



# TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryant Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2314 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

April 8, 2024

## Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

I am pleased to report the following updates from Town Hall and throughout Town:

- We were formally awarded a \$25,000 earmark from the legislature in the Fy24 budget for public safety electrical vehicle infrastructure. We executed the grant agreement with the Commonwealth last week and we'll work with Police and Fire to identify the most appropriate way to spend those funds.
- I'd like to formally welcome Sibohan LaFreniere to the Town of Tyngsborough. She joins us as a Regional Public Health Specialist through the NEPHA for which Tyngsborough serves as the lead community. She will focus on ensuring that residents in all of our member communities have access to the various resources that support and promote public health. Her first day was last Thursday and she will primarily work out of Tewksbury Town Hall.
- Tyngsborough was happy to host the Northern Middlesex Council of Government's Municipal CEO meeting here at Town Hall today. This is a monthly meeting of the area Town Managers to discuss regional challenges, brainstorm solutions, and collaborate on issues that we all face.
- An update on the Town Center Footbridge project. The boardwalk has been installed but we are in a holding pattern on the bridge installation. The original design by Tighe and Bond was unsuccessful because the contractor hit too much refusal and couldn't get the borings deep enough. We had Tighe and Bond design a new approach which was completed last week but the cost of the change order was outside the scope of the budget. We met with the contractor and Tighe and Bond to emphasize the need to get this completed on budget and on time and are awaiting feedback from both to move this forward. We're optimistic that we'll have a new approach within the budget in the next week or so.
- We're hosting a kick off meeting this week with the designers of the pre-engineered steel building that will serve as a new DPW/Sewer building on the site of the existing Highway Garage.
- The issue of the purple lights in the Town Center is hopefully coming to a resolution soon. As the Board is aware, Middlesex Road falls under the jurisdiction of MassDOT. MassDOT has responsibility for road maintenance, plowing, sanding, and maintaining the traffic lights. They do not believe that they have jurisdiction over the street lights however, despite having previously told the Town that they did and that they were working to address the lights. They have since changed their tone and with the help of National Grid and our street light vendor Arden Engineering, we've ordered the replacement parts





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necessary to eliminate the purple lights. The cost is not super substantial but we'll make the repairs and continue to investigate whose responsibility they are so we can invoice the appropriate person.

- The Planning Board opened the public hearing on the proposed zoning amendments for Town Meeting on Thursday last week. The hearing will continue on April 18th and residents are reminded that the proposed language is available at [tyngsboroughma.gov](http://tyngsboroughma.gov) under the Planning Board page.
- Our first Budget Office Hours will take place this Wednesday at 6:00 PM here at Town Hall. These informal meetings will feature a high level presentation of the budget and a question and answer session so that residents can learn more about the budget in a less formal environment. We'll hold another one on April 17th at 6pm and then again on April 23rd at 5pm.
- Pre-Town Meeting will take place on April 30th, 2024 here in the Community Room at 6:00 PM. For those who haven't been before, these are informational meetings where we present the warrant articles, explain the impact, and answer questions. These are not debate forums and no votes are taken. The meeting is recorded and broadcast live.
- Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Elementary School. We'll see a draft of the warrant article a little later on in the agenda. We're excited to announce that the Council on Aging will be offering free rides to the May Town Meeting for seniors or other residents with mobility issues or who are unable to drive for other reasons. Interested residents should contact the COA to get their name on the list. Registration opened today and will stay open until May 1st so we have time to prepare a route sheet based on the interest.
- Finally, last week Town Clerk Joanne Shifres released the ballot for the May 21 Annual Town Election. A copy of the ballot is available on [tyngsboroughma.gov](http://tyngsboroughma.gov). Polls open on May 21st at 7:00 AM and close at 8:00 PM.

## Assistant Town Manager's Report

- The Town has received \$56,313.00 in abatement payments to date from the statewide Opioid Settlement, and will continue to receive funding for the next several years. We have formed an internal working group made up of Police, Fire, Public Health, and Library staff. Staff have been working to identify ways to engage the community to identify the need, especially from those directly affected by the opioid epidemic. In addition, we are working with departments to provide a centralized depository of resources from books to regional mental and behavioral health resources, training and supplies. The working group is also trying to leverage existing state and regional mental health and behavioral health disorder programming and service, which is encouraged by the State.





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- Proposals were due for Assessors Consulting Services for FY26-FY28 on Wednesday, March 20th. The Town received one proposal. The Town awarded the contract to Catalis, formally known as Patriot Properties, which currently is contracted with the Town for assessing services until FY25.

Regards,

Colin Loiselle  
Town Manager

Katharine Foster  
Assistant Town Manager

