEY: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I certainly want to echo/ditto your comments strongly. I also have been in a position to be aware of the extent of the need. I'm on the Kelley Board as you are, and you know we have these groups coming to us constantly telling us that year after year their numbers are going up by 10 percent. I think the extent of the issue is really very large, and it has frustrated me that we've left it entirely to the not-for-profit sector.

And so I'm really heartened to see that we're able to step in and play a coordinating role. I think it's a great, great thing to do.

I would like to -- I also have a couple just other comments. I would like to ask Ron about the question of support for local Health Departments, is that -- what exactly are -- we're already helping them. You mentioned some sort of state money; can you speak more about that, Ron?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Well, as you know, in the past we were going to do -- we had appointed some staff members or temporary staff members to assist the local Health Departments. But to be honest with you, I'm going to have to turn this over to Jack, and he's going to give you more details because he's been the one who's been administrating this program.

Jack, you there?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Yes, sir. What it is, Brian, is the health agents actually came to us and we joined with them in composing a letter to send to the state because the health service department, not just here in Barnstable County, but across the state have really been underfunded for a long time.

And this is the hope and we're getting help from Sarah and Julian, in particular. This is our hope that the legislature will start to approve more realistically on the needs that Health Departments face, especially on things like this: gathering people, protective gear, vaccinations which are going to be very important this fall. All these kind of things need to be funded, and it's really beyond -- I don't think it needs to be funded; it needs to be accessed. Testing is still an issue here on the Cape. So the Health Departments wanted to get together and send a message to Boston and that's what this was about.

Delegate O'MALLEY: Great. Thank you, very much. And if I could, just one more comment. Speaking on behalf of the Human Rights Advisory Commission, I'm very grateful for the Commissioners for funding that five hour a week position.

I know from Susan Quinones' conversations that there's an awful lot of sort of minor work that she winds up having to do just making sort of little lists and follow-up things. And having a staffer to do some of that minor stuff off her plate I think will be

really helpful.

Clearly, the Commission has faced a tremendous increase in what it's seeing and what it's dealing with in the wake of, you know, the events of the last few months. So it's greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Harder.

Delegate HARDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I watched today's Commissioners' meeting and the waste management presentation was fabulous. Is that coming to us?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: The Speaker has asked me to alert them that she would like them to present to you, I think, in your next meeting this month.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Right.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: The 19th.

Delegate HARDER: Great.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: To give that same presentation. And the County took the lead on that that they couldn't wait any longer. It's a long process but we had to start. We had the contracts to get them coming down the pike.

Remember, we're talking about millions and millions of dollars that we have to look at that maybe we can help ameliorate that rapid increase. It's already gone up almost \$3 million in the last four years.

Delegate HARDER: Yes, Harwich got hammered. Our price almost doubled this year with no warning. So I think it's great that the County is going to try to help with this.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: And what the committee did with Patty Daley and Kari and Michelle is they spent a year working with the towns. This didn't come out of the blue. They really put the legwork in so everybody's on board.

Yarmouth is addressing these issues which will help us with food waste and septic disposal. And one is helping us look at sites for a potential center for Cape Cod.

So, it's a great start, and I couldn't thank the Commission enough for their aggressive support today.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: It's on the list. I have a list. I'm trying to get as much in as I can. Today is a very short meeting as everyone is aware because we have postponed the recall twice, and I wanted to make sure that we at least did the legwork on that and then could get on with our other work. So anyone else who had a question?

Yes, Delegate Green.

Delegate GREEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and thank you for the report, Mr. Bergstrom. I wanted to ask about the emergency services for the County if there is a storm. I mean, we were lucky with this yesterday, but I know that there have been some concerns about using traditional facilities given the COVID situation.

Can you update us as to what would happen if there were a storm?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: In the future?

Delegate GREEN: In the future that is more devastating than what we had yesterday.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: I'll have to pass this off to Jack because he and Sean have been on the phone in the last few days discussing the potential of

emerging, you know, bringing in the emergency system.

