

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 3, 2026

STAY PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER!

We're in for more cold weather this week! Make sure you, your home and pets are prepared and safe with cold temperatures. Some helpful reminders:

- Limit your time outside
- Keep pets indoors
- When using alternate heating sources, make sure your Carbon Monoxide detectors are working properly
- Check on neighbors who are elderly or who need extra assistance
- Keep emergency kits and extra warm clothing items in your car

More Winter Weather Preparedness Tips

[Winter Weather | Ready.gov](#)

DEADLINES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION – 2026 TOWN MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

The Select Board will commence review of Town Meeting Articles for the Annual Town Meeting this evening and continue for the next several meetings. Upon articles being placed on the Town Meeting Warrant the Finance Committee will then begin their review of Town Meeting Articles. All meetings of the Select Board and the Finance Committee are duly posted public meetings and all are welcome to attend. If you are not able to attend in person we offer hybrid option via zoom; be sure to check the meeting agenda to see if remote participation is offered. Finally, you may also view the meetings afterwards once posted to the Towns website via the video on demand feature.

Date – Year 2026	Event
March 17, 2026	Deadline for Citizens Petitions for 5/5/2026 ATM, due to the Town Clerk's Office by 4:00 pm
April 17, 2026	Last day to Register to Vote at the Annual Water District Meeting
April 28, 2026	Annual Water District Meeting
April 24, 2026	Last day to Register to Vote at the May 5, 2026 Annual Town Meeting & the May 12, 2026 Annual Town Election
May 5, 2026	Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot (absentee or early) 5:00 pm
May 5, 2026	Annual Town Meeting, 7:00 pm at DYIMS, 286 Station Ave. So. Yarmouth, MA 02664
May 12, 2026	Annual Town Election, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, all 5 Precincts

Town Meeting Information

Annual Town Meeting - May 5, 2026 - 7 PM

- Deadline to Register to Vote: April 24th, 2026, 5:00 PM in-person, up to 11:59 PM Online.
- Deadline to Submit Citizens Petitions: March 17, 2026 by 4:00 PM.
- **Location:** D-Y Intermediate/Middle School: 286 Station Ave. South Yarmouth, MA, 02664

[Click here to view previous Town Meeting Results.](#)

Voter Registration

The Town Clerk's office will be open until 5:00 pm 10 days before an Annual Town Meeting or Special Town Meeting to register voters. As the Town has accepted G.L. c. 41, §110A, if the voter registration deadline falls on a Saturday, it will then be moved to 11 days prior, Friday, until 5:00pm.

The Town of Dennis has an Open Town Meeting which means that all registered voters may speak and vote at the meeting. The Annual Town Meeting convenes on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. Special Town Meetings are anytime when necessary to conduct Town business.

The responsibilities of the Town Meeting are to:

- Appropriate funds for operating and capital budgets for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1 to June 30)
- Approve all General and Zoning By-Laws (contained in the Code of Dennis); and
- Accept certain "local option" statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Process & Procedures

The Town Clerk reports on the actions of each Town Meeting session and is the keeper of the official minutes.

All matters of Town Meeting business are included in the Warrant. Each item of business is called a Warrant article. The Select Board determines the content and order of articles in the Warrant and sets the deadline for closing the warrant.

The Town Moderator, who is elected by the voters for a three-year term, presides over the business and conduct of the Town Meeting. Operating procedures and rules are dictated by statute, by-laws, or tradition; in their absence Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Practice governs. Citizens may address the Town Meeting, and when recognized by the moderator, may make motions and may participate in votes taken.

To hold an Annual Town Meeting there needs to be a quorum of 150 legally registered voters. For Special Town Meetings, a quorum of 75 legally registered voters needs to be present for the meeting to take place.

Related Documents

1. [Citizens Petition to Town Meeting Instructions \(PDF\)](#)
2. [Blank Petition Form \(PDF\)](#)

STICKER SALES INFORMATION

Sticker Sales: Beach, Transfer Station, & Harbor

The Town of Dennis will start Sticker/Permit sales on the following schedule:

February 17, 2026 – Online Sales for Transfer Station

NOTE: The transfer station has moved to a sticker less, license plate reading system, so there is no longer a physical sticker.

