

# TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

## JANUARY 23, 2024

### 1. WASTEWATER PHASE I DESIGN UPDATES

- For the Wastewater Treatment Facility
  - Delivered to Town staff 90% design drawings, technical specifications and Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) in December 2023
  - Scheduled to deliver 100% complete design documents in early February 2024
  - Initiated contractor pre-qualification process with packages received on December 20, 2023
  - Second solicitation for resilient-flooring sub-contractor qualification submittals to be received on January 24, 2024
  - Met with the Town's security systems vendor (Valley Communications) to coordinate WRRF needs
  - Met with the Town's IT department to coordinate WRRF design with Town's systems
  
- For the Collection System:
  - Delivered to Town staff 60% design drawings for Contract Nos. 2 and 3; designs continue toward 90% submittal
  - Scheduled to deliver 60% design drawings for Contract No. 4 next week
  - Continued coordinating/meeting with private property owners at proposed pumping station locations
  - Geotechnical drilling program scheduled to start January 24<sup>th</sup>

➤ State Revolving Fund Program approved for Dennis

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Division of Municipal Services, is pleased to present the 2024 Draft Intended Use Plans (IUPs) for the Clean Water (CW) and the Drinking Water (DW) State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. The IUP details the projects, borrowers, grant recipients, and amounts proposed for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. The CWSRF is a joint federal-state financing program that provides subsidized loans and grants to improve and protect water quality and public health in the Commonwealth. Massachusetts is proposing approximately \$1 billion to finance clean water projects across the Commonwealth. As noted in Table 1, approximately \$901 million is being offered to finance 46 new construction projects,

The Draft IUPs list by priority ranking those projects that MassDEP is recommending for funding through the State Revolving Fund program in calendar year 2024.

The Dennis IUP has been chosen as a priority project for funding, more information can be found on the MassDEP SRF web page: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/2024-draft-srf-intended-use-plans>

## 2. COMMUNITY HOUSING MEETING

# COMMUNITY MEETING

HOUSING FOR ALL - DENNIS  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024  
6pm - 8pm

### LISTEN, SHARE AND ENGAGE

Join us for an evening of dialogue about our community's housing needs. Your voice is invaluable as we come together to discuss and influence the future of housing in Dennis. Embrace the opportunity to be a catalyst for change – Attend, Share, and Engage in shaping a better tomorrow for our community

Food & Beverage Provided

Dennis Senior Center

1045 MA Route 134 South Dennis MA 02660

### OUR SPEAKER



Citizens' Housing & Planning Association



Dennis Affordable Housing Trust



Community Engagement

 508-394-8300



 mspade-aguilar@town.dennis.ma.us

### **3. GOVERNOR HEALY’S UPDATES AT MASS MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE**

Speaking this morning to more than 1,300 local leaders from across Massachusetts, Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced their local aid and road funding proposals for fiscal 2025 and unveiled a new multifaceted package of “resources, tools and flexibilities” called the Municipal Empowerment Act. Healey said the state budget plan she files next week will include a 3% increase for the main discretionary local aid account (known as UGGA), bringing the account to \$1.31 billion, and will fully fund the state’s commitment to education aid as called for in the Student Opportunity Act. Notably, her proposed increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid is higher than the consensus forecast of state revenue growth, which is 2%.

Full funding of the fourth year of the six-year Student Opportunity Act schedule would boost Chapter 70 aid to local public schools to \$6.86 billion, an increase of \$263 million (4%) over fiscal 2024.

On local road funding, the governor said she’ll file a \$400 million, two-year [Chapter 90](#) bond bill next week, and her budget bill will include another \$100 million in supplemental Chapter 90 funding and \$24 million for Rural Road Aid, both funded through the Fair Share Amendment.

