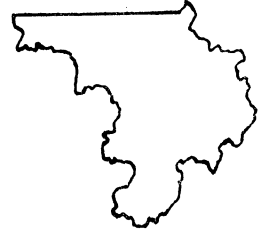




Middlesex County Advisory Board

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EAST CAMBRIDGE MASS 02141
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494-4113
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



9 August, 1983

TO: Middlesex County Selectmen, Mayors, Managers, MCAB Members
FROM: Diane Norris, Coordinator
RE: Board Membership Update, Legislative Update, Meeting Information

It is update time for the Advisory Board membership list. By Ch. 35, section 28B of the Massachusetts General Laws Board members include:

- a city manager or his designee who must be a member of the city council or board of aldermen in a Plan D or Plan E city
- the mayor or his designee who must be a member of the city council or board of aldermen in any other city
- any member of the board of selectmen of each town or a town council member in a town without selectmen.

Because the Board is often required to operate with short notice, time constraints make home addresses and phone numbers very valuable. Of course meeting notice will always be sent to the city/town hall in addition, but there can be as much as a one week delay between arrival and appearance on an agenda of Board information. Please fill in the enclosed form and return as soon as possible.

Committee membership The single greatest effect a city/town can have on its county assessment is to participate in the Budget Committee. The municipality's priorities can best be represented by a working budget committee member (who does not have to be a Board member). Other standing committees include personnel, insurance, hospital, capital outlay and legislative. The executive committee (chairman, vice-chairman, and clerk) appoint all committees. Please include the name, address and committee preference of any qualified individual to be considered for committee work. Time commitment - once a month meetings plus individual meetings with department heads and/or county budget director.

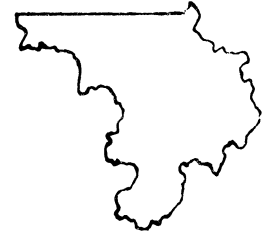
Meeting schedule An organizational meeting of the full Board will be held in late September/ early October to elect the executive committee and appoint all other committees. A nominating committee of Beth Sutherland (President, Middlesex Selectmen's Assn.), Paul Boire (vice-president same), and Mayor Eugene Brune (M.M.A.) has been chosen. Any names to be considered for nomination to any of the executive committee positions should be submitted to Beth Sutherland, Lincoln Town Hall, Bedford Road, Lincoln, 01773 no later than September 1.

This meeting will also hear the finalized capital outlay plan of the Commissioners as required by Board action in March. It is expected additional hospital funding will be requested to complete the half year budget appropriated in March and some Medicaid deficit news.



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June 23, 1983 Supplemental Appropriation FY'83

Middlesex County Hospital

Code

600	Fuel Tank replacement	-\$197,000
	Fuel Tank replacement	60,000
	Emergency fire doors	137,000

Supplemental Appropriation FY'84

Middlesex County Hospital

Code

450	Refund of income (Blue Cross)	\$510,000
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Supplemental Appropriation FY'84

Middlesex County

<u>Item</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
3	County Commissioners	
	1. Personnel - positions and salaries as attached.	
6	County Treasurer	
	1. Personnel - positions and salaries as attached.	\$ 4,912
8S	Southern Registry of Deeds	
	1. Personnel - Positions and salaries as attached	90,000
18	Maintenance	
	1. Personnel - salary schedule, positions and job descriptions as attached	145,976
27	Unpaid bills	
	Medical examiners as attached	95,000

The Advisory Board meeting of June 23, 1983 made the above budget changes. The reorganization of the departments was funded from the Reserve for Salary Increases item and no additional assessment results.



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LEGISLATION UPDATE

Following is an outline of some of the bills pending in this session of the Legislature. H5993 is the only bill on which the Board has taken an actual vote. Your influence on the legislators at this time is very strong. In a July 19 hearing Senator Bachrach and Rep. Jordan both stated they were awaiting Advisory Board input on legislation.

ACTS TO INCREASE REGISTRY FEES

Senate and House bills to increase registry excise stamp fees and mortgage and deed recording fees need immediate attention. S1090 Registry stamp fees are increased from \$2.28/\$1000 to \$4.00/\$1000. Currently all stamp fee money goes to the state. Under this bill 37.5% of the fees would go to the county with no strings attached. 62.5% would go to the state. Using the FY'83 actual receipt figures, \$3,079,920 new money which could be used to reduce the assessment, fund improvements, or whatever the Board voted would be available. Mortgage and deed fees would be increased by \$336,960 for a total of \$1,318,320. This money already is a county receipt.

