



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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October 7, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 3, 2025 through October 7, 2025

1. The Town Manager through the Finance Director has issued instructions to municipal departments for FY 2027 operating and capital budgets. The Calendar Year Town Manager Fee Hearing is planned for November 13, 2025 at 11:00 AM. A workshop with Town Council was held on September 18, 2025, focusing on fiscal policy and revenue strategy. We anticipate the next fiscal policy and revenue strategy workshop to occur in the first quarter of 2026. For information on our fiscal year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
2. The Town recently received its free cash certification from the Department of Revenue. Free cash is the amount of cash in the Town's treasury on June 30th that is free of any encumbrance within the Town's operating accounts. This includes cash for the General Fund and all nine enterprise funds. A total of \$77 million was certified with \$36 million in the General Fund and \$41 million for the nine enterprise funds. The Town had a total of \$363 million in its treasury on June 30th made up of 63 accounts deposited in 16 different institutions. Cape Cod Five and TD Bank had the largest cumulative deposits of around \$60 million each for operating accounts. Rockland Trust has the largest total for investments with \$120 million. Overall, around \$260 million was in liquid investments. The Town earned around \$12 million in investment income in FY 2025 with \$8 million allocated to operations and \$4 million to Trust funds. The free cash certification will be available on the Town's website.
3. The Town's FY 2024 audit and Schedule of Federal Expenditure Awards were recently completed by the Town's auditors as required under the Town's Charter. The delay in completing the reports was due to the auditors undergoing two mergers in the past year. Power and Sullivan merged with Marcum, LLC which then merged to CBIZ. CBIZ has already begun the FY 2025 audit and will be in the Town Hall this month working on the audit. We expect to be back on schedule this year with an

expected deadline of December 31, 2025. The audit report will be available on the Town's website.

4. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, §31D I have authorized deficit spending for snow and ice removal in Fiscal Year 2026. The budget for snow and ice removal in Fiscal Year 2026 is \$975,000; the same amount budgeted in Fiscal Year 2025.
5. On September 29, 2025, the Town of Barnstable requested the assistance of Senator Cyr's office in securing the release of \$1.6 million dollars from Chapter 113 of the Acts of 2018 for "improvements to the National Guard Armory in the city known as Barnstable, including, but not limited to, preliminary and final design of expected improvements, hazardous materials removal and construction". This request comes at a critical time. The National Guard Armory is in disrepair. The Town of Barnstable has allocated almost \$4M to perform preliminary design, abate hazardous materials, and preserve the exterior of this historic structure. This infrastructure investment is critical to supporting a historic municipal building to maintain the exterior and interior of the facility towards extension of its useful life and revitalizing the structure into public community space. The additional \$1.6 million dollars would provide for further improvements to the interior of the structure to once again make it a prominent public space. We will keep you advised of our progress on the release of these funds.
6. The Cape Cod Commission is currently updating the Regional Policy Plan. Based on previous Town Council discussion and public input received through various planning initiatives, staff submitted a comment letter on September 22, 2025, on behalf of the Town. The comment letter is attached.
7. In prior Town Manager communications, I have reported on the fiscal limitations of the State Revolving Fund. The Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund Management Board continues to closely monitor the progress of discussions by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on this matter. As referenced in my September 2, 2025, Town Manager communication, a letter from Kevin Galligan, Chair of the Cape Cod and Islands Water Protection Fund Management Board, was sent sharing anticipated Cape project costs for the next five years and seeking information on the anticipated capacity of the 2026 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan. I have continued communications with the Cape Delegation and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in support of the proposed Environmental Bond bill. We will continue to advance strategy discussions with the state on this critical funding source.
8. The Town has completed the 2024 program year for the Community Development Block Grant program and is preparing the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The

Draft 2024 CAPER is available for review on the project website which is accessible from the Town's website, Planning & Development Department webpage listed under "Programs" as "Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)". Written comments received on or before Monday, October 6, 2025, will be included in the final submission to HUD.