Town Council Meeting
September 3, 2026

A quorum being duly present, President Craig Tamash called the September 3, 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., Lisa DaLuz, Thomas Keane, Matthew Levesque, Betty Ludtke, Barry Sheingold, Craig Tamash
ABSENT: John Crow

Councilor Ludtke introduced and welcomed, veteran Claire M. Linder to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for all who have served and all those near and dear to us.

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 three-minute comments to the Town Council. Written comments are always welcome please email at Council@barnstable.gov. We have received extensive public comments regarding the Flock cameras.

Aiden Gordon spoke about the lack of safety on the Service Road. The need for streetlights and sidewalks. These are key safety concerns. Fund it, however you can put these improvements in place immediately.

Cathy Ledec reminded the Council of the Open Space Plan meeting; we need input from the public. She urged the Council and public to attend the meetings.

Maureen Grandmar spoke about the Flock cameras, applauded the efforts of the Barnstable Police, she is concerned about the amount of information gathered by the Flock cameras. Please get rid of the Flock cameras.

Mia Walsh spoke about the sidewalks, still waiting for the sidewalks at the West End Rotary, and on Pitchers Way.

Anca Vlasopolos is very concerned about Flock cameras. The Town should be very careful about allowing Flock cameras access. Take away the Flock cameras.

Larry Morin mentioned the agenda has no itemized matters for the public to comment on tonight. Focus on DPW regarding streetlights, and sidewalks. The roads should be the priority. The paving in this town is ridiculous.

Kim Pulsford urged the council to vote to remove the Flock cameras, they are all connected to other towns' Flock systems. We need a town ordinance to prevent these cameras coming back. Vote yes on the resolution.

Diane Riche recounted a personal experience of stalking, we can set rules around the Flock cameras, but that is only if everyone follows the rules. The Flock cameras in the wrong hands are dangerous.

Mike Farrell many towns have abolished the Flock cameras, but I am here about parking. The parking enforcement group is giving tickets for expired inspection stickers at boat ramps. It is not cool.

Gabby DiNardi spoke about the Flock cameras; we are impugning the Police Officers. If the Council feels it is important create we should create our own cameras for the Town of Barnstable. No justification for Flock Cameras.

Deborah Hennessey is against Flock cameras; our constitutional freedoms are important. I love this community, I want everyone to feel safe, and they should go about their lives by protecting their freedom.

Willow Montgomery attends Sturgis, she feels the students in her school feel violated by the Flock cameras. People should not have to hide in their homes due to fear of being tracked.

Laura Cronin the Cape Cod Gateway Airport scheduled a meeting for noise abatement. We should take this opportunity to speak about the noise from the airport in our neighborhoods. She also mentioned the Fire Departments are having services for 9/11. It is the 25th anniversary.

John Murphy attended tonight's meeting to show respect to item 2027-026. As a retired police officer has had experience with the license plate readers. After 9/11 the Department of Homeland Security funded grants to use automatic license plate readers. The hijacker's movements were tracked by credit card records. We live in a society where we are all being monitored by our cell phones, computers, credit cards and Alexa.

Meghan Mort is against the Flock cameras; surveillance designed to watch where someone goes, how often, we don't have to be a part of the surveillance.

Amelia Stoots attends Sturgis where the students have spoken at length about Flock. We know better, you can do something about Flock cameras.

ZOOM:
Tom Kirk kudos to the town for the 25-mile an hour speed limits. Also, the Department of Public Works are doing a terrific job. They must address all the nuttiness that is going on. Address the seriousness of what is going on from the federal level. Traffic lights need to have a left hand turn light. Please tell the community what is going on with the Conservation Law Foundation.

Deborah Kattler is concerned with the loss of privacy with the use of Flock. We cannot continue to say it is too late. We can determine how we use our phones, there are ways we can protect ourselves. Be brave and say no to the Flock contact.

