

ROSELLI, CLARK & ASSOCIATES
Certified Public Accountants

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

Report on Examination of the Basic Financial Statements and
Additional Information

Year Ended June 30, 2023



TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen
Town of Middleton, Massachusetts

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Middleton, Massachusetts, (the "Town") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents, except for the Middleton Electric Light Department "the Light Department" "the Electric Light Department" or "MELD", which is as of December 31, 2022 and is a Town Department reported as an enterprise fund and part of the Town's business-type funds.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and the schedules listed under the required supplementary information section in the accompanying table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers these to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Roselli Clark & Associates

Roselli, Clark & Associates
Certified Public Accountants
Woburn, Massachusetts
December 6, 2023

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As the management of the Town of Middleton, Massachusetts (the "Town"), we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 (December 31, 2022 for the Light Department). We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with their review of the basic financial statements, notes to the basic financial statements and required supplementary information found in this report.

Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of financial resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by nearly \$52.8 million (*total net position*).
- The Town's total net position increased by approximately \$2.8 million year-over-year. The increase from operations was the result of an increase in governmental activities of approximately \$3.4 million reduced by an approximately \$0.6 million decrease in Light Department operations.
- The Town's total long-term debt in its governmental activities decreased by approximately \$1.4 million due to regular scheduled maturities.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds balance sheet reported a combined ending fund balance of approximately \$80.4 million, which was approximately \$0.8 million higher than the prior year, primarily the result of the positive operations in the general fund of nearly \$1.9 million reduced by over \$1.7 million of capital expenditures and revenues exceeding expenditures by nearly \$0.7 million in various nonmajor governmental funds. Of the ending fund balance, approximately \$9.4 million is *available for spending* at the government's discretion as *unassigned fund balance*. The remainder is earmarked for specific expenditures or nonspendable.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-wide Financial Statements – The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *statement of net position* presents information on all of the Town's assets and deferred outflows of resources and its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference between the two reported as *net position*. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Town is improving or deteriorating.

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused sick pay).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenue (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, highways and streets, sanitation, education, health and human services, culture and recreation, fringe benefits and debt service. The business-type activities of the Town consist completely of Light Department activities.

Fund Financial Statements – A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds.

Accounting guidelines distinguish fund balance between amounts that are considered nonspendable, such as fund balance associated with inventories, and other amounts that are classified based on the relative strength of the constraints that control the purposes for which specific amounts can be spent. Beginning with the most binding constraints, fund balance amounts will be reported in the following classifications:

- Nonspendable —amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (i.e., inventory or prepaid items) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted—amounts constrained by external parties, constitutional provision, or enabling legislation.
- Committed—amounts constrained by a government using its highest level of decision-making authority.
- Assigned—amounts a government intends to use for a particular purpose.
- Unassigned—amounts that are not constrained at all will be reported in the general fund or in other major funds if negative.

Governmental Funds – *Governmental funds* are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as on *balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions.

The Town maintains several individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the general fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget. This schedule has been prepared as required supplementary information and can be found along with the corresponding notes in this report.

Proprietary Funds – *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements. Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The proprietary fund financial statements provide separate information for enterprise funds of the Light Department.

Fiduciary Funds – Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements – The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The following table represents the condensed statement of net position:

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
<u>Assets</u>						
Current and other assets	\$ 88,010,060	\$ 84,653,832	\$ 21,200,422	\$ 21,694,517	\$ 109,210,482	\$ 106,348,349
Capital assets, net	56,057,774	55,633,133	12,457,605	12,250,619	68,515,379	67,883,752
Total assets	144,067,834	140,286,965	33,658,027	33,945,136	177,725,861	174,232,101
Deferred outflows of resources	5,849,609	5,353,827	1,720,477	1,326,018	7,570,086	6,679,845
<u>Liabilities</u>						
Long-term liabilities	113,487,866	110,220,474	3,719,291	4,053,530	117,207,157	114,274,004
Other liabilities	7,825,886	6,155,470	1,957,776	1,796,053	9,783,662	7,951,523
Total liabilities	121,313,752	116,375,944	5,677,067	5,849,583	126,990,819	122,225,527
Deferred inflows of resources	4,972,562	9,062,888	1,556,244	675,951	6,528,806	9,738,839
<u>Net Position</u>						
Net investment in capital assets	40,978,977	40,318,013	12,457,605	12,250,619	53,436,582	52,568,632
Restricted	8,317,889	7,708,916	-	-	8,317,889	7,708,916
Unrestricted	(25,665,737)	(27,824,969)	15,687,588	16,495,001	(9,978,149)	(11,329,968)
Total Net Position	\$ 23,631,129	\$ 20,201,960	\$ 28,145,193	\$ 28,745,620	\$ 51,776,322	\$ 48,947,580

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by nearly \$51.8 million (*total net position*), which represents an approximate \$2.5 million increase from the prior year's balance.

The largest portion (\$53.4 million) of the Town's overall net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, machinery, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities. An additional significant portion of the Town's total net position (\$8.3 million) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used.