March 16, 2026 – Online Sales for Beach and Harbor

Please wait until you have received your approved-order email before picking up your beach sticker.

March 30, 2026 – Sticker Office opens for **in person** purchase of Transfer Station, Beach and Harbor Permits, and pick-up of online purchases (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am – 2 pm).

Senior hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9-10am.

April 1, 2026 - ORV stickers available online only.

April 27, 2026 – Sticker Office open for **in person** purchase of Transfer Station, Beach and Harbor Permits, and pick-up of online purchases. ORV online only. (Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm)

May 18, 2026 – Sticker Office open Monday thru Friday 10am - 4pm and Open Saturday and Sunday 10am – 2pm

Sticker office will be closed Labor Day weekend.

- **Purchase Stickers Online here:** (Beach, Harbor, Transfer Station only)
- **Purchase Off Road Vehicles here:** (ORV Sticker only)

Online purchasing is recommended to avoid long lines/wait times. Permits are still available online (fast and simple!) after sticker office opens.

Mutual respect and courtesy are expected of sticker sales personnel and customers. Non-compliance with the Town's guidelines will result in denial of service and seasonal stickers.

WASTEWATER PROJECT UPDATES

Town of Dennis Wastewater Project

In an effort to keep Dennis residents informed and up to date, the Town of Dennis will update this *News and Announcements* post as soon as new information comes in.

- The **Wastewater page** includes information on licensed septic haulers, licensed utility installers, the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, and more.
- To get the latest information emailed to you, enter your info **here**.
- See time-lapse pictures of site progress **here**.

UPDATE JANUARY 23, 2025

RJV Construction Corp. started work in late June for Contract No. 4. Robert B. Our Co., Inc. started work for Contract No. 2 in early July. Dig It Construction LLC started work for Contract No. 3 in mid-July. Work is currently scheduled as outlined below.

Work for the week of January 26 – January 30:

Contract No. 2:

- Continued sewer work on west end of Theophilus F. Smith Road, near Route 134, to Route 134. Continued sewer work on Duck Pond Road from Main Street intersection toward Route 134. Commencement of sewer work on Highbank Road. Completion of sewer work on Dutch's Way. Continued sewer work on Bertram Avenue. ***Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents. Some road closures with local traffic only, detours will be in place.***

Contract No. 3:

- Continued sewer work on Route 134 between Route 28 and Center Street. Continued sewer work on Center Street from Baxter Street to Upper County Road. ***Local traffic only, detour will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.***

Contract No. 4:

- Continued sewer work on Route 28 from Allain Way to Waterside Drive. Continued sewer work on School Street from Route 28 to Pond Street. Commencement of sewer work north on Main Street from Cove Road toward Duck Pond Road, traffic restrictions from Center Street to Highbank Road. ***Local traffic only, detours will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.***

Two Week Look Ahead (2/2 -2/6):

Contract No. 2:

- Continued sewer work on Duck Pond Road from Main Street intersection toward Route 134. Continued sewer work on Bertram Avenue. Continued sewer work on Highbank Road.

Commencement of sewer work on Route 134 from the intersection of Theophilus F. Smith Road to 400 feet south – **ROUTE 134 SEWER WORK WILL BE NIGHT WORK WITH ROAD CLOSURE AND PERIODIC DAY PAVING WITH ALTERNATING TRAFFIC PATTERNS. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents. Some road closures with local traffic only, detours will be in place.**

Contract No. 3:

- Continued sewer work on Route 134 between Route 28 and Center Street. Continued sewer work on Center Street from Baxter Street to Upper County Road. *Local traffic only, detour will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.*

Contract No. 4:

- Continued sewer work on Route 28 from Waterside Drive to Woodbine Lane. Continued sewer work on School Street from Pond Street toward Ridgedale Lane. Continued sewer work north on Main Street from Cove Road toward Duck Pond Road, traffic restrictions from Center Street to Highbank Road. Completion of sewer work in Allain Way and Kelly's Lane. *Local traffic only, detours will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.*