In-Person:
John Julius felt compelled to be here. There is two sides to Flock. Everyone can be tracked by their cell phones. Think twice, don't understand what the big deal is? What is going to happen when a head on crash because of the stupid idea to make Main St and South St two ways. Focus on more important things than Flock.
Close public comment

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:
(Keane) shares the concerns with Flock cameras, many digital items can track (Daluz) Spoke about the lack of sidewalks, make a safe place for the people to walk. Priority should be safety first. (Levesque) Stories change things, help us to decide, appreciate the enthusiasm in the room. September 11th changed everything. We need to vote to cease the use of Flock cameras, it is a very difficult decision.

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)**

MINUTES:
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to accept the minutes of August 20, 2026, as presented.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

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

Rachel Youngling from the Massachusetts Cultural Council spoke to the council using a PowerPoint presentation. The Cultural Council meets on the second Monday of the month. For the next three months it will be via zoom.

Break 7:32 to 7:41

Mark Milne, Director of Finance - **Fiscal Policy and Revenue Strategy -** Overview of Debt Exclusion and Water Infrastructure Investment Fund for financing the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

Discussion:
(Burdick) curious the earliest is 2029, is that because of the elections. (Milne)yes, the 2027 election is in fiscal year 2028. (Burdick) What was the rational to not bundle past and previous (Milne) we took large projects out, those projects are conceptual at this time, brought the amount down to 251 million. The debt exclusion you can ask the voters to exclude these from proposition 2 1/2. (Ludtke) projects being removed, we are doing sewering and restoration together. What about the projects after Prince Cove, what phase is that? (Milne) the list of projects completes phase one. We have phase two and three going forward. This will guarantee for the next five years. This is a massive infrastructure program. Too many unknowns right now (Ludtke) the Water Infrastructure Investment Fund (WIIF) and the Conservation Protection Act (CPA) would match, WIIF gives us flexibility in design. Leaning towards the WIIF. (Milne) the dredging project has not gone away; we can work on that project. (Ells) the project hasn't been tabled or removed it is a priority. We need to be clear on whether we can use State Revolving Funds (SRF) on this project. (Clark) The Council in the past voted on an assessment that was significantly less than the cost.

Jump to 2027-033

2027-032 RESOLVE TO TERMINATE THE TOWN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FLOCK GROUP, INC. AND DISCONTINUE USE OF FLOCK LICENSE PLATE READERS INTRO: 09/03/2026

Chief Challies gave the rationale, reassured the Council that no one has misused the technology. In Cambridge they voted to terminate the Flock contract, however, before the vote, they had two cameras that were under a repair order. So, Flock repaired the two cameras. She introduced Detective Lieutenant Joe Green, who oversees the Flock program.

Discussion:
(Sheingold) the concerns that you are not going to share with other towns, abuse is rare but they happen. What you are doing by having two police officers sign off is good. Have concern about hearing information or giving our information to other agencies. Not comfortable, appreciate what you have done, live in Marstons Mills, was victim of an assault, very sensitive to the law enforcement tool. (Keane) thank you for the improvements you have made, believe that a warrant should be required. I suspect that the law on this may change, it should be our policy (Daluz) here to support the community,

my community says they do not want Flock cameras (Bloom) want the warrants, listened to what you had to say. (Challies) there is no privacy in your license plate determined by the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC). (Clark) clear that you took this very seriously, struck by the resident in Cotuit who has been a victim of Flock technology. Give some justification of when we have a new Chief (Challies) the transparency gives you the reason for the searches, and how many is right on the BPD website. We don't want to stop people for no reason. (Ludtke) the problem here is Flock, there are other vendors out there. Appreciate it and the crime statistics, go back and look at technology, get ourselves out of Flock

Councilor Burdick moved the question:
VOTE: PASSES 8 YES, 2 NO (Tamash, and Levesque)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby direct the Town Manager, in consultation with the Town Attorney's Office, to terminate as expeditiously as possible the Town's relationship with Flock Group, Inc. (Flock) for the use of Flock License Plate Readers (LPRs) by the Police Department; provided that any future use of any type of LPR, whether referred to as Automated or Automatic License Plate Readers or Recognition, or the like, by the Police Department shall require prior Town Council approval; provided further, that the Police Department shall work with Flock to have the Flock LPRs promptly deactivated and removed from their locations within the town.
VOTE: PASSES 7 YES, 3 NO (Clark, Tamash, Levesque)

