The Town of Barnstable
Office of Town Manager

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November 3, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for October 14, 2026, through November 3, 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 November 12, 2026, at 11:00 AM via Zoom. A workshop on a draft Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program was conducted with Town Council on October 15, 2026. The Town Manager was given instruction to proceed with development of a PILOT program for further consideration by Town Council. The next workshop with Town Council will be to discuss Town Council-approved fees followed by a workshop on the establishment of a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund, and then another on 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. The Director of Finance has been receiving many inquiries regarding the Town Council's authorization of a debt exclusion ballot question 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 continuing discussions with Town Council and our community as we proceed toward this special election. In response to the inquiries a Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared to assist in explaining how a debt exclusion works, and that document and other information, as appropriate, will be posted on the Town website. We hope this is helpful as we try to provide factual information to the Town Council and public.

3. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, §31D the Town Manager has authorized deficit spending on snow and ice removal in Fiscal Year 2027. Over the previous 10 years snow and ice removal costs have ranged from a low of $575,505 in FY 2023 to a high of $4,207,025 in FY 2026. The budget for snow and ice removal in Fiscal Year 2027 is $975,000; the same amount budgeted in Fiscal Year 2026, allowing Barnstable to deficit spend as approved by the Chief Administrative Officer.

4. The Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (MSOA) has named our very own Shellfish Biologist, Elizabeth Lewis, as the 2026 Deputy Constable of the Year. Liz began her career with the Town of Barnstable in April 2012 as a seasonal Shellfish Technician. In November 2013, she transitioned to a full-time Shellfish Technician position and, in August 2020, assumed her current role as Shellfish Biologist. Throughout her tenure with the Town, Liz has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to Barnstable's marine resources and the local shellfish community. She plays an integral role in coordinating local shellfish volunteer opportunities, developing and supporting shellfish-focused educational outreach programs, and carrying out shellfish enforcement responsibilities. Her knowledge, dedication, and commitment to her profession have earned her the respect and admiration of her coworkers and colleagues throughout the marine community. This well-deserved recognition reflects Liz's outstanding contributions and dedication to her field. We are proud of her accomplishments and congratulate her on this distinguished achievement

5. As a reminder, opening day of oyster season will be Wednesday November 4, 2026**.** The total weekly limit allowed on a recreational permit will be one half (1/2) peck per shell fishing week.

6. As shared in my previous communication, the 31st session of *Inside Barnstable Town Government, A Citizens Leadership Academy* will begin on Tuesday, January 12, 2027. The academy is a 13-week commitment with the goal of educating the citizens of Barnstable about the operations of town government, while also obtaining valuable feedback and participation from those citizens participating in the Academy. The program is designed to advance understanding of and participation in civic affairs as well as to increase awareness of the challenges facing municipal government. Inside Barnstable Town Government began in 2003. To date, over 1,000 Barnstable residents and employees have participated in the program. The classes will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30 PM and will be held in various locations throughout the Town. The classes will be conducted by Town staff and provide interactive learning experiences, group discussions, and site tours. The program is free of charge and open to anyone who resides or works in the Town of Barnstable. Class size is limited. Please register early to avoid the waiting list. Applications are available at the Town Manager's Office, 367 Main Street, Hyannis or online at https://barnstable.gov/Departments/TownManager/Citizens-Academy.asp.

7. Kelly Collopy, DPW Communications Manager, will provide a Water Resources Update including the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan and an update on the Great Streets Downtown Hyannis construction project.