



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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November 19, 2024

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for November 6 through November 19, 2024

1. We continue with the preparation of the Capital and Operating Budget for FY 2026. FY 2026 budget development is on schedule and following the budget action calendar. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Finance Department presented the FY 2025 tax levy shifting options in a prerecorded presentation available for viewing on the Town webpage and at the November 7, 2024, Town Council meeting. The objective of the presentation is to illustrate the impact on tax bills when deciding on a minimum residential factor, commonly referred to as splitting the tax rate, and the adoption of a residential exemption. Property values have been approved by the DOR allowing the Town Council to vote on these two options. We plan to include these two votes on the December 5th agenda for Town Council action.
3. A public hearing on changes to various Town of Barnstable permit and program fees for the Community Services Department's Golf and Hyannis Youth and Community Center Programs; Marine and Environmental Affairs Department's Marina, Sandy Neck Beach and Recreational Shellfish Programs; and the Planning & Development Department's Parking Management Program that take effect on January 1, 2025 was held on November 12, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. The hearing can be viewed on Video on Demand: <https://streaming85.townofbarnstable.us/CablecastPublicSite/show/11390?site=1>. Those wishing to provide public comment may do so through December 11, 2024. All comments will be taken under advisement and calendar year rates will be approved as proposed, approved for an amount less than the proposed rate or not approved and remain at current rates.
4. The Town of Barnstable issued a notice of funding availability for Opioid Abatement Funds. The timing of the notice was designed so that interested

organizations could apply for a matching grant from the RIZE Massachusetts Foundation (RIZE). RIZE Massachusetts is an independent nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts and reduce its devastating impact on people, community, and the economy. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has selected RIZE to create and manage the Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership (Mosaic). Mosaic is funded by the State's Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund which is the fund created from settlements. Five applications were received and reviewed by a five-person committee. A budget of \$200,000 was targeted for this first round of applications. Four out of the five applications were recommended for funding at \$50,000 each. Each organization awarded a grant from the town indicated that they will be applying for a matching grant from RIZE. The four awards were provided to:

- AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod to support their Overdose Awareness, Prevention and NARCAN Response Outreach Program, aimed at harm reduction services.
- Behavioral Health Innovators, Inc. to support their Positive Alternatives for Student Support and Alternative Peer Group programs, aimed at education and prevention services.
- Hopeful Outreach of Cape Cod to support their Empowering Recovery Program, aimed at recovery services.
- Parents Supporting Parents, Inc. to support their Sober Living Scholarship Program and Support, aimed at prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

All the programs and services proposed by award recipients demonstrated compliance with the required use of the opioid abatement funds which are to be used for substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support.

5. On June 25, 2024, pursuant to the Town Council's vote in executive session, the Town executed a Side Agreement with Park City Wind (PCW) as well as an Escrow Agreement, under which the Escrow Agent would hold the two (2) easements (the one under the roads and the Craigville beach easement) from the Town until PCW satisfied certain conditions. The Escrow Agreement contained the following Escrow Release Conditions:

- (i) PCW has provided Escrow Agent with notice that the Side Agreement has been ratified and approved by the Board of Managers of Avangrid Renewables, LLC;
- (ii) PCW has provided Escrow Agent with notice (together with supporting evidence) that the guaranty of Avangrid Renewables, LLC

described in paragraph 7 of the Side Agreement has been executed and delivered to the Town; and

(iii) PCW has provided Escrow Agent with notice and with supporting evidence (with copies provided to the Town) that PCW has successfully received a bid award for the Second Project from the ongoing individual and/or multi-state procurement process. Such evidence may consist of a public announcement from one or more of the three state governments.

On October 1, the Town received notice of PCW's selection in the individual and multi-state procurements. On November 8, the Town received notice that the Side Agreement has been ratified and approved by Avangrid Renewables' Board of Managers and that the corporate guaranty referenced in the Side Agreement has been executed, along with a copy of the signed guaranty. These notices and the signed guaranty have been posted on the Town website. These notices were also provided to the Escrow Agent by PCW. PCW provided these notices to show that the three Escrow Release Conditions have been satisfied and, with that, the Escrow Agent is now required to close the escrow and release the two easements to PCW.

In accordance with the process set forth in the Escrow Agreement, on November 13, 2024, the Town received the release notice from the Escrow Agent stating that the Escrow Agent has determined that the Escrow Release Conditions in the Escrow Agreement have been satisfied. Under the Escrow Agreement, PCW and the Town are each required to respond to the Escrow Agent within 5 business days to confirm that they are in agreement with the Escrow Agent's determination or to say that they disagree. PCW sent its response on November 14th and the Town sent its response on November 18th, both confirming their agreement that the Escrow Release Conditions had been satisfied. The Escrow Agent is now authorized to release the easements to PCW, who will then promptly record them at the Registry of Deeds.

6. The Barnstable Youth Commission is hosting their 11th Annual Community Substance Abuse Prevention Forum on Tuesday, December 3rd at the Barnstable Adult Community Center from 5:30-7:30pm. This year's speaker Kevin Rosario will be teaching parents how to effectively communicate with their children. The Barnstable Police Department will have their "Hidden in Plain Sight" mobile mock bedroom available and will discuss vaping and tobacco use. They will also discuss which drugs and alcohol are most prevalent and ways to identify their use and concealment.
7. Chris Gadd, Communications Assistant for the Department of Public Works, will provide an update on Water Resource Management Planning including the Comprehensive Water Management Plan.