



Town Council Meeting
January 8, 2026

A quorum being duly present, President Craig Tamash called the January 8, 2026, Town Council meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

An announcement was made by President Tamash regarding the meeting being televised live and questioning if anyone was actively taping the session to please make their presence known. This session is recorded and broadcast on Channel 8 or Channel 1072.

PRESENT: Charles Bloom, Seth Burdick, Kristine Clark, William Crocker, Jr., John Crow, Thomas Keane, Matthew Levesque, Betty Ludtke, Barry Sheingold, Craig Tamash

ZOOM: Gordon Starr, Lisa DaLuz **ABSENT:** Felicia Penn

Councilor Ludtke introduced and welcomed, veteran Leonard DiLorenzo to lead the pledge of allegiance followed by President Tamash who asked all to remain standing for a Moment of Silence for all that have served our country.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Tamash asked all who would like to comment, to sign in, wait to be recognized by the presiding officer, and direct your comments to the Town Council.

Susanne Conley spoke about the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) which is currently undertaking a rule making process to implement some of the 2024 Climate Act. Her concern is that the EFSB will implement the changes they've already proposed regarding the siting and permitting of renewable energy infrastructure projects.

Mike Burns has an issue with the sidewalks in Hyannis. He said they were shamefully hazardous after the last storm events. Need to improve safety and convenience for the people of this town, there is room for improvement.

Henry Ramage said the sidewalks are not getting the attention that they need especially in Precinct one. As a walker, after the snowstorm, the sidewalks were not taken care of, thank you.

Pete Sampou said local opposition groups were receiving information from anti-wind groups. The anti-wind groups have money to spread misinformation to organizations to influence the local groups that are against wind.

Lynda Stevens is concerned about the expense of the sewer system, the census glaring error, and the lack of current annual town reports. She was told that this year and last years reports are being worked on. No one seems to know what is happening, because this department doesn't talk to that department.

Norma Schmidt comparing item number 2026-072 with 2026-075. She is concerned that the easement plan for the abutters on the private roads does not exist in the agenda. How is the plan going to affect my property. Nothing has been outlined.

Ken Baron speaking against the wind farms, pitfalls and the damage that they do. Nothing good about them and oppose them.

ZOOM (no one)

Close public Comment

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Tamash) about the sidewalks we are going to have a presentation about that this evening. (Ludtke) on January 2nd the sidewalks were a disaster, it is unacceptable. I hope when we have our strategy session, we will discuss Home Rule. We don't have data from the wind farm (Vineyard Wind). (Crow) said this is an important issue with the EFSB and Home Rule. (Sheingold) Talked about energy regulations in the State, EFSB has been allowed to overrule the municipalities override the town on large generation projects. (Levesque) we do need to pay more attention to our sidewalks it is a necessity. (Quirk) Regarding the census, it was an error, I take full responsibility. Voter information is in a separate hard-wired system, connected directly to the State. We are asking everyone to note any changes to members of the household. If there are no changes, simply write no changes and sign the census.

(Ells) we are working on the 2024 Annual Report and soon to start the 2025 Annual Report, my outside work at the Cape Cod Community College is outside my workday.

TOWN MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS: (Pre-Recorded) The Town Manager's report has been pre-recorded and is available to the Town Council and the public. The report will be prepared in written form and posted on the Town Manager's website. The Town Manager and staff will be available to answer any questions regarding the report as presented. **(Exhibit A)**

- Budget Action Calendar – fiscal policy workshop
- Contact Us link on the Water Resources page
- Overview of the Snow and Ice Program
- Annual Census missing some information
- Save Greater Dowses Beach Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) monitoring project
- The Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod issued its State of the Waters Report
- Lincoln Road upgrades and the 25 mile per hour (MPH) speed limit issue.

Discussion:

(Ludtke) Lincoln Road is a great example of how this was handled to calm traffic (Ells) this is an excellent example because it is straight and wide. This should be shared with the residents (Kupfer) our next steps looking to further design through public engagement and using local dollars to talk about the priorities.

MINUTES:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the minutes of December 11, 2025, as presented.

VOTE: PASSES 10 YES, 2 ABSTAIN (BURDICK, DALUZ)

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

COMMUNICATIONS - from elected officials, boards, committees and staff, commission reports, correspondence, and announcements:

FISCAL POLICY AND REVENUE STRATEGY

Mark Ells, Town Manager, and Mark Milne, Finance Director, utilized a power point presentation to update the Town Council.

