



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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April 29, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for April 15, 2025, through April 29, 2025

1. The Town Council has commenced public hearings for the recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget and continues with the preparation of the Operating Budget for FY 2026. We are on schedule with the budget action calendar. Town Council approved a significant number of the recommended FY 2026 Capital Budget, and the remaining recommended projects will be considered for approval on May 1st. The Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Improvement Plan is available on the Town's website at the link provided below and printed copies have been provided to the Town Council. [FY2026-2030 Capital Plan](#) The School Committee met on April 2, 2025 to review and approved the [FY 2026 School Operating Budget](#). For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Cape Cod & Islands Wastewater Trust Fund Board (CC&IWTF) met on April 29, 2025, with a primary focus on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) release of the Final 2025 Intended Use Plans (IUPs) detailing the projects, borrowers, and financing amounts that will be offered through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan programs for this year's financing cycle. [2025 Final SRF Intended Use Plans | Mass.gov](#) As previously stated the Final 2025 IUP did not substantially change from previous years, resulting in DEP committing to fund Barnstable's listed projects in carryover projects (Route 28 West Sewer Expansion and Nitrogen Removal Improvements and New Headworks Facility) and including Barnstable's Phinney's Lane Neighborhood and Centerville Village Sewer Expansion Projects as new listed projects. This funding commitment keeps those projects eligible for the principal subsidy from the Cape Cod & Islands Wastewater Trust Fund. MassDEP continues to identify funding concerns and flagged limited additional funds to address increased costs as we move forward with this funding source. Barnstable continues to offer to actively participate in discussions with MassDEP regarding strategies to maintain the State Revolving Fund as a financially viable resource in

the future. The CC&IWTF Board voted to approve the principal subsidies for eligible projects listed in the Final 2025 IUP and to send a letter to Governor Healey requesting that the proposed Environmental Bond Bill include \$500 million to further capitalize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF). I will keep the Town Council and public advised as this matter progresses.

3. Finance Director Mark Milne and Treasurer/Collector Sean O'Brien met with credit analysts from Standard & Poor's to discuss the Town's upcoming General Obligation bond issue in May. The town plans to competitively bid \$5.6 million of bonds for eight (8) capital improvement projects. Every bond issue must have a credit rating associated with it. At the beginning of the meeting, the analyst commented that they look forward to meeting with Barnstable every year, using the community as a gauge when meeting with other issuers, particularly when it comes to financial planning. This year, they are particularly interested in hearing how communities are planning, if at all, regarding what is happening at the Federal level of government and how communities are preparing themselves for any potential impacts at the local level. We shared with them the town's recently modified approach towards our capital planning and appropriations, including the withdrawal of several items, bidding on certain projects with add/alternate options to stay within budget, and having additional funds set aside in the event a supplemental appropriation was necessary for a project that is considered important to move forward. We also shared that the town continues to incorporate conservative revenue forecasting for the General Fund to guard against any revenue contraction that may occur to avoid a revenue deficit. They commented that examples like these are prudent financial planning that they would like to see more communities follow this approach. Even though Barnstable has had a consistent history of strong financial performance, financial planning is just as important, if not more so, and they are impressed by Barnstable's planning efforts.
4. On April 23, 2025, Barnstable received a letter from Lieutenant Governor Driscoll congratulating Barnstable on having completed our Cybersecurity Incident Management Plan resulting from Barnstable's third Community Compact Best Practices grant. The Community Compact program aims to enhance community commitment to provide better government for its residents, primarily focused on delivering more efficient, professional, and responsive municipal services. Thank you, Jim Benoit, Director of Information Systems, and our IT staff for preparing this plan.
5. Work will be done this week on the wind farm cable chamber located at the parking lot at Covell's Beach. Vineyard Wind 1 communications staff have informed the Town that they will be making some minor modifications and upgrades in the underground cable chamber. In order to do this work, they have begun removing the accumulated water in the chamber as of April 29. They

project that the work will be completed by the week of May 5. Vineyard Wind communications people have been proactive in informing the Town of work like this to minimize the impact on beach operations.