Three Week Look Ahead (2/9 – 2/13):

Contract No. 2:

- Continued sewer work on Duck Pond Road near the intersection of Route 134. Continued work on Bertram Avenue. Completion of sewer work on Highbank Road. Continued sewer work on Route 134 from the intersection of Theophilus F. Smith Road, north toward Market Place – **ROUTE 134 SEWER WORK WILL BE NIGHT WORK WITH ROAD CLOSURE AND PERIODIC DAY PAVING WITH ALTERNATING TRAFFIC PATTERNS. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents. Some road closures with local traffic only, detours will be in place.**

Contract No. 3:

- Continued sewer work on Route 134 between Route 28 and Center Street. Continued sewer work on Center Street from Baxter Street to Upper County Road. *Local traffic only, detour will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.*

Contract No. 4:

- Continued sewer work on Route 28 from Woodbine Lane toward Kelly's Way. Continued sewer work on School Street from Pond Street toward Ridgedale Lane. Continued sewer work north on Main Street from Cove Road toward Duck Pond Road, traffic restrictions from Center Street to Highbank Road. *Local traffic only, detours will be in place. Police detail(s) will be on-site and signage in place to assist residents.*
- Please note that this is a projected schedule and will be adjusted accordingly based on the Contractors' actual progress and the weather.
- Roads will be passable at the end of each day. Police Details and Contractors will work with residents and businesses to ensure their needs for access are addressed.
- Police Details and signage will be in place to assist motorists in reaching their destination.
- Normal work hours are 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday to Friday, weather permitting, unless otherwise noted.

Wastewater Project Updates are being posted to the Town's website at <http://www.town.dennis.ma.us> under "NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS" where you can also sign up for email notifications of updates. We encourage you to visit the Wastewater page link <https://www.town.dennis.ma.us/356/Wastewater> for additional information regarding the Wastewater Program.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this important project to restore and protect our environment.

MASS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION: GOV. MAURA HEALEY TODAY FILED HER \$62.8 BILLION SPENDING PLAN FOR FISCAL 2027, PROPOSING AN OVERALL SPENDING INCREASE OF 3.5% OVER THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

Her budget bill, known as House 2, includes incremental increases to key municipal accounts, while boosting rural school aid and continuing to fund public school accounts according to the sixth and final year of the schedule outlined in the Student Opportunity Act.

A climate of continued economic uncertainty, brought on in large part by federal government actions, hangs over the fiscal 2027 budget process. Economists and budget experts predict slow growth in the coming months, with numerous impacts on state revenues and investments resulting from the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (known as OB3), as well as changes in immigration and employment, tariffs, and shifts in national and international markets.

The governor’s budget recommendation is an initial step in the state budget process. Legislative hearings will follow on key budget areas, and the House and Senate will release and debate their own plans this spring, with the goal of sending a final budget to the governor before the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

“We’re very thankful for the governor’s proposed targeted investments in education, rural schools, special education, and roads and bridges through a separate transportation bill,” said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. “We appreciate her proposal for Unrestricted General Government Aid, which we see as a starting point for a continuing conversation, given the overwhelming need for essential municipal services.”

The Division of Local Services has posted preliminary Cherry Sheet estimates for each city, town and school district based on the governor’s budget. The Cherry Sheets will be updated as each subsequent budget proposal is released.

Here’s a review of key municipal accounts in the governor’s bill:

Unrestricted General Government Aid

House 2 proposes an increase of 2.5%, or \$33 million, for the Unrestricted General Government Aid account, totaling \$1.36 billion. The MMA recently published two reports that emphasize the large structural gap in unrestricted aid, and this proposal falls well short of the MMA’s recommended target for the Commonwealth’s 351 cities and towns. This account remains a priority for the MMA, which is advising local officials to continue focusing on it as they discuss priorities with state legislators.

Chapter 70

House 2 would fund Chapter 70 education aid at \$7.6 billion, a 3.2% increase, or \$242 million, over fiscal 2026. Fiscal 2027 is the final year of the Student Opportunity Act’s six-year implementation schedule.

