



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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

July 29, 2024

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

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

- I want to start by noting that the Town Project's page on tyngsboroughma.gov was updated last week and has descriptions, costs, and current status of all of our major projects happening in Town. Most notably:
 - Last week we lifted the pedestrian bridge in the Town Center into place. While it won't be ready for use by the block party, we're happy it is out of the way. We expect work to be complete by September and for us to open the site for public access shortly thereafter.
 - Work has commenced on the Bicentennial Field project. Lots of the site work near the brook has started, the new pump was ordered, and the electrical component has started.
 - Construction on the Sherburne Road Rec Parcel will commence in the next week. Work under that contract includes the installation of an ADA walking path, gravel parking lot, and various sport amenities. Work under the contract will largely be complete by November 1, however, due to temperature requirements for the top course on some of the amenities, may allow the contractor to return in the early Spring to install the final course. Ensuring the temperatures are correct is important for the longevity of the amenities.
 - Bids for the construction of the Pavilion were opened on Wednesday. The bids came in substantially higher than we hoped and way outside of our budget. As such, I have rejected all bids and we're working at exploring other options for a pavilion. I hope to have a new proposal in the next few weeks to keep that project moving forward.
- I am pleased to share that the Town has received very favorable pricing on our aggregation bid for Town buildings. As a reminder, the Town opted to not include municipal buildings in the energy aggregation that residents participate in because it would have increased the cost on residents and we didn't think that was appropriate. That said, our current rate which expires on December 1 is \$0.1651 per kwh and the most favorable proposal we saw would see a rate of \$0.12715 per kwh.





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- The home rule petition that was approved in May to grant three new alcohol licenses is starting its legislative process tomorrow with a hearing before the Joint Committee on Licensure and Consumer Affairs. It is a written testimony only hearing and we have submitted a letter in support. If this goes well, we could see the final bill approved this winter.
- I'm happy to share that at the recommendation of Chief Howe I have appointed Jason Rubino to the position of police officer with the Tyngsborough Police Department effective Thursday, July 25th. Mr. Rubino is from Litchfield NH but has deep roots here in Tyngsborough. He was one of three finalists for the position and was interviewed in a final interview last month by myself, Director of People and Culture Brigitte Bell, and Chief Howe and all three of us were in agreement about this appointment. He will begin the Police Academy in August and we expect he will complete the academy and begin his field training here in Town in February. His appointment is contingent on successful completion of the police academy and his field training program.
- The Department of Public Works was awarded a two-year grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program through the Commonwealth. The total grant award is \$326,500 for the Bridge Meadow Brook Culvert Replacement. As this Board is well aware, our Engineering Division has spent the last couple of years working hard at getting external funding to help fix and replace failed culverts which have proved to be costly. Big kudos to our DPW Superintendent Jacob Zwicker for his work on this.
- We're grateful to Lowell Five for their commitment of a four-year contribution toward the new Sherburne Ave Rec Parcel totaling \$20,000 over the term of the four years. We'll be working with Lowell Five to ensure that we provide adequate recognition of them and their contribution somewhere on the new parcel.
- The Tyngsborough Fire Department has taken possession of their new utility pickup truck which replaces a 2009 pickup truck. This new truck was funded through the FY24 capital program and will serve as the new Car 2 which is a command vehicle for the Assistant Chief. The use of the pickup truck will allow the department to tow its air trailer to fire calls and mutual aid and also to tow the new rescue boat that was put in service last year. The 2009 pickup truck will be transferred to the facilities division within DPW for use by our facility staff who currently use personal vehicles.
- I met with our Finance Team and Bond Agency last week to discuss our plans for the permanent borrowing on the Middle School Project. I am happy to share that the market right now is very favorable. In fact, a similar bond that was sold last week for a community with the same bond rating as us landed a 3.75% interest rate. We've reviewed three options for borrowing durations, one for 20 years, one for 25 years, and one for the maximum term of 30 years. Based on our impact presentation to residents back in 2022, it still makes the most sense to do the maximum term of 30 years. We are targeting a bond sale in early October and utilizing a long coupon as planned to ensure the first payment would be due in Fiscal Year 2026. I expect to ask the Board to authorize the sale at its meeting on October 7th. Due to the nature of MSBA reimbursements, we will leave a balance unborrowed until





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the MSBA completes its final audit and issues the final reimbursement. We also confirmed that these are fixed rate bonds and the interest rate you lock in at the sale is permanent.

- Congratulations to Innovation Academy on being awarded a \$55,000 STEM Equipment & Teacher Development Grant through the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. This grant program helps local schools prepare students for life sciences careers by enabling schools to purchase lab equipment, materials, supplies, and technology, as well as to provide teacher professional development that supports implementation of advanced curricula and standards.

Regards,

Colin Loiselle
Town Manager