So, Jack, what did you come up with?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Sean talked a little bit about it today, Lilli-Ann, Commissioner, I mean Assemblywoman Green, in his report and the need the County has to have quick turnaround tests. We don't have access to those right now. These are the tests where we can test everybody that comes into a shelter on their arrival and we'll have results in, I mean, minutes.

So we're working now with a private company, and, again, are delegated to try to get those out to Cape Cod as quickly as possible. You're a hundred percent right. We have a problem and hotel rooms if it would be necessary, which we know.

But aside from that because they've got to segregate, we have to quarantine people especially the bulk of our customers in shelters nowadays are elderly and they have medical needs and that's why they come. So we have to be prepared for that and one of the ways we can do this is a quick turnaround test.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Okay.

Delegate GREEN: Thank you. I have one other question.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Delegate GREEN: So as far as -- I understand -- I had a conversation today with one of our select board members in Wellfleet, and we were talking among other -- among a list of topics about COVID testing for restaurant workers specifically because I understand it's not just Chatham that's experiencing problems at this point. And is the County involved with testing workers on the Lower-Cape or on the Outer-Cape, and could you update us as to the situation?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Yes, I'm going to hand this over to Jack but, yeah, we've had to -- even here in Harwich, the County along with I think Cape Cod Healthcare or Outer-Cape has put up a testing center for hospitality workers and so on. But, Jack, do you know the whole background to this?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Yes. Yesterday, we had our emergency response unit, once again, was in Harwich but they were testing -- I think they had close to 100 people from Wellfleet because of an occurrence that happened down there. We'll have those results by Friday. There were 162 people tested yesterday in Harwich. They were primarily from Dennis, Brewster, Harwich, and Wellfleet and some Eastham so.

Delegate GREEN: And is there anything that we're doing as far as contact tracing? I mean if somebody comes into a restaurant, are we taking contact information and if something happens letting people know or is there anything of that nature going on?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Most of the towns are using the VNA to do the contract tracing but they are doing it. They are doing it.

Delegate GREEN: So people that come into restaurants and other facilities, people are providing information, contact information; is that correct?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Most people cooperate, some don't. But generally speaking, if somebody tests positive, the VNA is notified and they initiate contact immediately to try to figure out the contacts of that person.

Delegate GREEN: Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Is there anyone else with a question for -- yes, Delegate Killion.

Delegate KILLION: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon, Commissioner Bergstrom. On your comment regarding the poll workers from the County, do you have a number of workers that may be available and how you plan on allocating them? Is it going to be first come, first serve?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Well, I think that that's going to depend on contact with the individual town clerks and also the Town Clerk of Barnstable to determine the need and the availability -- the people have to be willing to do this, obviously. We're not saying we're going to assign them to the polls. So there's going to be some communications between now and then as to the need and also the availability of County employees who are willing to do this.

Jack, do you have anything to add to that?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: You're a hundred percent right, Mr. Chairman. A letter will go out tomorrow to every employee in the County and let them know there's new policy, invite them to participate if they feel comfortable enough to do so. It's clearly not mandatory; it's strictly voluntary because there is risk there. We know that coming in.

But I can assure you that based on my conversation with Ann Quirk, who's the chairperson of the Clerks Association here on Cape Cod, that the need is obvious. And they're very grateful that we're taking a chance at doing this. We'll see how many we get. I can't say for sure whether it will be a few or a couple dozen. We're hoping our employees feel healthy enough and confident enough and can participate because otherwise we're going to have a problem.

Delegate KILLION: So we're still in the exploratory phase then?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: No, it's past and we're going. We're sending out the letters tomorrow.

Delegate KILLION: Okay. Again, we just don't know how many are needed and how many will volunteer.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Yes, we don't know how many will volunteer and then how many the Clerks Association will actually need. But they would take our list and distribute it amongst the towns and see what they need.