H6535 Stamp fees in this bill would increase from \$2.28/\$1000 to \$5.00/\$1000 with no increase in mortgage and deed fees. County receipts, based on FY'83 activity, would be \$5,132,322 HOWEVER of that amount, \$2,566,163 could be used without strings, \$256,617 would be expended above the FY'84 appropriation for the extension service, \$513,232 would be expended above the FY'84 appropriation for the registries and \$1,796,313 would be expended above the FY'84 appropriation for the jail and houses of correction. This 5%, 10%, and 35% earmarking would last until FY'88. Although the total money available to the county would be greater under the House bill, in the first three years the actual money available to be used as the appropriating authority wishes would be less than the Senate bill provides. The Senate bill has gone to Ways and Means.

BILLS TO MODIFY COUNTY BUDGET PROCEDURES

This bill was submitted by the M.M.A. with Advisory Board input and a vote of the Board to support it.

H5993 Sect. 1: Allows creation of a capital improvement fund not to exceed 10% of the previous years assessment nor 10% of the eqv in the county.

Sect. 2: Puts board or its executive committee in control of transfers from the county reserve fund to cover emergency spending in the county.

Sect. 3: Requires daily deposit in a treasurer's control account of registry receipts.

Sect. 4: Defines what funds can be retained from the general unappropriated balance at the end of the year.



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BILLS TO TRANSFER COURT HOUSE CONTROL TO THE STATE

The Senate and House bills take over court house ownership and maintenance differ in the number of members named to the Authority which would administer this project.

S1028 Now before the judiciary committee, this bill removes courthouse maintenance and ownership from the county. It creates a nine member Massachusetts Court Facilities Authority "which shall not be subject to the administration, supervision, control, or regulation of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth or any department, commission, board, bureau or agency of the Commonwealth" except under the supervision of the Supreme Judicial Court. The courthouses become state buildings. In return the state will "assume an annual reimbursement of the annual debt obligations." There is no language to describe the \$20 million owed in back rent or the freedom from rent for county operations existing in the court buildings.

In the conclusions and recommendations of policy report #6 issued as part of the state budget, the support of the new authority is included. Also included is this statement:

"If counties are to be compensated for the transfer of court facilities, the amount should not be based on the same county's court-related debt. Nor should compensation be based on any determination of value which would be expensive to complete or difficult for the state and counties to agree upon."

CHARTER REFORM BILLS

The original Advisory Board legislation contained flaws caused by not screening all other legislation to change authority from the general court to the new boards. Some of the following bills attempt to change this.

H4507 Most sections of this bill correct minor references to general court rather than advisory board. Section 4, however, is a major change in that it would allow the board members to appoint a designee of their choice to the board with no restrictions on that designee. Section 5 assumes advisory board approval of any submitted request unless the board votes differently. If a quorum could not be reached, the request would be automatically approved. Section 9 abolishes the statewide county personnel board and establishes local board comprised of five advisory board members.

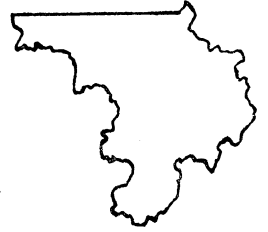
S205 This lengthy bill creates a 15 member, \$35,000 funded, committee to study, hold public hearings, and formulate a county charter in any county that chooses. It would allow for individual differences in county needs and home rule would prevail.

H4692 This bill investigates the feasibility of dividing Middlesex County into two.



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S1908 At least 90 days before the signing of a lease or sale agreement for county real estate, the city council, board of selectmen, appropriate legislators, advisory board, and regional planning agency must be notified. A well advertised public hearing on the purpose of the real estate change must also be held.

COUNTY PERSONNEL CHANGES

Budget Director: Frank Schepps, an MBA with a Ph.D in Public Policy Analysis has been hired to be the County Budget Director.
Personnel Director: Louise Peluso, previously with the Mass. Commission For the Blind, has been hired as the Personnel Director for the county.

Unfilled yet: Interviews are being conducted for an affirmative action officer and a purchasing director has not been selected although all the interviews have been completed.

These changes, particularly budget director and personnel, should make the advisory board role somewhat easier.

9.

S-457

Comm. from Diane Norris, Coordinator, Middlesex County Advisory Board enclosing an updated list of Advisory Board membership, update of bills pending before the Legislature & meeting information.

In City Council,

September 12, 1983

*Referred to the
194 City Manager -*

*Copy sent to the City
Manager 9/14/83 arb*