2027-018 AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO MAXIMIZE FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION THROUGH TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT INTRO: 08/20/2026, 09/03/2026

Superintendent of Barnstable Schools Sara Ahern gave the rationale

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, sec. 70, the Town Council does hereby authorize the School Committee or its authorized designee to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Department of Children of Families in the form attached hereto in order to seek allowable federal reimbursement for eligible transportation costs associated with foster student education transportation through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-019 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A TERM OF UP TO FIVE YEARS FOR A FOOD SERVICES MANAGEMENT COMPANY INTRO: 08/20/2026, 09/03/2026

Superintendent of Barnstable Schools Sara Ahern gave the rationale

Discussion:
(Ludtke) You have a new food services director (Ahern) Yes, she is doing a fantastic job (Ludtke) school food is a traditional problem (Ahern) we want to be responsive to the students, she is looking forward to diversifying the food (Ludtke) this is a state program (Ahern) everyone is allowed a free breakfast and lunch (Ahern) the contract we are using we can opt out every year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30B, § 12(b), the Town Council does hereby authorize the School Committee to solicit, award and execute a contract with a term of up to five years for a food services management company, commencing in the summer of 2027.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-020 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH A TERM OF UP TO TEN YEARS FOR REGULAR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION INTRO: 08/20/2026, 0903/2026

Superintendent of Barnstable Schools Sara Ahern gave the rationale

Discussion:
(Ludtke) will this have any impact on the fees parents pay (Ahern) that is decided by the Barnstable School Committee (Ludtke) do you consider the fees when you are putting this together (Ahern) any consideration is a cost to our operating expenses.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30B, § 12(b), the Town Council does hereby authorize the School Committee to solicit, award and execute a contract with a term of up to ten years for regular school bus transportation, commencing in the summer of 2027.
VOTE: PASSES UANIMOUS

2027-021 ORDER AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE WITH A TERM OF UP TO TEN YEARS FOR SCHOOL BUS PARKING INTRO: 08/20/2026 , 09/03/2026

Superintendent of Barnstable Schools Sara Ahern gave the rationale

Discussion:
(Tamash) the current leases are on Attucks (Ahern) that is the current location, but our lease is up, we have considered other locations, we are looking for office space, and where repairs can happen (Ludtke) where could there be another location (Ahern) we will put it out with an Request for Proposal (RFP).

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 7C, § 38, and c. 30B, § 16, the Town Council does hereby authorize the School Committee or their designee to solicit proposals, award and execute a lease agreement with a term of up to ten years for school bus parking, commencing in the summer of 2027.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-026 APPOINTMENTS TO A BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION INTRO: 09/03/2026

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoints the following individuals to a multiple-member Board/Committee/Commission: **Licensing Authority**: John Murphy from an associate position to a full member position to a term expiring 06/30/2029; **Hyannis Main Street Waterfront Historic District Commission:** Conrad Watson from an alternate member to a full member position, to a term expiring 06/30/2028
VOTE: REFER TO A 2ND READING ON 9-17-2026-PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-027 APPROPRIATION ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF $90,000 FROM THE CAPITAL TRUST FUND AND AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $317,500 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROSA LANE FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT INTRO: 09/03/2026

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That the amount of **$90,000** be appropriated from the Capital Trust Fund for the purpose of funding the Rosa Lane Fish Passage Improvements Project, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto; and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for and expend the appropriation made available for these purposes; and that the Town Manager is further authorized to

contract for and expend a Fiscal Year 2027 United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Grant in the amount of **$317,500** for design and construction of the Rosa Lane Fish Passage Improvements Project.
VOTE: REFER TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON 9-17-2026 PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-028 AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A FISCAL YEAR 2027 JAIL/ARREST DIVERSION PROGRAM COMPONENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $80,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH INTRO: 09/03/2026

