



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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September 15, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 2, 2026, through September 15, 2026

1. At the September 3, 2026, Town Council meeting, Finance Director Mark Milne provided a comparison of two potential revenue generating options for Town Council consideration. They were a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund and a debt exclusion. The Town Council voted to authorize and schedule a debt exclusion vote by the public on May 4, 2027. The debt exclusion question will state: *Shall the Town of Barnstable be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued for the purpose of paying costs of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan which will expand the public sewer collection system including the projects referred to as the Bearse's Way Sewer Expansion, Great Marsh Road Sewer Expansion, Huckins Neck Sewer Expansion, Long Beach Area Sewer Expansion, Old Craigville Road Sewer Expansion, Old Yarmouth Road Sewer Expansion, Osterville Woods Sewer Expansion, and the Prince Cove Sewer Expansion.* We anticipate monthly discussions with Town Council and our community as we proceed toward this special election. The budget impact of the debt exclusion is expected to begin in Fiscal Year 2030 and eventually expires when the loans are paid. If the debt exclusion fails alternative options for financing the sewer expansion will be evaluated including increasing sewer assessments, increasing sewer use charges and redirecting more property taxes to sewer expansions away from programs and services. The other option presented was to implement a real estate surcharge to create a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund (WIIF). The Town Council indicated that it wants to continue discussion on this option as it provides a permanent funding source for more than just sewer expansions. A WIIF can be used for drinking water and stormwater improvements as well as sewer expansions.
2. The Town Manager has issued instructions to municipal departments for FY 2028 operating and capital budgets and provided the budget action calendar. We are proceeding as outlined in the budget calendar. The Calendar Year Fee Hearing for the Town Manager approved fees is scheduled for mid-November. A workshop with Town Council is anticipated in future months commencing in October to discuss Town Council approved fees, Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements, and asset management as we continue to discuss fiscal policy and revenue strategy. For information on our fiscal

year budgets, please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.

3. We received an email communication from Vineyard Wind 1 notifying us that on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 the Final Environmental Study Report that evaluated the potential environmental impacts of the July 2024 blade incident has been published and is available for download on the Vineyard Wind website. This includes the full report, appendices, and a plain language summary of key findings. The full report is now available at www.vineyardwind.com/ge-environmental-report. Questions can be directed to info@vineyardwind.com.
4. On Monday, September 14, 2026, we received email notice from the Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Heiple's Final Decision regarding Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC. The Final Decision dismisses Holtec's appeal and upholds the final determination to deny Holtec's request to discharge wastewater into Cape Cod Bay. The decision is attached.
5. ***Town Hall Elevator Service Disruption: September – December 2026***
The Town Hall elevator will be out of service from September 2026 through December 2026.
Barnstable Government Access has created a special **Elevator Replacement PSA** that you may view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyAvVMYGuKw&t=6s>
6. Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager, will provide a Water Resources Update including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.