



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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

September 23, 2024

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

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

- Just want to give a shout out to our Board of Health for what was a fantastic Opioid Vigil on September 14th. I was sad to miss the event but thanks to Tyngsborough Media I was able to stream it and saw what an incredible job they did.
- The Health and Safety Fair this weekend was a huge hit despite the rain. There were all kinds of DPW equipment, fire trucks and ambulances, police vehicles, police tools, and even horses! We also had far too many reptiles in the elementary school gym for my liking but they were a big hit. Big kudos to our Health Department, Police and Fire Departments, and our Department of Public Works for putting the event together.
- The Parking Lot Project at the police station is complete. The final step is the installation of the new sign which will happen in the next few weeks once the sign is delivered to Tyngsborough.
- The home rule petition that was submitted by Town Meeting to the Legislature is making its way through the process. Unfortunately it looks like the House will modify the bill to restrict the three licenses that we asked for to the Middlesex Road and Westford Road corridor. I want to thank Senator Kennedy for his help over the last week. The Chair of the House Committee insists that they don't grant unrestricted special legislation licenses which is not true because we got some in 2016 and the House Counsel insists that the legislature is able to amend a home rule petition. While it is largely out of our control, we'll work to mitigate the impacts that change might have.
- Fall Town Meeting as we'll discuss later will take place on October 22, 2024 at 7 PM at Tyngsborough Elementary School. We'll host a Pre-Town Meeting Information Session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6PM at Town Hall. The warrant has 8 articles, two of which are zoning amendments. The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on those two articles on Thursday, October 3, 2024 and Thursday, October 17, 2024.
- A quick update on the Police Chief search process. The deadline to apply was September 14th. Last week, we met with the search firm leading the search to review the 12 applications we received and narrow down that pool to the ones we felt were qualified enough for a first round interview. With the help of the search firm, we've offered interviews to 5 candidates and expect to conduct those interviews in the first week of October. The candidates we've offered interviews to were chosen based on a combination of their education, training, law enforcement and command background, and their familiarity with our region. In the meantime, I will appoint Deputy Chief Shaun Woods





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to the role of Interim Chief of Police effective October 1st until the process is complete and a permanent Chief is named.

- On that note, I would just remind everyone that the public appreciation event for Chief Howe will take place on Wednesday evening from 4pm to 6pm at the Old Town Hall. There will be a speaking portion at the start of the event but the rest of the event will be focused on giving the public a chance to share their appreciation and best wishes with our outgoing Chief.
- Finally, I wanted to note that last week marked one year since my appointment as Town Manager here in Tyngsborough. I want to share my appreciation to this Board for its support and guidance, to our residents who have been a huge part of our success, and of course our staff for the hard work they do every day to make Tyngsborough a great place to work and live. I did want to take a minute to reflect on some of our collective accomplishments over the past year which are a reflection of the fine folks that work for the Town:
 - Settled six collective bargaining agreements in one year -- all of which reflected the value that our staff bring to the Town while balancing the need to protect the Town's financial situation. These contracts aren't just good for our employees but they will help us retain and recruit employees in the future.
 - Took a not so great law and made it work for Tyngsborough -- adopting the multifamily overlay districts required by law and doing so in a way that protected Tyngsborough's character and services.
 - Launched the Town's first civic leadership academy to bring residents closer to the work being done at Town Hall and hopefully generate new residents interested in serving on the various elected and appointed boards.
 - Reworked our budget process to be more interactive with the public through budget office hours so that residents can better understand the budget and provide feedback.
 - Increased our communication efforts to reflect the importance of public engagement in the local government process. While this work continues, I am proud of the work we've done to date and think that the results of this work are clear and very positive.

Assistant Town Manager's Report

- I am happy to share that the Town is exploring the DOER's Climate Leader Communities program. This is a new program that has evolved from the Green Communities program, which Tyngsborough is a member of, that creates a new voluntary framework for meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets by providing tools and resources to help municipalities reduce emissions and maximize energy efficiency. By receiving this designation, municipalities are able to tap into additional grant funding to support a





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number of projects from constructing and implementing energy efficiency activities to adopting energy efficiency policies.

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle
Town Manager
Manager

Katharine Foster
Assistant Town