Delegate KILLION: And then just one quick question for you, Jack, on that report you sent out for July regarding the virus. And, again, I want to thank you for throwing some shade on the youth of the Cape because they have been taking a beating, that's kind of undeserved.

But you did mention about the matter of the uptick of it being a serious concern. Now I spend a lot of time kind of refuting a lot of the reports out there that tend to overstate the issues, and I think there's currently two people in the hospital right now Cape-wide out of over 200,000. It's a pretty small number, and I hear comments of people that the hospitals are filling back up. I mean how would you characterize the situation right now? Is it pretty much stable, I mean, compared to where our numbers were in the past?

Administrator JACK YUNITS: I think given the fact that we're a tourist destination and people come here from everywhere, given the fact that our population has doubled since July 4, the numbers we're seeing are really good. And given the fact that, Jim, honestly, we have received no negative reports from the public about the way our establishments are operating. Everybody in those restaurants and hairdressers and

everybody seems to be playing by the rules.

So that's why our numbers, generally speaking, except on the beaches people are playing by the rules. And, you know, we've just got to keep our fingers crossed. This is a big test today or yesterday 162 people being tested because of known contacts, that could turn the numbers negative overnight. But generally speaking, Cape Codders have done a great job.

Delegate KILLION: That has been my impression. And some of this comes in the context of whether the schools are going to open or not. People have a concern that we're not going to see real numbers from the tourists until later in the summer, and I just don't understand the logic behind that. I would think it would kind of follow along with the folks that were here and we would see a steady increase but we really haven't. Especially in the hospitalizations, they've been very, very low --

Administrator JACK YUNITS: Right.

Delegate KILLION: -- which is, in my opinion, kind of really the nuts and bolts of the problem. If people aren't going to the hospital, then it's not all going to be a huge concern certainly like it was months ago.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: I can't argue with you.

Delegate KILLION: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Harder.

Delegate HARDER: I had just wanted to say that, I mean, I'm only dining outside but either -- wanting to speak to Lilli-Ann's questions, either they take your name and number to make a reservation so they can track you that way. And if you do a walk-in, which I've done twice, they take your name and number before they seat you.

So they do have a way to do the contract -- contact tracing if you've been to a restaurant. So I just wanted to let Lilli-Ann know that.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Can I add to that, Madam Chairman?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: I talked to someone from -- a worker from the Squire here in Chatham and they said that their business, with the exception of the bar business and alcohol, they're doing very well. And the few places, you know, now that we have outside seating, we tend to go by other places that you can see that they are doing a lively business.

So, you know, a month or so ago, we were saying, well, if we open up, will they come and, indeed, they have. You know, so it's not a question of people saying well I'm not going to go even though we've opened up to outside dining and to social distancing. We've actually seen an improvement. All the words -- the only word that I'm getting is that considering the circumstances, the hospitality industry is doing, you know, surprisingly well and, hopefully, that will continue.

And to address Delegate Killion's comments, yes, we would've expected, you know, once July 4<sup>th</sup> hit, it's got a 14-day incubation period in this disease or so they say that we would now be seeing -- with the increase in population, we would be seeing an increase in the number of positive cases and we're not seeing that. You know and it is August already.

And knock on wood, hopefully that will continue, but we're not going to get

the kind of spike that we were afraid of when we looked at going into the high season.

Plus as I said earlier, a lot of the people who've been diagnosed are not really sick, you know. So I don't know if that's, you know, what the situation is there. Perhaps there's more people that have COVID than we know about, but the hospitalizations are down. I don't think there's anybody in the ICU. So we're doing fairly well. We're doing better than the rest of Massachusetts. So hopefully that will continue.

Administrator JACK YUNITS: As a point of confidence in support of Ron, the Real Estate Association is reporting to us that September and October long-term bookings have never been this good and it's continuing at a rapid pace.

So there's a lot of confidence in the market that we're going to have a long summer on Cape Cod, a long, healthy summer. So that's good for us all to hear. Maybe some of those restaurants can survive.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Any other questions?

