



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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

November 18, 2024

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

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

- I am happy to share that at the recommendation of Police Chief Shaun Woods I have appointed Renato Araujo to the position of police officer for the Town of Tyngsborough. This appointment is contingent on him successfully completing the police academy and a field training program once the academy is complete. The candidates were first interviewed by a panel of Tyngsborough Police Officers and Supervisors. That panel recommended four finalists move on to the final interviews which were conducted by Chief Woods, myself, and Director of People and Culture Brigette Bell. We collectively agreed that Mr. Araujo was the best fit for the community and the department.
- Just a reminder that we continue to experience a seriously elevated risk of brush fire. In just the last twenty-four hours fire agencies across the Commonwealth have responded to 10 brush fires. In November, there have been more than 350 brush fires damaging more than 870 acres. Tyngsborough Fire continues to provide mutual aid to help combat these brush fires including most recently in Dunstable. Additionally, they are continuing to investigate reports of fire in Town -- most commonly due to the burning of leaves, construction material, and garbage which is never permitted but is extremely dangerous right now. It looks like we might see some much needed rain Thursday and Friday which will hopefully reduce the risk but for now people should continue to avoid any outdoor burning.
- We heard from Representative Garry's Office today that our home rule petition for additional liquor licenses was sent to the Committee on Third Reading. This is the last stop for the bill in the House before it will go before the full house for a full vote. This confirms we appear to still be on track to have the bill passed before January 1.
- We opened bids last week for the construction of the new DPW building. Unfortunately, we only received one bid and it was substantially higher than our budget. Fortunately, we spoke after the bid was rejected with two other firms that were interested but didn't have the time to submit a bid and they confirmed that our original budget is in the ballpark. That said, we'll be re-issuing the bid in the coming weeks.
- On that same front, I am very happy to share that the Massachusetts Legislature passed *An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts' Economic Leadership* (otherwise known as the Economic Bond Bill) which included a \$600,000 earmark for the new DPW building thanks to Senator Kennedy. Although it passed the legislature, we still need to work with our legislative delegation to ensure Governor Healey releases that bond money so we can get to spending it.





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- Our Fiscal Year 2026 budgeting has begun. The Finance Department and my office have run a few different scenarios, with a focus on ensuring that the Town is able to honor its commitment to direct the \$1M in new growth from the Toll Brother's project to reduce the debt for the Middle School. We're working closely with the Assessors' Office and Building Commissioner to track the progress on that parcel to ensure we hit the growth needed by June 30th. I expect that we'll have an initial FY26 budget overview based on our scenario planning in December. As a reminder, based on our FY26 budget schedule, instructions to departments for submitting their FY26 budget requests were sent this week. The deadline for them to submit their requests is December 10th.
- The Lowell Regional Transit Authority has announced that thanks to state funding they're running a fare-free pilot on all routes beginning on December 1st. This will run through September 30, 2025 and may be extended if the state renews the funding.
- Our Assistant Town Manager Kat Foster did a deep dive this week into our ARPA spending to confirm that we are on track to have all of our federal funds obligated by the end of December as required in the original ARPA appropriation. To date, the Town has allocated all of its ARPA funding. At the conclusion of a few capital projects, we have identified about \$35,000 that was allocated for specific projects but those projects came in under budget. At this time, the money is still considered "allocated" so there is no need to rush to re-allocate it. I would recommend keeping those balances as is for now until we begin our ARPA reporting audit to ensure we've left a buffer if needed. If not needed, we can very quickly get that money out the door aligned with the original project categories. This is a cautious approach but since we collected all of the money under "lost revenue" we do not need to comply with the deadlines that other communities have to.
- The Dracut Water Supply District main replacement project in the Malvern neighborhood is moving along nicely. They have asked for, and our DPW has granted, an extension to work beyond the November 15th shutdown required for a road opening permit. This will allow them to tie in the remaining houses on Malvern. We haven't had any frost in the ground yet and the 10-day forecast looks clear on that front.
- The Bicentennial Field Irrigation Project is on the home stretch. All of the work is complete with the exception of the installation of the new pump which is on order and expected to arrive in the first week of January. Additionally, there is some remaining electrical work to do inside the building once the new pump arrives. The project remains on budget and on track to be implemented for the Spring season.
- We announced last week that we were seeking public input regarding a proposal to change the recycling pickup schedule so that all recycling on one side of the bridge will be picked up on the same week. Currently, the route is mixed with trucks criss-crossing the bridge in a highly inefficient manner. We believe switching to a route that is entirely on one side of the bridge will improve the quality and accuracy of pickups. This will result in some residents needing to get used to a new pickup week but will not change any other elements of our recycling program and will not impact trash. Residents may



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provide written feedback by November 29th. If we move forward, Republic Services will mail a postcard to all residents with the new schedule.

- Happy to share that the Valley Collaborative received a \$3300 grant from the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation for a Winter Hiking Experience. These grants are awarded to organizations across the Commonwealth to help increase access to outdoor recreational activities for low-income residents, communities of color, and people living with disabilities.

Assistant Town Manager's Report

- Last Wednesday the Town submitted the FY2024 Green Communities Annual Report to the DOER. This report consists of data that is used to measure our energy reduction progress from our baseline. Our total energy consumption increased this year by 1% over last year, which compared to other communities is below average. For the coming year, the Town plans to focus on reducing energy use and emissions in high EUI (Energy Use Intensity) buildings, particularly at Town Hall and the Tyngsboro Elementary School. EUI is a measure of a building's energy efficiency. Planned efficiency measures include investigating HVAC and lighting improvements, as well as building envelope enhancements to reduce heating and cooling needs. I also plan to attend the Green Communities Summit this Friday with some of the Sustainability Committee members, to learn more about the Climate Leaders program and other Green Communities initiatives.

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle
Town Manager

Katharine Foster
Assistant Town Manager

