



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601

Office: 508.862.4610

Fax: 508.790.6226

www.Barnstable.gov

Citizens' Resource Line: 508.862.4925

Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

Mark.Ells@Barnstable.gov

M. Andrew Clyburn, Assistant Town Manager

Andy.Clyburn@Barnstable.gov

September 29, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for September 16, 2026, through September 29, 2026

1. The Town Manager has issued instructions to municipal departments for FY 2028 operating and capital budgets, and the budget action calendar. We are proceeding as outlined in the budget calendar. The calendar year rate hearings for the Town Manager-approved fees are scheduled for mid-November. Workshops with Town Council are anticipated in future months, commencing in October, to discuss the establishment of a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund, 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>.
2. Recently I have received questions from the public regarding why we must proceed with the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP). Those questions appear to be based on the mistaken notion that the pending lawsuit by the Conservation Law Foundation is the root cause of the need to implement the CWMP. It is not. The Town of Barnstable is implementing the CWMP to comply with regulatory requirements to reduce nutrient loading in our coastal embayments. The CWMP is a regulatory requirement to meet water quality standards under the federal Clean Water Act (Act). Due to excessive nitrogen pollution, many of Barnstable's coastal embayments are considered "impaired waters" in violation of water quality standards under the Act. Regulatory thresholds for acceptable levels of nitrogen in these waters, referred to as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), have been certified by federal and state environmental agencies. The CWMP provides a road map for meeting the TMDLs and restoring the health of our precious coastal waters. Barnstable and other towns on Cape Cod are the designated Waste Treatment Management Agencies responsible for planning for and implementing wastewater infrastructure and water quality improvement projects designed to meet TMDLs. This designation is codified under the Cape Cod Area Wide Water Quality Management Plan Update (208 Plan Update), developed pursuant to Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, which provides a framework to restore embayment water quality on Cape Cod. The primary source of nitrogen loading is septic systems.

3. I have also been asked if the success or failure to secure additional revenue will determine whether the CWMP will proceed. Implementation of the CWMP is a regulatory requirement, and we must proceed with the CWMP to remain compliant with those regulations. The Town Council and Town Management will continue to discuss funding options to allow the Town to remain compliant. Most recently the Town Council was 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 approve placing a debt exclusion vote on the ballot at a special election to be held 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.
4. Jim Kupfer, Director of Planning & Development, provided an update on the Great Streets Program.

Following five years of studying downtown Hyannis' traffic and economic concerns, having a robust public process with well attended public meetings, formally engineering the design for a safer Hyannis for all, and concluding with this summer's final dual presentations before Town Council to finalize the engineered plan and construction schedule, the Town of Barnstable's [Downtown Hyannis Great Streets](#) project to return two-way traditional travel is finally commencing. As a part of this project the one-way stretches of Main Street, South Street, Ocean Street, and Old Colony Road will be converted back to two-way travel and a new roundabout will be installed at the 'Six Points' intersection (intersection of South, Ocean, Old Colony). The project also includes new ADA improvements throughout, a new shared-use path/sidewalk along North Street from Stevens Street to West Main Street as well as a shared-use path/sidewalk on Old Colony Road from South Street to Main Street. Construction for the project will commence imminently. The two-way conversion is expected to be completed at the earliest by Summer 2027 though we will continually communicate changes to that schedule if they arise. This project is funded by State and Federal funding sources.

For more information, such as the full plan set and recordings of previous public meetings on the topic, please visit the project webpage at: <https://barnstable.gov/Departments/planninganddevelopment/Projects/Great-Streets-Downtown-Hyannis.asp>