Discussion:

(Keane) we have significant school needs do they figure in to this model (Milne) they not yet, we do have some ways we can address the larger school projects with our existing capacity for the next couple of years (Keane) should the Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC) fold in some projection of the school needs, (Milne) we could do that but perhaps two questions on the same ballot (Bloom) do you have any information regarding the Municipal Power Act (Milne) I would expect we will

hear something by the end of this legislative session (Tamash) Does the Seasonal Community's Act work into this at all. (Milne) that would give a larger possibility for tax exemption. (Ludtke) this ties into strategic planning; I would like to see a lot more about Water Infrastructure Investment Fund (WIIF). The State Revolving Fund (SRF) does not fund design costs for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) and WIIF would cover it. (Clark) Did I hear correctly, you are not going to reduce the Capital Program (Milne) Yes, if we reduce the Operating Budget that would open up money for the Capital Budget (DaLuz) what is the turnout on a special election (Quirk) traditionally municipal elections are poorly attended. However, the Councilors can get the information out to the public which would increase the turnout. (DaLuz) we do want people involved, people come out for bigger elections. (Ludtke) Affordable housing tax exemption, it takes away from tax base, can't be restricted, we have to know we are going to get a hit on taxes (Crow) what is the tax increase amount on an override (Milne) 9 1/2 million of additional taxing or a 6 percent increase, about \$130 dollars per year on a median house this would be added to the taxes (Crow) that is what you are asking for WIIF (Tamash) so it is either a debt exclusion or the WIIF. (Milne) WIIF is forever and would have to go back to the voters to take it off, the debt exclusion is added until it is paid off. (Burdick) what is our next step? How are we going to continue to keep the ball rolling? (Tamash) another workshop in February, refer to CFAC to come back in July and a discussion, Agenda item in August, then a spring election. (Burdick) is this the framework is outlined in this presentation (Tamash) yes, I would use this as the framework to keep it moving forward.

Snow and Ice update:

Presentation by Rob Steen, Assistant Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) was joined with Griffen Beaudoin, Kelly Collopy, and Sean Jones.

Discussion:

(Tamash) great update, there is no easy answer (Ludtke) who is your authority for rest? (Steen) Don't know of one about snow plow drivers, teams go home take a nap and come back to work (Ludtke) Sidewalks you can't get contractors (Steen) all DPW workers have emergency work built into their contracts (Ludtke) something that can be put out to augment with other staff (Ludtke) hard pack is very drivable, (Steen) again the feedback is that the residents are not happy with it. (Steen) it requires more salt, (Ells) a previous Town Council wanted black pavement, because the public was not satisfied. Now we use more salt on the roads. (Ludtke) Maybe we should discuss this at a council level. (Clark) we value the work you have done, hard pack is tolerable, could you let us know at holiday time how much of additional cost? (Ells) we have worked with other staff, it could occur, most are black ice events. It does present a challenge (Ludtke) and could our tax work-off or the Town Councilors do this as well. (Levesque) secondary roads hard pack is not a big deal, main roads with hard pack is not pretty. (Crocker) Most of the smaller storms, what is your contact with the state. (Steen) Big storms we contact the Chief of Police and the County. (Crocker) What about streaming? Lots of people no longer have cable (Kelly) mobile app, social media, and short form video (Poyant) one of the reasons we have the storm line, is to cover those that do not have technology. (Sheingold) Is the Town responsible for clearing all the sidewalks? (Steen) we are responsible (Tamash) with the number of seasonal homes that we have (Keane) sometimes the resident does shove the sidewalk and then they don't, so it is not done.

2026-072 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF AN EASEMENT FOR ELECTRIC FACILITIES ON TOWN-OWNED LAND AT 367 MAIN STREET IN HYANNIS INTRO: 12/11/2025, 1/8/2026

Tom LaRosa, First Assistant Town Attorney gave the rationale

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

ORDERED: That the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, as part of a negotiated transaction and for nominal monetary consideration, to grant a perpetual easement to NSTAR Electric Company, doing business as Eversource Energy, or one of its related entities for the installation and operation of an underground line for the distribution of electricity, related lines for control, relay and communication purposes, and associated at-grade appurtenances, including

manholes and a transformer on a concrete pad, to serve the Town Hall property located at 367 Main Street in Hyannis, shown as Assessor Parcel 326-021, and described in a deed recorded at the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds in Book 865, Page 438. The easement area consists of 1,946± square feet located on the Town-owned land and is shown as “Electric Easement Area” on a plan captioned “Electric Easement Exhibit Plan” “367 Main Street - Hyannis Village – Barnstable, MA”, prepared by the Town of Barnstable, Department of Public Works, dated November 12, 2025, and attached hereto. The Town Manager is authorized to negotiate, accept, sign, deliver and record any documents, and may make minor modifications to the easement area and the plan as necessary to effectuate this Order and complete this transaction.

