



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Town Manager

Town Offices

25 Bryants Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

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

March 9, 2026

Town Manager's Report

Dear Board Members:

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

General Updates

- I wanted to start by sharing feedback that I received last week from a resident regarding services they received from our Veterans' Services Office, specifically our Director Chris Dery. This resident is a widow of a veteran who wasn't aware that she was eligible for a variety of benefits tied to her husband's service. She expressed her appreciation for Chris making her aware of the benefits, helping file an appeal with the state which was successful, and connecting her with other agencies that provided additional services. We don't often get direct outreach when things go really well so I was pleased to see this and happy to share with the Board. It is also a convenient opportunity for me to remind residents that if you are a veteran or are a spouse or widow of a veteran to contact our VSO to ensure that you're receiving every benefit that you might be eligible for. You can reach the office at 978-649-2300 x131.
- Earlier today we released a Communications Survey to the Town. The goal of the survey is to better understand how our community wants to be communicated with to ensure that we continue to enhance our communication efforts. The survey is a product of collaboration between all of our departments that have a social media presence and will help us standardize that presence. Residents are encouraged to complete the survey by visiting tyngsboroughma.gov or obtaining a hard copy at the Center for Active Living, Town Hall, or Tyngsborough Public Library. Responses will be accepted
- We were notified by the Commonwealth last week that as of January 1, 2027, the Department of Public Utilities will no longer collect a \$0.20 per ride assessment on all ride shares that originate in the commonwealth. Under Chapter 187 of the Acts of 2016, each city and Town received \$0.10 for any trip that originated in their community. The other \$0.10 was deposited into the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Over the last five years, Tyngsborough has received just under \$11,000 through the program -- all of which has to be allocated for transportation projects. We haven't spent any of the funds, we've been letting it build so we could spend it on a worthwhile project. We can expect to get another \$6,500 or so from Fiscal Year 2025, 2026, and the first half of 2027.
- With another round of snow falling mid-week last week, our DPW has been incredibly busy this season. While warm weather is on the horizon this week, we continue to monitor our Snow & Ice account which as of today sits at just over \$600,000 spent since the start of the season. I'm hopeful that the worst of the winter is behind us so I'll have a more detailed update for the Board by the end of April.





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- I am happy to report that last week we were notified by the Governor's Office that Tyngsborough's Fiscal Year 2027 projected Chapter 90 Allotment is \$706,000 which aligns with last year's allotment and is \$300,000 higher than our historical allotment. For those who aren't aware, Chapter 90 is the primary funding source for road projects in municipalities. Tyngsborough was smart and allocated 75% of our cannabis excise funding to roads so we're able to spend close to \$1.7M annually on roads. Prior to 2018, the Town largely only spent \$400k on roads and so while I know that until we pave every road in Town it might be hard to notice, we've dramatically increased our road maintenance in the last seven years and the results are noticeable even if just by the annual spend. I'd also note that we did this without reducing staffing or otherwise impacting other municipal services.
- I'd like to give a shoutout to our IT Director Tom Laflamme for implementing another year of critical cyber security training for all users here at Town Hall and across general government as well as to our staff and board members who completed the training. We were recognized last week by the Commonwealth for our continued participation in this program which aims to ensure our staff are well trained to spot and manage potential cyber threats. Not only does this program protect our critical infrastructure and secure data, but it allows us to maintain our Cyber Security Insurance which would be absolutely crucial should we suffer an attack like many other cities and towns have. We were enrolled in the program again for 2026 thanks to a state grant so we'll continue to sharpen our skills and protect the Town.
- We'll talk about the budget a little later in this meeting but I wanted to flag a potential change in state law that will inevitably have a negative impact on our local receipts. The Massachusetts Legislature, which is incredibly slow to address revenue challenges on the local level, is now considering a bill that would eliminate the ability of the Registry of Motor Vehicles to place a hold on the drivers licenses of people who fail to pay their excise tax bills. Currently, if you are very late (not a few months) on paying your excise tax bill, the registry will not let you renew your license or complete any license related transaction until you pay your bill. We rely on this enforcement mechanism to get excise tax bills paid. Under this bill, that would go away meaning hundreds of thousands of dollars of excise tax bills that we rely on for Town services would go unpaid with no true mechanism to enforce payment. I'm not interested in debating whether or not excise tax bills are fair, but since the Town relies on this funding and the state is now considering taking away enforcement of these bills, I think it's worth mentioning when we have Representative Garry with us at your next meeting.

Capital Updates

- Our Department of Public Works has submitted an application to Congresswoman Trahan's office for \$2,000,000 through the Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) program that the United States Congress uses every year to direct earmarks to states and municipalities. Our application focuses on the replacement of the Dunstable Road culvert at Constantine Drive. This culvert is a failed culvert that we received an MVP grant from the Commonwealth in FY25 to design the replacement of. However, given the cost, we simply can't afford to replace the culvert using solely municipal dollars. We should learn more about whether this application will go anywhere later this Spring.





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Reminders/Upcoming Events

- The Council on Aging will host “Coping with Dementia - Planning & Decision Making” on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6 PM at the Center for Active Living. The event will be facilitated by Lucille Jerome and will help those living with and/or caring for loved ones living with dementia plan and make important decisions to set themselves up for success.
- The Recreation Department’s Annual Shamrock Ball will take place this Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 6PM at the Elementary School. Visit tyngsboroughrec.com to learn more.
- Join your neighbors for Music Bingo hosted by the Recreation Committee. The next installment will take place on March 20th but that event is sold out. You can still sign up for the April 17th installment by visiting tyngsboroughrec.com. The event will start at 7 PM at Ironwood Clubhouse and is open to anyone 18+.
- Budget office hours for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget begin in April. The first will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 3pm at the Center for Active Living. On Wednesday, April 15th at 5:30 PM we’ll host a virtual one and our final one will take place on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM here at Town Hall. You can learn more by visiting tyngsboroughma.gov.

Assistant Town Manager’s Report

- Last week we submitted a grant application to AARP that would fund upgrades to doors at the Center for Active Living, Police Station, and Old Town Hall to add automatic door openers at the primary entrances to those buildings. The Council on Aging and Commission on Disability were key in pushing for upgrades, and I’m hopeful we’ll hear good news later this year on the submission.

Regards,

Colin F. Loiselle
Town Manager

Sean M. Walsh
Assistant Town Manager