Delegate BROWN: Yes, please.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Brown.

Delegate BROWN: Yes, for Mr. Bergstrom, at the end of his presentation my computer was freezing; you mentioned \$400,000 and I think that was for COVID relief for business; is that -- did I hear that right?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: That was the CEDS program that was given to the Cape Cod Commission under the auspices of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It was something they have been working on for years through the state and it's coming from the Economic Development -- United States Economic Development Administration.

I questioned the executive director on this, what exactly they were going to do, and they said earlier, basically, you know, look, and see what obstacles the business community is facing here. They're going to see what resources available, state, and federal resources are available, and they'll do surveys as to what parts of the industry here, the tourist industry, the real estate industry need the most help. And I imagine there's going to be a lot of really small shops, you know, and outlets, and retail outlets that are hurting.

So, basically, it's, once again, a good pot of money that we've been able to leverage from the federal government and, hopefully, it will go to a good -- it will result in some good policy decisions and either directly to us and to you as to actions to take or directly to the businesses to give them an idea of where they can go to try to mitigate the problems that they're having so.

Delegate BROWN: Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Seeing no other questions. Two quick comments. We're not going to talk about the Dredge today because we are hiring a new director who I'm hoping will be coming to our next meeting. I think that's what the Administrator had indicated to meet the new director and how they qualified and local knowledge. So it would be very beneficial to the County.

And then the other quick comment was on finances. I think it's great we have a huge real estate boom right now. I think the worry is that the stock will be running out in two to three months, so that may come to a screeching halt.

And, in addition, depending on what happens with the rest of the economy getting into the fall we need to think long term, and we can address that with the finance

director. Yes, things might look great through October, but after October we've got the rest of our life. So we're going to need to make sure that we're on top of that as well. I know people are. I just wanted -- I'm very grateful for the positive news now and I hope that that will carry us through some of the harder times that might be coming.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Okay. Madam Speaker.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: There was a current theme in the last couple of meetings that we've had, and the theme is that we are not experiencing the shortfall that the various towns are experiencing. All right. So the County's been lucky so far. And so some of the services we're providing and some of the grants go to trying to relieve the individual towns of some of their financial responsibility. The obviously point, in fact, would be the solid waste treatment plant, which would save them a lot of money.

So we're looking for ways to try to help -- the County to help towns get through this fiscal what is -- could be a very strong fiscal crisis, and I'm hoping and will continue to do that.

And I'm hoping that even the members of the Assembly if you can come up with some good ideas of services the County can provide while we're in position to help the towns because we know, you know, we could be in trouble or they could be in trouble also and we're all in this together so.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Great. Thank you. Yes, Delegate Brown, you had your hand up?

Delegate BROWN: Just, Mr. Bergstrom, are you looking for ideas for now for that?

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Well, it doesn't have to be today but yeah, no, whatever you want --

Delegate BROWN: Well, Falmouth -- our EDIC in Falmouth was trying to create a loan program targeting around \$2 million for local Falmouth business.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Yes.

Delegate BROWN: They're finding out that they're at their limits of their capabilities legally and they're going to have to probably get special legislation to approve them to manage a fund like that. And even though they'd be working through local lenders, they still want to be the proprietor of it, and I'm wondering if the County has any kind of -- any way to assist in that endeavor or another program similar to that that might be already in place that I'm not aware of.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Well, I can only speak off the top of my head, but I think that would be part of the responsibility of the Commission when they look into the opportunities that are available for small business. They can look into any grant programs that might be available to, you know, to fund that kind of small business loans and so on. So I'll pass that on to Kristy if she's not on the meeting now.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, the banks have really tightened up. They're not giving out small business loans because either people aren't doing well or they might have a burst of good -- things are just too unstable. So that is a very important point. I think the small businesses are being shut out of the banks to a great degree.

Commissioner RONALD BERGSTROM: Well the banks are basically forgiving or foregoing some payments now. Hopefully, that will -- we don't know how

long --

Speaker MCAULIFFE: I'm talking about new loans that aren't part of a federal program.