House 2 recommends that “minimum aid” districts — accounting for roughly 85% of all school districts — receive a \$75 per pupil increase, rather than the statutorily required \$30 per pupil. The minimum per pupil aid was set at \$150 in the fiscal 2026 budget.

Special Education Circuit Breaker

The governor proposed \$652.7 million in House 2 for the Special Education Circuit Breaker program, but would supplement it with \$150 million from a proposed fiscal 2026 “Fair Share” supplemental budget bill, for a total of \$802.7 million, representing a 18.8% increase over fiscal 2026. The administration said the total would represent full funding of the state’s statutory obligation costs as outlined in the Student Opportunity Act.

Charter school reimbursements

The governor's budget would fund the charter school mitigation account at \$200.4 million, a slight increase over fiscal 2026. The MMA and other stakeholders contend that charter schools continue to divert a large percentage of Chapter 70 funds away from many municipally operated school districts, and place a strain on districts that serve the vast majority of public schoolchildren.

Rural School Aid

In response to unique fiscal challenges faced by rural districts, the governor's budget would boost Rural School Aid by \$8 million, or 67%, over fiscal 2026, to \$20 million. The proposal would expand eligibility to agricultural schools, independent vocational schools, charter schools, and collaboratives.

Regional School Transportation

House 2 would fund regional school transportation reimbursements at \$112.3 million for fiscal 2027, a \$6 million increase above fiscal 2026. The administration said this represents 87% of eligible local transportation costs.

Out-of-District Vocational Transportation

The governor's budget proposal includes \$6.8 million for reimbursements for transportation of out-of-district vocational school students, which was funded at \$1 million in fiscal 2026. The administration said this investment would fund 100% of expected costs.

McKinney-Vento

Reimbursements for the transportation of homeless students under the federal McKinney-Vento Act would be funded at \$35.2 million, a \$6.5 million increase.

PILOT

The governor's budget would fund payments-in-lieu-of-taxes for state-owned land at \$55.4 million, an increase of 1.6% (\$851,000) over fiscal 2026, which is intended to hold communities harmless from updated valuation changes.

Outside Sections

RMV holds for delinquent municipal revenues: House 2 includes several outside sections that would change the process by which cities and towns may collect outstanding excise taxes, parking ticket payments, and abandoned vehicle fines. The sections would change the current process that flags delinquent accounts for non-renewal of associated driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.

The proposal would create a new system that would require reporting to both the Division of Revenue and Comptroller to allow payment of delinquent bills via the state's Intercept program, which allows deductions to be made to an individual's state tax return, lottery winnings over \$600, of payments from the Commonwealth's accounting system. Rules for the proposed program would be set by a forthcoming regulatory process.

The MMA has strong concerns that the new process, proposed through the Department of Revenue, cannot replace a critical tool that the current process provides to collect important municipal revenue. Many communities find the current process to be the only practical way to collect delinquent motor vehicle excise bills and parking tickets.

Other local accounts

House 2 proposes \$20.4 million for local aid to public libraries to support their many essential community resources.

The bill also proposes \$2 million for the Community Compact Program to help municipalities implement best practices in key areas, including cybersecurity, housing production, and solid waste management. The budget would allocate \$2 million to enhance staffing and emergency response capacity in communities with populations of at least 60,000 and police department operating budgets below \$200 per capita in fiscal 2025.

The Local Finance Commonwealth Fellowship Program would be funded at \$500,000, to provide approximately 30 participants from community colleges with municipal finance training and hands-on, work-based learning through placements in host communities.

Written by Adrienne Núñez, MMA Senior Legislative Analyst

NEXT MEETING DATES OF THE DENNIS SELECT BOARD

The Dennis Select Board will meet on February 24, 2026 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/8780036813> or participate by phone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and entering Conference ID: 878-003-6813

JOIN THE TEAM! THE TOWN OF DENNIS IS HIRING

The [Town of Dennis](#) has several full and part-time positions available.

Apply and view current job openings [here](#).

Elizabeth C. Sullivan
Town Administrator