



Town Council Meeting  
October 29, 2020



The October 29, 2020 Special meeting of the Barnstable Town Council was physically closed to the public to avoid group congregation.

A quorum being duly present, called the October 29, 2020 Town Council Special meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. from a remote location

An announcement was made by President Hebert regarding the special meeting being televised live and questioning if anyone was actively taping the session to please make their presence known. This session is recorded and broadcast on Channel 18.

**PRESENT:** (On Zoom) David Bogan, Kristine Clark, Jennifer Cullum, Debra Dagwan, Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Paul Hebert, Matthew Levesque, Paul Neary, Paula Schnepf, Tracy Shaughnessy, Gordon Starr, Eric Steinhilber.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Neary. Councilor Levesque asked to keep Jim Murphy and his family; and the family of Dr. Edward Tynan and his family in our thoughts and prayers; Councilor Clark noted the passing of Gary Brown; followed by a moment of silence.

**2021-028 APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,760 FOR THE INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TO FUND A CONTRACT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING OF SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTIES INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was to withdraw agenda item 2021- 018.  
**ORDERED:** That the sum of **\$68,760.00** be appropriated and added to the Fiscal Year 2021 Inspectional Services Department Operating Budget of \$2,164,880, resulting in a revised Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget of \$2,233,640, and that to meet this appropriation, that \$68,760 be transferred from the General Fund Reserves  
**VOTE: REFER TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON 11/05/2020 – PASSES**

*Councilor Starr left the Zoom Meeting*

**2021-029 ALLOCATION OF TAX LEVY FISCAL YEAR 2021 – TAX FACTOR INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was to withdraw agenda item 2021- 019  
**RESOLVED,** that the Town Council hereby votes to classify the Town of Barnstable under the Classification Act at a Factor of 1 (one) for the Fiscal Year 2021  
**VOTE: REFER TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON 11/19/2020 – PASSES**

**2021-030 ALLOCATION OF TAX LEVY FISCAL YEAR 2021 – RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Council hereby votes to adopt a Residential Exemption of twenty percent (20%) for fiscal year 2021.

**VOTE: REFER TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON 11/19/2020 – PASSES**

*Councilor Starr returned to the Zoom Meeting*

**2021-031 ACCEPTANCE OF AN FISCAL YEAR 2021 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000 FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING A COMPONENT JAIL/ARREST DIVERSION PROJECT INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Chief Matthew Sonnabend gave the rationale. He explained the Police Department receives a similar grant every year and has been since 2014. He noted the grant funding would be utilized from July 2020 to June 2021.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council does hereby accept a grant in the amount of **\$50,000** from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for the purpose of funding a Component Jail/Arrest Diversion Project under the Massachusetts Jail/Arrest Diversion Project, and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for and expend the grant funds for the purpose stated herein

**VOTE: PASSES 12 YES**

**2021-032 ACCEPTANCE OF AN FISCAL YEAR 2021 GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,853 FROM THE CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLANNING AND OPERATIONALIZING SAFE AND SECURE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IN THE TOWN OF BARNSTABLE IN 2020 INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Mark Ells gave the rationale. He added the grant funding would be utilized from June 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council does hereby accept a grant in the amount of **\$20,853** from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for the purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration in the Town of Barnstable in 2020, and that the Town Manager is authorized to contract for and expend the grant funds for the purpose stated herein.

**VOTE: PASSES 12 YES**

**2021-033 APPOINTMENTS TO A BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION: INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoints the following individuals to a multiple-member board/committee/commission: **Youth Commission:** Michaela Stampfl, c/o Hyannis Youth and Community Center, as a regular member to a term expiring 6/2021; Isabelle Rudy, c/o Hyannis Youth and Community Center, as a regular member to a term expiring 6/2021

**VOTE: REFER TO A SECOND READING ON 11/05/2020 – PASSES**

**2021-034 REAPPOINTMENTS TO A BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION:  
INTRO: 10/29/2020**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council reappoints the following individuals to a multiple-member board/committee/commission: **Mid Cape Cultural Council:** Lynne Belfiore as a regular member to a term expiring 9/13/2023

**VOTE: REFER TO A SECOND READING ON 11/05/2020 – PASSES**

Mark Ells gave an update on COVID-19. He discussed the increase in the average number of positive COVID-19 results. He emphasized all residents should follow Governor Baker's protocols. He added the State of Massachusetts was in Phase 3 Step 2. He felt Barnstable would be able to maintain the Phase 3 Step 2 status. He noted some communities have moved back to Phase III Step I but reiterated Barnstable will remain open until/unless there was a directive from Governor Baker which would roll back the status. He thanked all residents for taking personal responsibility and following all protocols.

