



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.townofbarnstable.us

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925



Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

mark.ells@town.barnstable.ma.us

M. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

andy.clyburn@town.barnstable.ma.us

March 3, 2022

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for period February 18, 2022 through March 3, 2022

1. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning and Development, shall provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan.
2. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2023 as per the budget action calendar. A draft of the proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023 has been shared with the Town Council. The first reading of the capital program appropriation orders is scheduled for April 7th and public hearings on the program will begin on April 28th. The Town Manager Fiscal Year Rate hearing will be held on March 22, 2022 at 11:00 AM. All proposed rate changes will be posted on the Town website. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
3. The Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, for a \$11,475,000, 20-year general obligation bond issue. Piper Sandler & Co was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of 2.13%. The Town received a total of seven (7) bids on the Bonds. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal projects included in the Town's fiscal Year 2022 Capital Improvement Program. Prior to the sale, S&P Global Ratings, a municipal bond credit rating agency, affirmed the Town's 'AAA' bond rating, the highest rating attainable. The rating agency cited the Town's very strong economy, very strong management with strong financial policies and practices, strong budgetary performance, very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity, a strong debt and contingent liability profile, and a strong institutional framework score as positive credit factors.
4. At the February 3, 2022 meeting, I reported that Town Council leadership and senior staff had met with the Barnstable County Administrator to discuss the use of ARPA funds distributed to the County. The County communicated with Mark Milne, Director of Finance, and me that the towns in Barnstable County have projects ready that would qualify for County ARPA funds and the desire was for the County to allocate some (or all) of its ARPA funding for application by the towns in an expeditious manner. At a meeting on February 23, 2022, County Administrative staff recommended, and the County Board of Commissioners

approved, the release of a first round of funds in the amount of \$10 million for application by the towns. The process for doing so involves approval by the Assembly of Delegates. In addition, the ordinance delegates the decision of how the \$10 million shall be apportioned to each town for subsequent application for funding to the Assembly. While the Assembly is deliberating, the Barnstable County Administrative staff has begun the process of authorizing each of the towns to access the County's Application Portal. The Portal will go live later in March. For a town to enter a project application they require that each town designate an ARPA Certifier (typically the Town Administrator or Town Manager) and an ARPA Reporter (typically the Town Finance Director, Town Accountant, or Grant Manager). In accordance with that guidance I have designated Mark Milne, Finance Director, as ARPA Reporter and myself as ARPA Certifier. We will keep you advised relative to the release of said ARPA funding.

5. We continue to have regular conversations with Vineyard Wind (VW) regarding the progress of the Phase I project. VW continues construction on Phase I and plans to attend a future Town Council meeting with an update on their progress. Phase II permitting is proceeding and we have completed the update to the Phase II Host Agreement with Park City Wind. We continue discussions as authorized by Town Council for Phase III (Commonwealth Wind) with a scheduled update to Town Council planned for the March 17, 2022 meeting by Commonwealth Wind. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
6. The Town is currently updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) as prescribed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The HMP is a planning document that is required by both FEMA and Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to be updated every five (5) years in order to remain eligible for certain funding opportunities. The purpose of the plan is to identify and profile the town's risk and vulnerability to potential natural hazards. Specifically, it assesses the potential impacts of hurricanes, winter storms, shoreline change/coastal erosion, earthquakes, drought/wildfire, and dam failure and identifies properties, resources, and critical facilities which may be impacted by these hazard events. The plan identifies mitigation strategies and actions aimed at reducing the loss of or damage to life, property, infrastructure and natural, cultural, and economic resources. A corresponding implementation plan will be prepared to address the prioritization and administration of the identified strategies and actions. A draft of the plan is currently available for public review on the Planning & Development website under Plans and Projects entitled Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
<https://www.town.barnstable.ma.us/Departments/planninganddevelopment/Projects/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-Update.asp>. Public comment is open through March 18, 2022. The Draft Plan will be presented at the March 14, 2022 Planning Board meeting and upon the closure and consideration of public comments will then be presented to Town Council for approval and subsequently submitted to MEMA and FEMA for their approval.