



# The Town of Barnstable

## Office of Town Manager

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December 2, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for November 19, 2025, through December 2, 2025

1. The Town Manager in coordination with the Finance Department continues to follow the budget action calendar for FY 2027 operating and capital budgets. Town Council is scheduled to conduct a joint meeting with the School Committee on December 4, 2025, in accordance with the Town Charter to review financial conditions and financial policies of the Town. As a reminder the Town Manager Calendar Year Fee Hearing was held on November 13, 2025. The proposed fees have been taken under advisement for 30 days during which time additional public comments will be accepted for consideration. Deadline for Public Comments is 4:00 PM on Monday, December 15, 2025. 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 2026 tax levy shifting options at the November 6, 2025 Town Council meeting. The objective of the presentation was 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 Department of Revenue allowing the Town Council to vote on these two options. The two votes are scheduled on the December 4th agenda for Town Council action.
3. On November 18, 2025, I reported that the Town had received a copy of a report submitted to Town Council regarding a Save Greater Dowses Beach EMF monitoring project. The report is under review by staff. The report was sent to Vineyard Wind and Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Rebecca Tepper for review and appropriate action. Additionally, I sent a communication to Secretary Tepper and the Energy Facilities Siting Board regarding the report and prior request for action relevant to the safety and compliance of the Vineyard Wind project ([attached](#)). We will keep you advised of any additional information resulting from the referenced report.

4. A reminder that the Barnstable Youth Commission is hosting its 12th Annual Community Substance Abuse Prevention Forum on Wednesday, December 3rd at the Barnstable Adult Community Center from 6:00-8:00 PM. Topics will include teaching parents how to effectively communicate with their children, vaping and tobacco use, and the Barnstable Police Department will have its “Hidden in Plain Sight” mobile mock bedroom available. They will also discuss which drugs and alcohol are most prevalent and ways to identify their use and concealment. All are welcome to attend and thank you Barnstable Youth Commission.