VOTE: PASSES 12 YES

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, DALUZ, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-074 APPROPRIATION ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,200 IN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF 30 HIKING TRAIL SIGNS INTRO: 12/11/2025, 1/8/2026

Lindsey Counsell gave the rationale along with Planning and Development Director, Jim Kupfer
Open public hearing, seeing no one, close public hearing

Discussion:

(Clark) good news to the Open Space Committee

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

ORDERED: That, pursuant to the provisions of the Community Preservation Act, G.L. c. 44B, the amount of **Four Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$4,200)**, be appropriated first from the amount set-aside for Open Space and Recreation within the Community Preservation Fund and secondly from the Community Preservation Undesignated Fund to the Planning and Development Department for the purchase and installation of 30 hiking trail signs on Town property. It is further ordered that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for and expend the appropriation made available for this purpose, subject to oversight by the Community Preservation Committee.

VOTE: PASSES 12 YES

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, DALUZ, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-075 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF ROAD EASEMENTS BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR SEWER AND WATER PURPOSES OVER CERTAIN PRIVATE ROADS IN CENTERVILLE AND HYANNIS KNOWN AS: ANGUS WAY, CAPTAIN BELLAMY LANE, CENTER LANE, CONNERS ROAD, ELLIOTT STREET, JAMIE MARIE WAY, KITSY LANE, LI'L LANE, LONGVIEW DRIVE, LOOMIS LANE, MARK'S PATH, OLD FARM ROAD, OLD STRAWBERRY HILL ROAD AND RICHARD'S LANE INTRO: 12/11/2025, 1/8/2026

Tom LaRosa, First Assistant Town Attorney gave the rationale

Discussion:

(Ludtke) the explanation in the rationale, do we have a level of fidelity (LaRosa) standard language we have always used (Ludtke) would we be damaging trees on the edge of the road (Beaudoin) we have surveyed to avoid tree impact, some of the roads are very tight, we design the sewers to be under the roadway, some trees may be impacted (Ludtke) that is very expensive for the resident (Beaudoin) we would typically do that as part of our construction (Ludtke) boiler plate says differently (LaRosa) 60 days to remove it if they want, if they don't remove it, the town will do it. (Beaudoin) we would facilitate that as part of the sewer but if the resident has a fence, they may want to have their own contractor do that work. (Clark) are the homeowners provided with information (LaRosa) all the plans are complete and are available, there is no plan to take anyone's house lot.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

ORDERED: That the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, to take by eminent domain under Chapter 79 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or otherwise acquire for sewer and water purposes a perpetual easement through, under, across and on the following described roads for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, relocation, and replacement of sewer and water lines and infrastructure for the same and for all purposes for which such easements are commonly used in the Town of Barnstable:

ANGUS WAY being "Roadway Easement Area 'A'" and "Roadway Easement Area 'B'" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____ (2 sheets);

CAPTAIN BELLAMY LANE – as shown in Plan Book 395, Page 90;

CENTER LANE – being "Roadway Easement Area" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____

CONNERS ROAD – being "Roadway Easement Area" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____ (3 sheets)

ELLIOTT STREET – as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____;

JAMIE MARIE WAY – being "Proposed 20' Roadway & Existing 20' Water Easement" as shown in Plan Book 355, Page 19;

KITSY LANE – as shown in Land Court Plans 25306-B (sheet 3);

LI'L LANE – as shown in Plan Book 366, Page 63;

LONGVIEW DRIVE – as shown in Land Court Plans 28749-A, 28749-B and 28749-C;

LOOMIS LANE – being "Loomis Lane Sewer and Water Easement Area" and "Way Sewer and Water Easement Area.)" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____;

MARK'S PATH – as shown in Plan Book 384, Page 99;

OLD FARM ROAD – being "Roadway to be Taken Area to be 31,674± S.F" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____ (2 sheets);

OLD STRAWBERRY HILL ROAD, as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____; and

RICHARD'S LANE, being "Richard's Lane Sewer and Water Easement Area" as shown in Plan Book ____, Page ____.