Barnstable Police Chief Jean Challies 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 2027 Jail/Arrest Diversion Program Component grant in the amount of **$80,000** from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Mental Health for the purpose of funding costs to support police jail diversion programs, trainings, outreach and stakeholder engagement, as well as funding a portion of the costs of the Community Service Officer program.
VOTE: **PASSES UNANIMOUS**

2027- 029 AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A FISCAL YEAR 2027 JAIL/ARREST DIVERSION PROGRAM CO-RESPONDER GRANT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $97,000 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH INTRO: 09/03/2026

Barnstable Police Chief Jean Challies 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 2027 Jail/Arrest Diversion Program Co-Responder Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Mental Health in the amount of **$97,000** for the purpose of funding the cost of one full-time licensed clinician as part of the Barnstable Police Department's Co-Response Jail Diversion Program.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027- 030 AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR AND EXPEND A FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $13,950 FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY INTRO: 09/03/2026

Barnstable Police Chief Jean Challies 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 Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of **$13,950** from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of purchasing a remote message board trailer.
VOTE: **PASSES UNANIMOUS**

2027-031 RESOLVE SELECTING OCTOBER 27, 2026, FOR AN OPEN MEETING OF THE VOTERS INTRO: 09/03/2026

Discussion:
(Ludtke) are you committing yourself to be at the meeting (Tamash) this is to have a quorum (Nober) to prevent violating the Open Meeting Law, you need a quorum (Ludtke) will people commit to this date (Tamash) Does anyone have a problem with October 27th (Levesque) doesn't matter by polling us if the two new Councilors will attend

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
RESOLVED: That the Town Council does hereby select October 27, 2026 as the date for the Open Meeting of the Voters, which was requested in accordance with Section 8-9 of the Town Charter by petition of the voters received by the Town Clerk on May 15, 2026.
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS

2027-033 ORDER AUTHORIZING A DEBT EXCLUSION QUESTION TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT A SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 4, 2027, INTRO: 09/03/2026

Discussion:
(Burdick) this has been a long road, our options are limited, this is an important tool. A very consequential decision by this Council, I am in favor (Tamsah) right now for tonight I am supportive of this (Keane) I am in favor of this, the timing of this that any further delays impact on our budget. Do we lessen the burden, can we change the residential exemption (Levesque) agree with the approach (Ludtke) based on the presentation, this only gets us through phase one, I like WIIF because it gets us where we need to be flexible. Will not support (Bloom) the citizens need to have their voice heard (Sheingold) increasing the residential exemption will offset that, based on the rest of phase one. I am in favor (Crocker) this is really the voter's decision, we are just placing this in front of the voters. (Ludtke) let the voters decide, are we bringing the WIIF forward. (Ludtke) when are we going to see the reductions if this doesn't pass (Sheingold) this is comprehensive for the five-year period (Tamash) all we are doing is authorizing an election on May 4, 2027 to allow the voters to make the decision. (Sheingold) it may impact more than just services (Keane) like this piecemeal approach, if we tried to dream up for the next five years, this is far more frugal and less expensive

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was
ORDERED: That the Town Council does hereby authorize the placement of the following debt exclusion question on the ballot at a special municipal election to be held on May 4, 2027:

Shall the Town of Barnstable be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the purpose of paying costs of the town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan which will expand the public sewer collection system including the projects referred to as the Bearse's Way Sewer Expansion, Great Marsh Road Sewer Expansion, Huckins Neck Sewer Expansion, Long Beach Area Sewer Expansion, Old Craigville Road Sewer Expansion, Old Yarmouth Road Sewer Expansion, Osterville Woods Sewer Expansion, and the Prince Cove Sewer Expansion?

Yes ___ No ____

VOTE: PASSES 10 YES

VOTED TO ADJOURN:
VOTE: PASSES UNANIMOUS
Adjourn at 9:41 PM
Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. Quirk
Town Clerk

NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2026

Exhibits:

A Town Manager Update