Mark Ells reminded Council that Mark Milne, Finance Director was available to speak to the two Items regarding allocation of Tax Levy Fiscal Year 2021 – tax factor and allocation of Tax Levy Fiscal Year 2021 – residential exemption. Mark Milne, Finance Director gave an overview with a PowerPoint Presentation and discussed the residential exemption. He explained there was a 6% increase in property value over the last year and this was based on the 2019 calendar year sales value. He spoke about the residential exemption versus the split tax rate.

**ACT ON MINUTES:**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was to approve the minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 as presented.

**VOTE: PASSES 12 YES**

**Fiscal Policy Review on Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan**

- **Mark S. Ells, Town Manager**
- **Mark A. Milne, Director of Finance**

Mark Ells spoke about the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) fiscal policy review. He felt there needed to be additional input. He added there were monthly reports/updates regarding CWMP regarding the filing impact and the environment impact. He discussed installing the sewers in spring of 2021. He felt there needed to be a clear fiscal policy.

Mark Milne Finance Director introduced Rick Manley, Bond Manager. Mark Milne read aloud the Town's Mission Statement. He spoke about the three sewer project phases: Phase 1 - Red years 1-19; Phase II - Green years 11-20; and Phase III – Yellow 21-30 years. He explained Phase I would follow the Vineyard Wind project as it would allow the Town to save 3 million dollars. He noted the Vineyard Wind project would open up the ground on Phinneys Lane to Old Strawberry

Hill Road to place the electric cable from the turbines and the Town would add sewer capabilities to those areas.

Mark Milne discussed the financial construction costs for this 30 year project. He explained the Town could issue loans over a 30 year implementation period; loans through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust with the borrowing capacity and utilize at five percent of the community equalized valuation. He said there will be a funding gap of \$596 Million dollars.

Mark Milne deliberated on the Town's policy decision to fund the gap. He said there were options for funding and discussed the following: betterments or assessments; fixed uniform rate or uniform unit method; dollar cap on sewer assessments or 30 year amortization with 2.5 percent interest rate; interest rate to apply on Sewer Assessment; should the Town offer a connection program; will systems development charge be implemented – pay at the time of connection. He talked funding the program through property tax contributions and to create a mini stabilization fund or utilize debt exclusion override.

Mark Milne discussed the next step needed to be taken regarding: property tax contribution; adopting MGL Chapter 83, section 15, 30 year amortization; Town administer connection program; delay connection and or change the code. Rick Manley spoke about creating a general ordinance; applying sewer assessments on undeveloped properties and an interest rate to apply to sewer assessments.

#### **Councilor comments and questions:**

(Cullum)

What will the nonresident owners pay – please calculate [Yes will do that] Please explain if Stewarts Creek is connected? [Stewarts Creek is not connected and they must seek approval from the Board of Health] Thankful for the Short-Term Rentals (STRs) as they generate income – the last year about 1 million dollars and the Town needs the money to help with the cost of attaining new water sources in Barnstable.

(Steinhilber)

Would like to see the 30 year amortization draft items for approval What about Title 5 monies? [Residents can challenge the Title 5 but Title 5 does not remove nitrogen]

(Schnepp)

Are there tiered assessments to elevate the burden to lower income residents? [Yes proportional] Please look at the total impact on homeowners

(Neary)

Does federal government offer grants [assessments cannot be taken away]

(Bogan)

Disclosed Rick Manley is a law firm colleague

(Starr)

What lessons were learned from Stewart Creek [Better communication needed, permanent point of communication, which was not in place with Stewart Creek]

(Rapp Grasseti)

My hope is the project happens quickly is there a lack of buy-in from homeowners? [there is no forward movement from Yarmouth]

(Cullum)

Please create a Facebook page [Yes we are looking into that]

(Hebert)

Please ask questions directly to Town Manager to get correct information.

Mark Ells mentioned there would be summary guidelines for November with recommendations. He added the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting could have fiscal policy set with other areas ready to adjust and discuss.

**VOTE: ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded it was

**VOTED TO ADJOURN:**

**Adjourned at 9:15 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Assistant Town Clerk/Town of Barnstable

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: November 5, 2020