Any trees, buildings, and other structures located within said roads are not included in this Order and the owners of the same may have a period of up to sixty (60) days after the recording of the Order of Taking to remove the same.

The Town Manager is authorized to negotiate, accept, sign, deliver and record any documents or plans for the purposes necessary to effectuate this Order.

Betterments will be assessed for the associated sewer and water improvements made by the Town of Barnstable.

The parcel numbers, names and addresses of the owners of said interests to be taken or acquired, as far as can be ascertained by the Town, are as set forth on Exhibit A attached hereto, along with awards for damages, if any, sustained by said owners. The Town Manager is authorized to modify or amend

the names, properties, interest holders and parcels set forth in Exhibit A to effectuate this order and to secure the necessary easements in the above referenced private roads.

VOTE: PASSES 11 YES, 1 NO (DALUZ)

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-077 APPROPRIATION ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,250 FOR BURIAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CEMETERY PROGRAM INTRO: 12/11/2025, 1/8/2026

Open public hearing

Dan Santos, Director of Public Works gave the rationale

No one from the public, no one online, close public hearing

Discussion:

(Ludtke) what capacity do we have at our cemeteries (Santos) many burials are cremations, but we do have lots available, purchase land recently in Cotuit. (Ludtke) how do our cemetery rates compare with private cemeteries rates (Santos) our rates are less than private burial lots.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

ORDERED: That the sum of **\$48,250** be appropriated from the Town’s Sale of Cemetery Lots Special Revenue Fund for the Structures & Grounds Program for the purpose of purchasing burial equipment used by Town staff to maintain cemeteries and perform interments in Town cemeteries.

VOTE: PASSES 12 YES

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, DALUZ, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-078 RESOLVE TO CHANGE THE PRECINCT SIX (6) POLLING LOCATION TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, LOCATED AT 1130 FALMOUTH RD, CENTERVILLE, MA INTRO: 1/8/2026

Ann Quirk Town Clerk gave the rationale; William Crocker added more information regarding the current location and why this move is necessary.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

RESOLVED: The Barnstable Town Council does hereby change the polling location for Precinct Six (6) to the Community Center at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, located at 1130 Falmouth Rd, Centerville, MA, beginning on the September 1, 2026 State Primary Election.

VOTE: PASSES 12 YES

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, DALUZ, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-079 AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,190 FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE TOWN’S WASTE REDUCTION PROGRAMS INTRO: 1/8/2026

Dan Santos, Director of Public Works gave the rationale

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby authorize the Town Manager to contract for and expend a Fiscal Year 2026 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of **\$8,190** w for the purpose of enhancing its waste reduction programs through the acquisition of recycling containers, recycling carts and recycling bins, waste reduction and/or recycling outreach and education materials, and other related expenses.

VOTE: PASSES 11 YES, 1 ABSTAIN (DALUZ)

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

2026-080 AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A SUPPLEMENTAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 HOUSING CHOICE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES FOR WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS ON CROCKER STREET IN HYANNIS INTRO: 1/8/2026

Jim Kupfer Director of Planning and Development gave the rationale

Discussion:

(Ludtke) remind me, Crocker Street location (Kupfer) Connects Yarmouth Road and Camp Street.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby authorize the Town Manager to contract for and expend a supplemental Fiscal Year 2025 Housing Choice Grant in the amount of **\$60,000** from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, which amount is in addition to the previous grant of \$255,000 accepted by Town Council on November 7, 2024, resulting in a total adjusted grant amount of \$315,000, for the purpose of funding water line improvements on Crocker Street in Hyannis.

VOTE: PASSES 11 YES, 1 NO (DALUZ)

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

VOTED TO ADJOURN:

VOTE: PASSES 12 YES

ROLL CALL: BLOOM, BURDICK, CLARK, CROCKER, CROW, DALUZ, KEANE, LEVESQUE, LUDTKE, SHEINGOLD, STARR, TAMASH

Adjourn at 9:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Quirk
Town Clerk

NEXT MEETING: January 29, 2026

Exhibits:

- A. Town Manager report**