Delegate BROWN: Right.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: So if someone wanted to start a business it would be challenging.

Okay. The next item would be communications from Public Officials.

Seeing none.

### **Summary of Communications from Members of the Public**

- **Ms. Muska Yousuf made several comments to the Assembly**

Speaker MCAULIFFE: The next item is communications from members of the public. So we do have at least one member of the public who had wanted to speak at the last meeting and did not -- we couldn't communicate so I did not know.

So this will be part of something that's not on the agenda typically but just a general communication from the public to the Assembly. Muska.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Okay. Great. So good evening, everybody. My name is Muska Yousuf and I'm a resident of Yarmouth. And this is the first time I'm speaking before this Assembly, so I just wanted to start by thanking you for giving me this opportunity to give this public comment.

I understand that there was a little bit of a technological issue last time, so I'm glad we figured that out.

So, first, I actually just have a few questions regarding the recall provision because I'm still very confused, and I want to apologize because I did try to find the answers to this on the County website and I wasn't able to. So I'm hoping that I can potentially get some answers right now.

And I guess my first --

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Muska.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Yes.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Public comment is not an exchange.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Okay.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Public comment is when you make your comments. There are other, you know, we certainly can talk to you privately if you would like, or there will be other opportunities because when the issue comes before the Assembly --

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Sure.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: -- a Public Hearing.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Yes.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: So that would also be another opportunity.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Okay. Well then I'll save --

Speaker MCAULIFFE: If you would just give us your comments.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Yeah, well, I'll give you two comments then. I guess the first comment then since I'm not able to ask questions right here is that I want to start by saying that I am somewhat disappointed by the County website. I don't think that it's very easy to navigate. I am an attorney. I consider myself someone who's fairly well

educated, and I do not think that you guys as a board and assembly have done what you need to do to make the public educated about not just the recall provision but also other matters that are important to the local community.

I am speaking for a group of people who have reached out to some of you and never heard back, and I was lucky enough, Suzanne, that I reached out to you and you instantly got back to me.

I understand that for many of you guys you have many other obligations. This might be a part-time job, but I do think there is no excuse for not responding to an email for weeks on end. So that's my first comment.

My second comment is that I'm still somewhat confused about what role this body plays in terms of amending or discussing the recall provision. I think this is a very, very important issue, and, once again, I think you guys play a dual role. Obviously, you have a representative role; you represent your town, but you also are educators and you need to educate people about this issue better. I

And I know you have the website; you post minutes; you post the agenda but it is not intuitive, and I find that more can be done to educate especially the young professionals that really are eager to learn.

With regard to the recall provision, since I'm not allowed to ask questions here and there can't be a back-and-forth, I will say that I, obviously, strongly support the recall provision. I hope you guys vote for it. I'm not entirely sure why it was taken out. You know, obviously on other levels of government there is an impeachment process whereby the public can take someone out of office if they do something during their term whether they speak inappropriately, whether they do something illegal, any kind of malfeasance. There's no reason why a similar process should not be instituted on the local level.

I have no idea when this issue is actually going to be discussed before you. This is only the second meeting that I've been to, so I apologize for my ignorance. But it seems as though this is not an issue that's getting enough attention, that it's an issue that is discussed at the very tail end of the meeting. And I hope that at some point there can be a full meeting where the recall provision is discussed at the beginning of the meeting, that people from the public can come, and that some of you out there will start actually reading it, opening your emails, and responding to the public who have serious questions about this.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Thank you. I did offer to talk to you. I asked you to send me your phone number so I could call you, and I'm happy to answer the questions if you want to send me your phone number. We did exchange several emails and it is a very, very complex process and it's something that the Assembly has been wrangling with for years.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Right.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: It's not just a new topic. But if you want to send me your phone number, I'm happy to have a conversation with you.

MS. MUSKA YOUSUF: Absolutely. And I do want to commend you because you have been on top of it and amazing, and I really respect and appreciate you for doing that. Unfortunately, I can't say the same for everybody else on the Assembly.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Okay. Thank you.

