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May 18, 2020

Mr. Paul J. Connors, Chair  
Norfolk County Advisory Board  
7 Junior Terrace  
Randolph, MA 02368

Via email to annbc5@yahoo.com

Dear Chair Connors:

I write to you today on behalf of the Norfolk County Advisory Board Finance Committee to respectfully offer a report on the FY21 Norfolk County Budget.

The Finance Committee began work on the FY 21 budget with a meeting held on April 22, 2020 to review the status of the FY20 budget. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting occurred by video and telephone conference using the GoToMeeting platform which allows for anonymous participation. As you will see in the minutes of this meeting, this caused some issues around decorum which were rectified in subsequent meetings.

The meeting minutes and associated documents, all of which have been posted at [www.norfolkcounty.org](http://www.norfolkcounty.org), offer a great picture of the meetings. The annual budget presentation by the County Commissioners was the main agenda item for the meeting held April 29, 2020, while presentations by the Registry of Deeds and the Norfolk County Agricultural High School were the main agenda items for the meeting held May 6, 2020. During committee discussion at this meeting, the Finance Committee decided to seek additional information from the Commissioners and from the Registry of Deeds. Formal requests were sent for responses to be delivered at the next meeting.

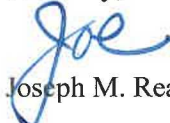
The May 13 meeting began with a very detailed presentation from the County Treasurer. Following this, the Finance Committee recognized the Commissioners and the Registry for their responses to the committee's questions. The Commissioners offered a detailed response, but the Registry failed to provide any of the requested information. After additional discussion and careful deliberation, the Finance Committee then voted to unanimously support the FY21 budget as proposed by the Commissioners.

This has been a very difficult budget process, but it is one that has brought to light the need for some changes that I believe will help the county move toward a healthier financial future. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Finance Committee for their commitment to this process and to the Commissioners, County Director and department heads for their cooperation.

Complete budget packets will be sent out very soon. Until then, you may review the budget documents on the county website. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph M. Reardon