

Manager's Report FY 2009

The Charter Study Commission has recommended many changes to the County after studying the operation for 18 months. In general they determined that abolishment of the County would not be advantageous to the towns, either financially or functionally. However, they have recommended many changes to try and strengthen communication with the towns and provide greater transparency of the functions and services.

The Charter Study Commission recommendations required two types of actions to implement them. First changes were adopted into the County's Administrative Code which incorporated many of the recommendations. These included greater participation by the County in regional meetings such as the All Island Selectman, the MVC, and the Wampanoag Tribe. Greater communication with the County Advisory Board during the budget process was also called for. All of these recommendations were adopted into the Administrative Code and greater involvement with all parties was agreed upon.

Secondly, another set of recommendations from the Charter Study Commission required the filing of Legislation. It was a recommendation that a Charter Study Commission that there be seven County Commissioners serving two year concurrent terms. The Towns voted in favor of this and legislation was filed. Due to the number of Commissioners and the shortness of the elected term it was generally agreed that the recall legislation not be pursued. It was also recommended that there be changes to the state law that would require the County Manager to reside in the County and serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners. Legislation was filed.

Along State Beach (OB/Edg) roadway the County and the Barrier Beach Task Force planted 150 Beach Plums and 175 Rosa Ragosas. This is to prevent cars from driving off the road way and killing the beach grass.

The County welcomes the Youth Task Force (YTF) into our offices. They are an Island wide group which has received grants from the Ma. Attorney Gen. Office and the Ma. Bureau of Substance Abuse Services. The mission of the YTF is to help prevent substance abuse among our youth. They will work closely with the schools and their board has proven to be very ambitious and capable.

The County renegotiated the island wide heating fuel contract because of the drop in heating fuel prices nationally. This saved the schools and other public buildings around \$300,000.

The State again is proposing legislation to absorb the Sheriffs Office into the statewide system. Many drafts have be filed and extreme diligence from the County, the Sheriff and the Treasurer in particular to make sure our assets are not plundered and the liabilities are not left with the County.

The County helped form the Dukes County Fisherman's Association and houses their operation.