

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

BUDGET/CAPITAL/ANNUAL TOWN MEETING CALENDAR

Administration and Finance – it is hard to believe, fall is here and we are quickly moving towards budget preparation for fiscal year 2026. The Select Board has adopted a collective set of Goals, which becomes a part of the budget process as applicable.

The following items are actively being worked on as well as the on the overall budget calendar including:

- Final STM 10/1/24 Meeting Preparations
- Tax Classification Hearing
- FY 2026 Budget Preparation, Reviews, Meetings with Departments, SB Review, Finance Committee Reviews.
- FY 2026 Proposed Capital Projects – Reviews, Meetings with Capital Program Committee
- 2025 Annual Town Meeting Preparation
- Approved roadway, building and infrastructure projects – Contracts prioritization and planning.

On September 17th I met with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Select Board and the Finance Committee to discuss the upcoming budget process. Last week I also met with the DY School Superintendent regarding FY2026 school budget areas of concern and the Dennis budget calendar. As you know, we will not receive the DY Regional School District assessment number until late January when the Governor releases the Chapter 70 State Aid budget.

In October Budget Guidelines will be distributed to the Department Heads and in early November, I will meet with the senior managers from each department to review their budgets. In keeping with the budget schedule, the Select Board will review the Budget Message on December 3rd and review departmental budgets during the month of December. In late January, and February the Finance Committee will begin their review of the FY2025 Budget.

An overall calendar will be shared with the Select Board, Finance Committee, Departments and applicable Boards and Committees once completed.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

Geoffrey E. Snyder, Commissioner

Sean R. Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services

NOTIFICATION OF FREE CASH APPROVAL - Town of Dennis

Based upon the un-audited balance sheet submitted, I hereby certify that the amount of available funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2024 for the Town of Dennis is:

General Fund	\$6,904,705.00
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This certification is in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 59, §23, as amended. Certification letters will be emailed to the mayor/manager, board of selectmen, prudential committee, finance director and treasurer immediately upon approval, provided an email address is reported in DLS' Local Officials Directory. Please forward to other officials as you deem appropriate.

CAPE COD COMMISSION - CAPE COD VISION ZERO PUBLIC MEETING (VIRTUAL)

For Immediate Release (September 16, 2024) –

The Cape Cod Commission invites the public to attend the first Cape Cod Vision Zero Action Plan virtual public meeting on September 24, 2024, at 12:00 pm.

This meeting will allow the public to learn more about efforts to eliminate fatalities and serious injury crashes on Cape Cod's roadways and provide an overview of the components of a Safety Action Plan. Cape Cod's existing safety statistics, including the number of crashes in recent years, will be shared. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide comments during the meeting. Comments can also be shared using the [public comment tool](#) posted on the project website.

At the conclusion of the project, the Cape Cod Vision Zero Action Plan, will provide a pathway to a safer future, allow for a systematic crash analysis and set of solutions to tackle the root causes of all crashes, emphasizing those involving bicyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorists.

The Action Plan will consider a range of low-cost, high-impact regional strategies such as bike light distribution, updated pedestrian signal equipment, and major infrastructure improvements at key locations. Completing the Action Plan will make all fifteen Cape Cod towns eligible for future Federal Highway Implementation Grants to leverage federal funding to implement strategies.

Cape Cod Vision Zero Public Meeting (Virtual)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 12:00 PM

Zoom Link: <https://capecodcommission.org/visionzero/join>

The Cape Cod Vision Zero Safety Action Plan is funded by the Federal Highway Administration through the Safe Streets for All discretionary grant program.

For more information visit the [project website](#) or contact: Colleen Medeiros, Cape Cod Commission Transportation Program Manager at colleen.medeiros@capecodcommission.org.

WASTEWATER IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

I would like to update the Select Board and the public on several recent developments regarding Dennis' wastewater project.

Reminder if anyone was unable to attend our series of Wastewater workshops, it is currently running on Channel 8, the Town's Website, and on the Wastewater Wednesday Facebook page.

Additionally, I would like to inform the Board that the General Contractor bid openings for the wastewater came in last week, we have another bid opening for Contracts 1 and 2; the Treatment Facility and the Collection contract on 9/25. A breakdown of final costs with the hard-bid numbers will be completed for the Select Board prior to Town Meeting.

