



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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June 4, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for May 15 through June 4, 2024

1. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY2025. The Operating Budget for FY2025 has been submitted to the Town Council and public hearings are scheduled to commence on June 6, 2024. Mark Milne, Director of Finance, will provide a summary of municipal departments proposed FY2025 operating budget at the upcoming Town Council meeting. Department staff will provide the Finance Director with support to their respective operating budget requests to answer any questions regarding the proposed FY 2025 Operating Budget. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. Sean O'Brien, Town Treasurer, announced that the Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, for a \$31,785,000, 20-year general obligation bond issue. KeyBanc Capital Markets was the winning bidder on the Bonds with an average interest rate of 3.58%. The Town received a total of 6 bids on the Bonds ranging from 3.58% to 3.76%. Bond proceeds will be used to finance various municipal projects. 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 strong wealth and income indicators, comprehensive set of formalized financial policies and practices, history of strong financial performance with the maintenance of very strong reserves, low overall debt and contingent liability profile, and strong institutional framework as positive credit factors.
3. As previously stated, the Town continues communications with Vineyard Wind regarding the safe and compliant operation of their system at Covell's Beach. The Town of Barnstable installed informational signage at Covell's Beach and continues to collect feedback on the Town signs. Work is being done by Town staff to pull together the body of information that will be connected to a QR code or link on the sign so that interested people can find more detailed information about the cables, the project and links to EMF information. This QR code or link will be added when we have this information ready. The sign and corresponding webpage are Town controlled and we will determine what is made available to the public at this site. As to the monitoring itself, Avangrid took the Windfarm system offline the week of May

23, 2024 to do some maintenance in the vaults in the parking lot and took the opportunity to do a baseline EMF measurement at several points in the parking lot and on the beach itself. With no energy coming through the cables, it showed that there is no measurable ambient EMF coming from any other sources near the beach. Over the next week to 10 days, Avangrid plans to do another round of monitoring now that the installed turbines are producing electricity again. They will share the results of this monitoring with the Town and they will coordinate to have Town Staff on site for the monitoring. Their plan is to repeat this monitoring as they reach 25% installation, 50% installation 75% installation and full installation of the Vineyard Wind project. Avangrid has updated us on their latest construction schedule. They plan to have 50% of the wind turbines up in early fall and full installation in early 2025. The Town of Barnstable has retained a third-party independent expert (Elexana of New York) to verify readings and data if and when needed. We will keep you informed of the progress on this matter.

4. Park City Wind, LLC (“PCW”) filed a petition with the Department of Public Utilities (“DPU”) regarding 6 Shootflying Hill Road (Assessor Parcels 235001W00 and 235001B00). On Friday, May 17, 2024, the DPU posted this notice on the docket for DPU 24-48. Under the petition, PCW seeks approval of zoning exemptions to allow for the construction and operation of a driveway/road across the land at 6 Shootflying Hill Road to reach the adjacent property at 8 Shootflying Hill Road on which the proposed substation would be located. PCW’s related filings made last month with the DPU can be accessed here: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/24-48> The DPU will conduct a public hearing with both in-person and remote participation options: 6:30 PM, Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The in-person hearing will be conducted at Barnstable High School – Performing Arts Center, 744 West Main Street, Hyannis, MA. 02601.
5. As summer approaches, road construction is beginning to wind down across the Town of Barnstable. Currently the Barnstable Department of Public Works is managing three active paving projects:
 - A. Phinney’s Lane paving continues, specifically addressing the roadway from Route 28 to Strawberry Hill Road. This work continues daily, Monday through Friday, from 7:00AM to 5:00PM, and is anticipated to be completed by Friday, June 14th. As a result, Phinney’s Lane from Route 28 to Wequaquet Lane remains closed to safely complete this work. Local resident and emergency access continues to be maintained throughout construction, with traffic control onsite to assist motorists. Activity has included full reclamation and pulverization of the roadway, structure adjustments, and an initial binder course. Final paving, line striping, and shoulder restoration will occur over the next week. The remainder of Phinney’s Lane, from Strawberry Hill Road to Wequaquet Lane, will be scheduled for paving this coming Fall.
 - B. Following Phinney’s Lane, crews will transition to West Main Street. Paving of West Main Street, from Route 28 to Strawberry Hill Road, will begin on Monday,

June 17th. This work will also occur daily, Monday through Friday, from 7:00AM to 5:00PM, and is anticipated to take a week and a half to complete. As a result, the closure of West Main Street and traffic adjustments to the intersection of West Main Street and Strawberry Hill Road will be necessary. Local resident and emergency access will be maintained throughout construction, with businesses accessible via Route 28. A media release will be shared via Town social media, e-News, and mobile app channels, in addition to property owner notifications along the project route, to formally communicate traffic management plans.

- C. The Public Roads Improvements Program is wrapping up its paving operations this week. This annual program identified necessary paving improvements on Old Post Road, Marstons Mills, Lumbert Mill Road, Centerville, and Santuit-Newton Road, Marstons Mills. Final paving and line striping will be occurring on Santuit-Newton Road, Marstons Mills, over the coming days, with project completion expected Friday, June 7th.

For a real-time look at construction traffic impacts and associated road closures, the Town of Barnstable has partnered with Waze. As a Waze for Cities partner, the Town has the ability to alert motorists of lane and full road closures, providing detour navigation through the Waze App and desktop-friendly Waze Live Map. To access the Waze Live Map, please visit [BarnstableWaterResources.com](https://www.barnstablewaterresources.com)

- 6. Strawberry Hill Road Sewer Expansion Project – Sewer Connections Now Eligible. The Barnstable Department of Public Works has officially accepted its first sewer connection into the newly expanded municipal sewer system. A series of communications have been mailed to eligible property owners within the Strawberry Hill Road Sewer Expansion Project, which includes properties along portions of Craigville Beach Road, Strawberry Hill Road, and Wequaquet Lane. Property owners have now received a Project Closeout letter from the Department of Public Works, a Notice of Sewer Connection Hook-Up from the Barnstable Health Division, and an Estimated Sewer Assessment from the Barnstable Treasurer/Tax Collector’s Office. This milestone provides 146 parcels with the ability to connect into the municipal sewer system. The first connection was successfully completed on Strawberry Hill Road on May 20, 2024.

To assist property owners with the sewer connection process, including education regarding financial support, the Department of Public Works has curated content on its Barnstable Water Resources website. New materials include a sewer connection video discussion with the DPW Sewer Connection Program Manager and the Homeowner’s Sewer Connection Guide, soon to be available in print and for download. To learn more about the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, view the step-by-step sewer connection process, and better understand your responsibilities as a property owner, please visit [BarnstableWaterResources.com](https://www.barnstablewaterresources.com)

7. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning and Development, will provide an update on the Housing Production Plan and the Local Comprehensive Plan.