#### **Municipal Empowerment Act**

Healey and Driscoll shared the podium to discuss their new package of municipal reforms, the [Municipal Empowerment Act](#), that would allow cities and towns to increase local-option meals and lodging taxes and create a new local-option motor vehicle excise surcharge, reform procurement rules and update borrowing rules for school projects, and make permanent a number of popular pandemic-era allowances for hybrid public meetings, outdoor dining permits, and to-go cocktail sales.

The bill would also establish enforcement mechanisms for prohibitions on doubled-up utility poles, provide new tools for addressing critical local workforce challenges, and centralize the valuation of telecommunications and utility property at the state level. A new OPEB Commission would be established to take a fresh look at opportunities to address unfunded liabilities from non-pension employee benefits. Driscoll said the package is “a direct result” of input from local officials during a listening tour she conducted around the state this past fall, when she heard from more than 130 managers and administrators representing 112 different municipalities, as well as professional associations representing local leaders and employees. “This package reduces red tape that municipal leaders far too often encounter, and gives them more options to utilize tools that will make their communities stronger,” Driscoll said.

The announcement received an enthusiastic response from the local leaders gathered in Boston. “We greatly appreciate that the administration made the concerted effort to listen to municipal officials across the state about the challenges they face, and then acted on that input with a robust package of very meaningful reforms,” said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. “The Municipal Empowerment Act will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government and the delivery of essential services in all of our communities.

“For a number of years, municipalities have been facing cost increases in key areas that are far outpacing the growth in their revenues, so the opportunity to boost locally generated revenue and remove barriers to efficiency is welcome news.”

*Written by [John Ouellette, MMA Deputy Communications Director](#)*

#### 4. DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING – GRAND OPENING!

THE DENNIS CENTER FOR ACTIVE LIVING

*You're invited!*

**DCAL GRAND OPENING  
RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION**

January 24, 2024  
Noon · Main Ballroom

Join us for a ribbon cutting at the joining door with the newly remodeled original structure of the Dennis Senior Center.

**Dennis Center  
for Active Living**  
1045 Route 134  
South Dennis

#### 5. TOWN OF DENNIS SEEKS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT 187 DEPOT ST.

The Town of Dennis is seeking proposals from qualified bidders to provide **Development and Management of Affordable Housing at 187 Depot Street**. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) document with instructions and requirements are available on the Town's website [here](#).

Proposals must be submitted no later than **4:00 PM on Friday, February 16, 2024**, and must be submitted to Greg Rounseville, Assistant Town Administrator, at Dennis Town Hall, 685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660.

Sealed proposals will be received at the Town of Dennis Town Hall, Town Administrator's Office, 685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660 until 4:00 P.M., **Friday, February 16, 2024** at which time and place proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud for the following:

##### **Development and Management of Affordable Housing at 187 Depot Street.**

Eight proposals, one original and seven copies must be received in a sealed envelope, clearly marked "**Affordable Housing**". A USB flash drive containing the Proposal must also be included.

Bids received after the time and date established herein for the opening of bids shall not be accepted or considered, regardless of the cause for delay in the receipt of such bids.

The Town of Dennis reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bidding, and to make the award as may be determined in the best interests of the Town. Respondents must comply with all applicable civil rights and employment opportunity laws.

"An Equal Opportunity Municipality - AA/MBE"

**6. NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD**

The Dennis Select Board will meet on February 6, 2024 for regularly scheduled business. Upcoming meeting dates of the Select Board can be found on the [Town of Dennis website here](#).

All are welcome to attend and participate in our open and public meetings. The agenda for each meeting is posted 48 business hours prior to the scheduled meeting time and can be accessed through the Select Board's webpage or the Town calendar webpage.

Attend in-person at the Town Hall, Stone Meeting Room. Or for alternative public access join the meeting online via zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7660036712> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID 766 003 6712 #.

**7. JOIN THE TEAM – THE TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING**

Are you or someone you know looking for work? The Town of Dennis is hiring! Several full and part-time positions available. Apply and view current job openings [here](#).

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth C. Sullivan, Town Administrator