

Bourne TA Report
July 25, 2023 Select Board Meeting

- I attended a briefing call with DEP yesterday regarding Holtec's application for a surface water discharge permit to release 1.1 Million gallons of treated industrial wastewater into Cape Cod Bay as part of the decommissioning of Pilgrim Nuclear Station. DEP has issued a Tentative Determination to Deny the application based on the Ocean Sanctuaries Act. DEP will be scheduling public hearings before issuing a final decision.
- I have received an undefined request for "accommodations" at Town Meeting for disabled citizens. At this time I am waiting for information relative to what accommodations are actually sought. I am the ADA Coordinator under Title II of the ADA, and it's my responsibility to engage in an interactive dialogue with any person who makes an accommodation request. However, accommodations are individualized determinations and I must evaluate every case on its specific merits, with the goal of arriving at an accommodation that is feasible for the town and effective at providing access for the person with a disability.
- Eversource will be removing a number of hazard trees that are threatening powerlines along Head of the Bay Road and Bournedale Road. Some of the trees are on town property, or within the road layout. I have confirmed that the Town has no objection to Eversource removing the hazard trees.
- The splash pad was closed today for maintenance. Algae accumulates every year, it's a normal, expected event, and it does make the surface slippery. We cannot properly clean the surface while it is in use, and it's likely that we may need to close it for cleaning again later in the season.
- The Bourne Fire Department is assisting the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in providing mutual aid ambulance services to Joint Base Cape Cod as part of the State's humanitarian sheltering efforts. This is a collaborative effort between the Fire Departments of: Bourne, Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth, Cotuit, and JBCC. All costs will be paid for by MEMA and any mutual aid shifts worked by Bourne Fire Department personnel will be paid at the contractual detail rate. I'd like to commend Chief Cody for his leadership in this important endeavor.
- The Town of Wareham held a special Town Meeting last night to discuss a \$36M upgrade to the headworks and clarifier at the sewage treatment plant. The article required a 2/3 supermajority, and failed to pass. The vote was 48 in favor, and 30 opposed.
- I mentioned a temporary pilot project to install a speed bump of Wings Neck Road. I've met with DPW and Police about that and we are working through the details. The Police Department wants to make sure that we capture accurate data on driver behavior as part of the pilot. The road has been recently repaved and DPW needs to determine if there is a way to secure the speed bump without damaging the traveled surface. The town's speed trailers have been upgraded and were received back in town today, so those will be deployed throughout town shortly.

- As a reminder, I want to reiterate and assure you that if the Town is served by a lawsuit for any reason, then Counsel and I will both make the Board aware of the complaint in a timely manner and work with the Chair to schedule the matter for a briefing in Executive Session. We also notice the Town's insurance counsel.
- Also as a reminder, and for Member Siroonian's benefit, one of the goals the Board set for me in FY23 was to reorganize the Facilities Department. I presented my final proposal to you at your September 20, 2022 meeting, where it was unanimously approved. My proposal clearly organized all of the Facilities staff under the Town Administrator's Office, with the Assistant Town Administrator serving as Department Head. Furthermore, I had an "all hands" staff meeting on September 27, 2022 at 9 am to explain the changes, describe my expectations, and answer questions. It has recently come to my attention that certain staff may have a misunderstanding, or confusion, about the reporting structure and chain of command, which I am addressing.
- I am working with Emergency Management Director Noyes in planning for Evacuation Reception Centers in advance of a hurricane this summer. These are intended to be short-term gathering points to assist people with evacuation in advance of a serious storm, and departure points to transport people to regional shelters. They will not be long-term shelters with staff, and are not intended to provide meals or sleeping accommodations. Since the Community Building is in the flood hazard area, Mr. Noyes is working with the School Department for an alternate location.
- There are 2 remaining private properties that are unable to comply with the FEMA flood zone requirements. Building Inspector Murphy has informed them of their rights to appeal his determination to the state Board of Building Regulations and Standards. The property owners have done a great job in moving the Town towards a much better position in terms of flood zone compliance. I'd like to thank Mr. Murphy, Mr. Lydon, and Ms. Hartsgrove for their enforcement work on this.
- I received correspondence from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services regarding a program to help cities and towns make effective use of the recent Opioid Legal Settlement funds. The state has contracted with JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. to support municipalities in implementing, enhancing, or expanding a range of non-clinical evidence-based opioid abatement strategies and community collaborations. Health Agent Guarino will be the town's point of contact for this effort and we will be working closely with the Substance Free Coalition.
- The Finance Department and I are closely watching the commodities markets for electricity and natural gas. Currently the town's natural gas contract expires in November 2025, and the electricity contract expires in December 2025. We are planning ahead and hope to lock in favorable rates in the near future to provide budget stability.