6. This May, we celebrate 20 years since the Town of Barnstable acquired the Hyannis Water System. The Town purchased all assets of the private Barnstable Water Company, including the 12 wells, over 100 miles of pipes, 105 acres of related land, and almost 7,500 customers. Over the last two decades, the Department of Public Works and its Water Supply Division accomplished the following:

- Hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor to operate the system on behalf of the Town and the ratepayers.
- Faced and tackled an emerging PFAS issue by installing activated carbon filtration at every wellhead to treat at the source.
- Built a world class Maher Water Treatment Plant.
- Replaced approximately 18 miles of pipes.
- Replaced approximately 200 fire hydrants
- Pumped on average 900 million gallons of water per year
- Received State and water industry awards, including Utility of the Year Award from the New England Water Works Association, recognizing operational excellence, significant upgrades made to the water system, and PFAS response actions

As we look to the future, the Hyannis Water System remains committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of its drinking water. Through various initiatives including the pipe replacement program and the soon to break ground Straightway and Hyannisport Water Treatment Facilities Improvements Project, the Hyannis Water System continuously aims to further improve water quality and enhance overall system resiliency.

This would not have been possible without collaboration and support across town, including past and present Town Managers, Town Councils, Department of Public Works and the Barnstable Municipal Water Board.

7. Kate Maldonado, Senior Planner, will provide updates on the Local Comprehensive Plan, Housing Production Plan, and Community Development Block Grants. Please see Ms. Maldonado's report on the following pages.
8. Andy Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager, will provide an update on the Quality of Life working group that is focused on enforcement matters across all Town departments. Mr. Clyburn's PowerPoint presentation may be viewed [here](#).

### Local Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Barnstable is currently working to update the Town's Local Comprehensive Plan (LCP) which is a long-term vision and growth policy that will guide Barnstable's future over the next ten years. A full draft of the Local Comprehensive Plan is available for review and comment. The draft Plan is accessible from the project website [BarnstableLCP.com](http://BarnstableLCP.com) via the [Document Library](#) page. Hard copies of the draft Plan are available at each of the Town's libraries and the Barnstable Adult Community Center. The public comment period is open through Sunday, May 11th. Comments can be submitted online via the project website or dropped off or mailed to: Planning & Development, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, 02601. The comments will be distributed to the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee for review and consideration.

Town staff, together with members of the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee, invite the public to attend one of the upcoming community meetings. Each meeting will include an overview of the draft Local Comprehensive Plan, followed by an open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

- Wednesday, April 30th at 6pm at Liberty Hall
- Monday, May 5th at 6pm at the Osterville Library \*Virtual participation will be provided for this meeting\*

The final town-wide community meeting will be held at the Barnstable High School within the Performing Arts Center. Live Portuguese and Spanish interpretation will be available. Additionally, in partnership with Barnstable Recreation, childcare services will be provided for children ages kindergarten through 5th grade including pizza and arts and crafts activities. Please email Kate Maldonado [kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:kaitlyn.maldonado@town.barnstable.ma.us) to register for childcare.

- Thursday, May 8th at 6pm at the Barnstable High School Performing Arts Center (744 West Main Street in Hyannis)

### Housing Production Plan

The Town of Barnstable is in the process of updating its Housing Production Plan. A Housing Production Plan (HPP) establishes a strategic plan for production of affordable housing in a community that is based on a comprehensive needs assessment. A draft Housing Production Plan has been published and can be accessed from the Town's website <https://www.townofbarnstable.us/index.asp> via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Current Projects". Public feedback is encouraged by submitting comments through the Town's Housing Production Plan webpage or by emailing Jim Kupfer at [james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us](mailto:james.kupfer@town.barnstable.ma.us) before Thursday, May 1, 2025.

### **Community Development Block Grant**

The Town of Barnstable's Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is available for review on the Town's website <https://www.townofbarnstable.us/index.asp> via the Planning and Development Department webpage under "Programs". The Consolidated Plan covers the period beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 and includes the One-Year Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2025. The plans serve as the planning and strategic documents for the Town's CDBG Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The purpose of the CDBG program is to provide housing, economic opportunities and a suitable living environment for low and moderate income persons. The public comment period is open through Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.