



Dan Fox, Chair
M. C. Moses Grader
Erin M. Noonan
Alexa J. Singer
James R. Zisson

Office of the
SELECT BOARD
ABBOT HALL
188 Washington Street
MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS 01945

Thatcher W. Kezer III
Town Administrator

MEMORANDUM

To: Select Board
From: Thatcher Kezer, Town Administrator
Date: February 11, 2026
Re: Town Administrator Update

This memorandum provides a consolidated summary of key ongoing projects, operational updates, and upcoming initiatives currently underway across town departments.

Open Finance Transparency Center – MUNIS

The Finance Department has completed implementation of the new Open Finance Transparency Center within our MUNIS financial system. This new platform enhances public transparency by providing direct access to current fiscal data.

The site currently displays budgeted revenues, budgeted expenditures, actual expenditures, and vendor payments. Because the Town's prior revenue data remains in our legacy financial system, historical revenue figures have not yet been imported and therefore are not reflected in the current view. That work will continue as part of our broader ERP transition process.

Unlike ClearGov, which is updated periodically, the Open Finance portal updates daily, providing residents with near real-time financial information. Certain sensitive data fields have been appropriately removed to prevent potential fraud or misuse.

Importantly, the Town will continue to maintain ClearGov for historical financial data from our legacy system, ensuring continuity and long-term transparency.

I am currently reviewing the site and will coordinate with the Finance Department on timing for a public announcement and placement on the Town website.

Marblehead, MA
Transparency Center

Explore our finances, demographics, and more.

[View Now](#)

Powered by ClearGov

Transition to New Mass Notification System – Regroup

As previously reported, the Town's current mass notification platform, CodeRED (now known as Crises24), experienced a cyber-attack that affected Marblehead and numerous other communities, significantly impacting the reliability of the system. Throughout this winter season, we deployed the system multiple times during weather events and encountered several complications, including inconsistent delivery to subscribers, unclear recorded messages, and calls appearing to originate from out-of-state numbers. These issues understandably affected public confidence in our emergency communication capabilities.

Given that we remain in the middle of the winter season and rely heavily on timely emergency notifications, we moved quickly to evaluate alternative platforms. After review, we have decided to migrate to the Regroup mass notification system. Regroup will provide reliable, rapid emergency messaging capabilities, as well as enhanced outreach tools that will allow us to broaden and improve our communication with residents beyond emergency notifications.

The cost for a one-year agreement is \$6,500. Although an item was placed on tonight's Select Board agenda in anticipation of potential contract approval requirements, prior to final confirmation of pricing, the final cost falls below the \$10,000 approval threshold and is also supported by an existing budgeted line item. Accordingly, Select Board approval is not required.

This agreement includes full migration of our existing contact data by the vendor. Chief Gilliland and members of the public safety team will work directly with Regroup to ensure the system is transitioned and operational as quickly as possible.

Given the recent difficulties with our current platform, I felt it was important to communicate this action publicly to assure residents that we have acted swiftly to secure a reliable mass notification system that meets Marblehead's needs during the winter season and beyond.