Delegate BROWN: Can I ask a question?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: And as Public Officials, we need to know what's working and what's not working. Thank you.

Delegate BROWN: Can I just ask a question about the email chain, how it works? Is that possible?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Well, you can -- yes. I mean, you can ask it of the Clerk; she would have that information.

Delegate BROWN: And I'm just wondering is there one general email address that we would all receive a copy of that? Like in Falmouth, our select board if you email to Selectboard@FalmouthMA.gov, all five of us get it including the town managers. I'm wondering if the Assembly has a similar arrangement or do we get individual emails?

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Typically, it's individual unless someone specifies to the Assembly.

Delegate BROWN: Okay.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: And I'm very careful about, you know, making sure that I think that, you know, information that is important to the Assembly. I did not -- I heard from two people and I believe Delegate Harder heard from someone else as well and that's why we made the opportunity to give them information to actually come in on the meeting because the phone system, as a public comment, wasn't working, and I did not distribute individual emails.

I had probably fairly lengthy communication with two individuals, and it really is essentially information gathering. So if you want, I can include everybody on those emails if that, you know, you can let me know if that's your preference or we can just keep it as a kind of a Speaker information or an individual information.

A lot of people reach out as individuals to the town representatives --

Delegate BROWN: Right.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: -- and sometimes you don't need to share that with the whole Assembly. But typically, unlike Falmouth, you can go to individual Assembly members unless it's directed to the entire Assembly.

Delegate BROWN: Thank you.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Yes, Delegate Harder.

Delegate HARDER: The only thing I'll say to that is, Doug, if -- sorry, Delegate Brown, if I got an email from one of my constituents that I didn't see for about a week and a half because it had gone to -- you know how we have "Focused" and "Other," and for some reason it had gone to "Other," not "Focused."

So every now and then, check the "Other" mailbox in your Assembly Gmail so that you don't miss things like I did.

Delegate BROWN: All set.

Speaker MCAULIFFE: Okay. And this Charter Review that is now covering the recall is complicated, and we have probably further complicated it this year as well by making the entire Assembly the Charter Review Committee, which confuses people tremendously.

So what's happening now is this meeting will adjourn. The Charter Review Committee will then assemble or convene. We have been trying for two meetings now to do right by the recall provision. We had a subcommittee that worked on this, worked very hard, presented a draft. We had a delegate redline or change the draft in response to some

of the Assembly comments.

So now what's going to happen is when we convene as the Charter Review, that is, even though it's the whole Assembly, it's a subcommittee or a working committee. That committee will discuss and decide if they want to make a recommendation to the full Assembly. This is what's confusing. Then, that recommendation will come to the full Assembly. If there's action to be taken, typically it's done in the way of an amendment or an ordinance and then that requires a Public Hearing.

So it's not just the review -- Charter Review Committee that's doing the work. It's going to be that committee making a recommendation to the Assembly. The Assembly will then discuss it, and then if it's something that the Assembly wants to go forward with, there will probably be an ordinance and a Public Hearing.

So this is just -- we're in the (Inaudible) making part of this, so there will be, I think, more public opportunities when the recall comes before the Assembly officially. The confusion is the full Assembly is the Charter Review Committee this time and it isn't this way every time. We just did it to be more efficient, and I'm not sure that it didn't just confuse people. It confused us so we're trying to keep on top of it.

**I'll take a motion to adjourn the Assembly meeting.**

**Delegate CHAFFEE: So moved.**

**Speaker MCAULIFFE: Okay. We are adjourned.**

**Whereupon, it was moved to adjourn the Assembly of Delegates at 4:55**

**p.m.**

**Submitted by:**

**Janice O'Connell, Clerk  
Assembly of Delegates**

**List of materials used at the meeting:**

- **Business Calendar of 8/5/20**
- **UNAPPROVED Journal of Proceedings of 7/15/20**