I want to remind everyone that the wastewater article — Article 9 — is on the warrant for the October 1st Special Town Meeting. I encourage residents to attend and participate in this important decision for the future of Dennis. I would also like to remind everyone that there will also be a ballot question for this project on October 8th and Town Clerk Terry Bunce is preparing for that, she has indicated that there will be absentee voting available for this vote.

Once we get beyond Town Meeting there will be many important next steps that will be occurring. Most importantly the Wastewater Cost Recovery subgroup will be reconvened and will be focusing on connection fees and mitigating those costs to the tax payers. The subgroup will explore low interest loans, tax credits,

enlisting expanded legislative support and available state and federal grant in addition to other cost savings. Although, connections will not occur until 2028 at the earliest researching cost recovery methods has and remains a priority of the Select Board.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: SEVERAL MONTH CLOSURE OF ROUTE 6A

DENNIS- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing it will be closing Route 6A (Main Street) from Scargo Hill Road to Sesuit Neck Road in Dennis for several months, beginning on Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 a.m. The roadway closure is scheduled to be in place until April 2025. MassDOT must close this section of Route 6A to facilitate the replacement of two existing culverts under Route 6A at the Sesuit Creek. The roadway will remain open to residents residing within the closed section of Route 6A.

Traffic management will consist of a temporary detour as follows:

Drivers traveling eastbound on Route 6A

- Turn left onto Sesuit Neck Road
- Turn right on Bridge Street
- Continue on Bridge Street to Route 6A (Main Street) intersection

Drivers traveling westbound on Route 6A

- Turn left onto Scargo Hill Road
- Continue straight onto Old Bass River Road
- Continue on Old Bass River Road to Route 6A (Main Street) intersection

Drivers who are traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution. Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and/or may be impacted due to an emergency situation.

For information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.
- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on X, (formerly known as Twitter), to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.

John Goggin

MassDOT Communications Office

TOWN OF DENNIS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

Funding was approved at the Dennis May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting to pay the costs of funding and administering a childcare subsidy program for birth through 5-year-old children of Dennis residents to attend a state-licensed childcare program.

The Town of Dennis Childcare Subsidy Program was funded to provide financial assistance for 50 local families with children who are under five years old as of August 31, 2024, for the program period September 1, 2024 -August 31, 2025.

A subsidy in the form of direct payment of \$200 per month to State licensed childcare providers for up to 50 full time, year-round residents of Dennis (maximum of \$2,400 per household) will be provided for one

eligible child and meets a threshold of 81% to 150% Average Median Income parameter. Child must be enrolled a minimum of two days per week for eligibility.

Included below are a Childcare Subsidy Program Overview, an Application Form, and a Required Documents List. The [Application Form \(PDF\)](#) includes questions to obtain information for verification of eligibility.

Applications and required documents must be completed fully and returned to:

Dennis Town Hall
 Attention: Childcare Voucher Program
 685 Route 134
 South Dennis, MA 02660

Or may be scanned and emailed to DennisCSP@town.dennis.ma.us with the subject line “CSP.”

FY 2024	HOUSEHOLD SIZE							
INCOME CATEGORY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
LOW								
80% Income Limit	\$70,960	\$81,080	\$91,200	\$101,320	\$109,440	\$117,560	\$125,640	\$133,760
81% Income Limit (DENNIS MINIMUM)	\$71,847	\$82,093	\$92,340	\$102,586	\$110,808	\$119,029	\$127,210	\$135,432
AVERAGE MEDIAN								
100% Income Limit	\$88,700	\$101,350	\$114,000	\$126,650	\$136,800	\$146,950	\$157,050	\$167,200
150% AVERAGE MEDIAN 150 % Income limit (DENNIS MAXIMUM)	\$133,050	\$152,025	\$171,000	\$189,975	\$205,200	\$220,425	\$235,575	\$250,800

REMINDER SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1st, at 7:00PM at the Dennis-Yarmouth Intermediate School located at 286 Station Ave. S. Yarmouth, MA. 02664

The Dennis Select Board will review a draft Town Meeting warrant at their meeting on August 27, 2024 and will finalize the warrant by early September.

September 20, 2024 is the last day to register to vote in the Special Town Meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on October 15, 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 #.

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