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## REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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**TO:** SELECT BOARD  
**FROM:** JACQUI BEEBE, TOWN MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** TOWN MANAGER REPORT  
**DATE:** JULY 8, 2024



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### FOLLOW-UP

- **H2097, the special legislation to establish a Community Fund** has passed the senate with the voted changes and is back in the House for the 3d reading. Representative Peake's office has approved the language changes and notified us that they expect the legislation to pass this session.
- **Dangerous Dog Hearing Update:** The Animal Control Officer and Town Counsel appeared last Friday before a Clerk-Magistrate of the Orleans District Court (Assistant Clerk-Magistrate Sugermeier) on a hearing pursuant to G.L. c. 140, § 157(d) for the Clerk-Magistrate's review of the Select Board's Dangerous Dog Order. As you may recall, under the applicable standard, the Clerk Magistrate must affirm the Dangerous Dog Decision and Order unless she finds that it was made in bad faith or without proper cause. The Assistant Clerk-Magistrate has taken this matter under advisement, and we are now awaiting her decision. She indicated that she intends to issue a written decision within the next couple of weeks.
- I have executed new **Host Community Agreements** with both our cannabis retailers: Salty Farmer's and Emerald Grove.

### PROJECT/ SCHEDULING UPDATES

#### Annual Project Update Workshop and Goal Setting

- We are placing a **town project update (workshop)** on the **August 19<sup>th</sup> agenda**, and follow-up with **Select Board goal setting** on the **September 23d meeting agenda**. This way, the Board can set goals for 24/25 after a review of the new Strategic Plan, and status update of all current projects.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

### Eastham Wastewater Project

- **The Town has executed contracts with Environmental Partners Group (EPG) for the design of the Collection System and to provide Owner's Project Manager Services for our Wastewater design and treatment plant. We have also executed a contract with GHD for the treatment plant design. Significant dates:**
  - **July 15 we are scheduled to receive notification on MEPA/Environmental Impact Report (EIR).** This will give us either the permission to proceed or let us know any specific condition they need us to address before issuing a certificate to proceed.
  - **July 26, the State Revolving Fund (SRF), Project Evaluation Form (PEF) is due.** This is the first step in the SRF Revolving Loan process and allows the project to be ranked for inclusion in the MA DEP's Intended Use Plan for Clean Water Projects. Listing on the 2025 IUP, qualifies us for SRF loans and subsidy by the Cape and Islands Water Protection Collaborative, which will provide a grant of 25% of the funding requested for the total project. We must rank in the highest category for the PEF to be granted 0% interest on our wastewater loans.
  - **If Eastham is placed on the 2025 IUP, we will have to have an appropriation of project cost by June 30, 2025, (Town Meeting Vote), submit our application for financing by October 15, 2025 and commence construction by June 30, 2026.**

### Town Hall Exterior Renovation

- The Town Hall Project is now substantially complete. All masonry is complete. We will complete walkways, loam and seed, and plant front bushes on Monday/Tuesday. Also waiting for HVAC follow-up as they need to program the new condensers to work with the thermostats. Hopefully, all final and punch list items will be completed by Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## HR UPDATES

- **Appointment: I am delighted to announce the appointment of Deputy Chief Lisa M. Albino as the Town of Eastham's new Fire Chief.** In her 37-year career with the fire service and the Town, Deputy Albino has set the bar for a professional work ethic. Her superior training and experience make her the best possible candidate for the position. She has exemplified a commitment to the department and the town, and I have confidence that her leadership will provide a smooth transition within the Department. Deputy Albino will be the first female Chief on Cape Cod and only the fourth in the state of MA. Fire Chief Dan Keene's last day as Chief will be September 6, 2024, and we will let you know what events are planned for the change in leadership.

## REGIONAL ITEMS/ Information in Packet

**BOEM/Offshore Wind Update.** Rich Bienvenue represented us at a presentation of the proposed offshore wind project. The current draft proposal is comprised of 1m acres with public comment and scientific community participation in vetting process. The area provides an opportunity for approx. fifteen gigawatts of electricity production. The nearest lease area is approximately 25 miles off the back shore of the outer cape. Concerns expressed were the need for additional public education and input opportunities for residents. The need to develop plans for maintenance, disasters, and other environmental responses. BOEM states that impact studies will be conducted once they receive actual proposals. See Power Point in packet.

Upcoming schedule:

- Draft environmental assessment completed.
- Virtual public meetings – 7/7 and 7/10.
- Public comment open to 7/22/24
- Final EA to be completed by Fall, 2024

**MA DEP PFAS Monitoring.** The Select Board packet contains a letter from the DEP with additional mandatory testing for PFAS. We have been doing required testing of the public water system wells, and have been sampling/testing required areas, but will now move the sampling schedule around to accommodate this request. Verdantas Corp and Barnstable County will be completing the sampling for the Town. We have worked with both agencies for many years.

**Conservation Commission Update.** In an Executive Session on June 25, the Conservation Commission voted to rescind the Enforcement Order issued to Coastal Companies on December 12, 2023, under the Order of Conditions SE19-1798. Their decision was based on the receipt of a technical assessment of the material used, along with wood and soil sample analysis. The Commission determined that, “the pilings used do not represent a condition adversely affecting the surrounding environment including public or private water supply, groundwater, shellfish, fisheries and wildlife habitat.” They will also be updating regulations regarding standards for use of pressure treated wood.