The Town of Barnstable
Office of Town Manager

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November 17, 2026

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for November 4, 2026, through November 17, 2026

1. We invite our community to participate in a survey that will be utilized in the search and selection process for the next Police Chief of the Town of Barnstable. As a member of our community, your insights and perspective are vital to helping us identify the ideal candidate to lead our police department and serve our residents. We are committed to a transparent, inclusive, and rigorous hiring process. Because the Police Chief plays a defining role in the safety, well-being, and trust of our entire community, we want to ensure our selection aligns with the values and needs of those who live and work here. We invite you to fill out a community survey available on our website https://barnstable.gov/ as your perspective and understanding of our community's safety needs will be invaluable as we evaluate the skills and experience needed. This is an opportunity for you to provide written feedback on what qualities matter most to you and your community. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to assist the Town of Barnstable in our search for our next Police Chief.

2. Municipal operating and capital budgets are under development for FY 2028 as per the budget action calendar. The calendar year rate hearings for the Town Manager-approved fees were held on November 12, 2026. The proposed fees have been taken under advisement through December 14, 2026. On December 14, 2026, the fees shall either be approved as proposed, approved in a lesser amount than proposed, or remain unchanged for calendar year 2027. A workshop was held with Town Council on November 5th to discuss Town Council-approved fees. The next anticipated workshop with Town Council shall focus on reviewing the establishment of a Water Infrastructure Investment Fund. A subsequent workshop is planned to focus 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.

3. Finance Director Mark Milne will present three tax levy shifting options to the Town Council on Thursday night. One option, setting a Minimum Residential Factor, allows the Town

Council to consider shifting a greater portion of the FY27 tax levy from the residential class to the commercial, industrial and personal property class taxpayers. The second option, a Residential Exemption, allows the Town Council to provide year-round residents with a reduction on their tax bills by shifting a greater portion of the residential tax levy to second homeowners, rentals and higher valued homes. The third option, a Small Commercial Exemption, allows for a reduction in the tax bills for small commercial property owners by shifting a portion of the commercial tax levy to higher valued commercial and industrial taxpayers. The tax levy for fiscal year 2027 is $161.2 million. This is a fixed amount. Utilizing these options will not generate new revenue or reduce the amount of taxes to be levied. Votes on the three-tax levy shifting options are scheduled to be taken at the December 3rd, 2026, Town Council Meeting. The Minimum Residential Factor requires a public hearing which will take place on December 3rd. The Residential and Small Commercial Exemptions do not require public hearings.

4. In response to the inquiries, a Wastewater Expansion Debt Exclusion Guide and a Debt Exclusion Frequently Asked Questions document have been prepared to assist in explaining how a debt exclusion works. Those documents and other information, as appropriate, will be posted to the IN THE NEWS section on the Town website. We hope these are helpful as we try to provide information to the Town Council and public.

5. On November 16, 2026, Park City Wind (PCW) met with the Town Manager and the Town's lawyers to discuss PCW's request to negotiate an extension of the easements granted by the Town in June 2024 to allow the project cables to be installed under Craigville Beach and certain Town roads to reach the project's substation, which easements will terminate on December 15, 2026, if project construction has not commenced as of that date. An executive session is scheduled for the November 19, 2026 Town Council meeting to discuss this matter.

6. A presentation was offered by Jim Kupfer, Director of Planning and Development, providing an overview of current values for multi-family development throughout the Town of Barnstable. More specifically, the presentation focuses on multi-family development located within Downtown Hyannis since the zoning was amended in 2023. An overview is provided for each of the applicable developments including projects that are currently in permitting through final construction. The recording and the presentation are both available for review accessible from the Planning & Development department webpage https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlvT3B1zIAY **or** by clicking the "Housing" button on the left-hand side and then scrolling to "Plans and Reports" defined on the right-hand side of the Housing and Community Development webpage.

7. In our continuing efforts to provide safety information to our public, the Barnstable Police Department has developed educational information for the public on the safe and responsible operation of addressing E-Bicycles, E-Dirt Bikes and E-Scooters. The flyer reinforces applicable roadway and pedestrian safety expectations and encourages greater consideration

for others sharing our public spaces. The posting is available in three languages including English, Spanish, and Portuguese. We have posted this information to our social media platforms and ask that others share the information as you see appropriate for further dissemination.

8. Dr. Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Barnstable Public Schools, and Chris Dwelley, Deputy Finance Director – Schools, will provide an overview of Barnstable Public School financial forecast.