The remaining category represents *unrestricted net position* which is currently in a deficit position of nearly \$10.0 million. A surplus of nearly \$15.7 million in the business-type activities is offset by a deficit

of nearly \$25.7 million in the governmental activities. The business-type surplus may be used to meet the ongoing obligations of the business-type activities. The governmental activities deficit is primarily the result of approximately \$39.4 million in obligations related to OPEB and pensions. The Town expects that its deficit in unrestricted net position will continue to increase for the foreseeable future until a mechanism to more adequately fund its annual OPEB obligation is in place.

The following table represents the condensed statement of changes in net position:

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
<u>Revenues</u>						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 4,344,935	\$ 3,684,224	\$ 14,703,445	\$ 13,680,584	\$ 19,048,380	\$ 17,364,808
Operating grants and contributions	5,077,676	5,395,949	394,670	411,044	5,472,346	5,806,993
Capital grants and contributions	781,837	650,509	-	-	781,837	650,509
General revenues:						
Property taxes	36,012,167	32,603,457	-	-	36,012,167	32,603,457
Excise taxes	2,807,903	2,632,168	-	-	2,807,903	2,632,168
Unrestricted investment earnings	1,184,283	19,532	(1,480,569)	833,839	(296,286)	853,371
Other	903,930	848,649	-	-	903,930	848,649
Total Revenues	51,112,731	45,834,488	13,617,546	14,925,467	64,730,277	60,759,955
<u>Expenses</u>						
General government	3,239,803	3,273,982	-	-	3,239,803	3,273,982
Public safety	7,020,390	6,694,317	-	-	7,020,390	6,694,317
Education	30,809,927	29,689,779	-	-	30,809,927	29,689,779
Public works	3,326,785	3,187,738	-	-	3,326,785	3,187,738
Health and human services	789,109	744,524	-	-	789,109	744,524
Culture and recreation	1,162,838	1,097,583	-	-	1,162,838	1,097,583
Debt service	1,597,689	1,227,953	-	-	1,597,689	1,227,953
Electric light	-	-	13,954,994	12,090,221	13,954,994	12,090,221
Total Expenses	47,946,541	45,915,876	13,954,994	12,090,221	61,901,535	58,006,097
Change in net position before transfers	3,166,190	(81,388)	(337,448)	2,835,246	2,828,742	2,753,858
Transfers	262,979	243,253	(262,979)	(243,253)	-	-
Change in net position	3,429,169	161,865	(600,427)	2,591,993	2,828,742	2,753,858
Net position, beginning of year	20,201,960	20,040,095	28,745,620	26,380,779	48,947,580	46,420,874
Restatement for Electric Light	-	-	-	(227,152)	-	(227,152)
Net position, beginning of year, as restated	20,201,960	20,040,095	28,745,620	26,153,627	48,947,580	46,193,722
Net position, end of year	\$ 23,631,129	\$ 20,201,960	\$ 28,145,193	\$ 28,745,620	\$ 51,776,322	\$ 48,947,580

Governmental Activities – Total revenues in fiscal year 2023 in the Town’s governmental activities increased nearly \$5.3 million from fiscal year 2022. This increase was due to higher property tax revenues of over \$3.4 million, higher charges for services of nearly \$0.7 million across several categories and increased investment earnings of nearly \$1.2 million from higher interest rates. All other revenue categories experienced minor increases and decreases that aggregated to the remaining net increase. The greatest revenue areas were property taxes which represented 70.5% of revenues. The increase was in line with the statutorily allowed increase from year to year and was expected. Operating grants which represented 9.9% of revenues which is a decrease from the 11.8% in the prior year as a result of lower pandemic aid. No other revenue sources were greater than 10% of total revenues in fiscal years 2023 or 2022.

Total expenses for the current fiscal year were over \$47.9 million which was a \$2.0 million increase from the prior year. Education represents by far the largest expense category for the Town. In fiscal year

2023, education expenses represented approximately 64.3% of total expenses, down slightly from 64.7% in the prior year. The Town continues to fund education expenses above the minimum state requirements. Public safety expenses represented 14.6% of total fiscal year 2023 expenses; which is the same as the prior year. No other expense types were greater than 10% of total expenses in fiscal years 2023 and 2022.

Business-Type Activities – Revenues for 2022 were over \$13.6 million, a decrease of over \$1.3 million (8.8%). The change in customer sales increased year-to-year with an increase of over \$1.0 million. This offset a large decrease of over \$2.3 million in interest income as the stock market value dropped and caused an overall loss on investments.

Expenses were nearly \$14.0 million, an increase of nearly \$1.9 million (15.4%). The primary activity resulting in this change was an increase in purchased power costs, which was anticipated. The purchase of power and production costs did increase by a material amount; this trend is in-line with other similar municipal light departments within the Department's general region within the State. Other expenses increased from a combination of engineering and component installations, as well as personnel benefits costs.

Government Funds Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, the Town uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds – The focus of the Town's *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements. In particular, *unassigned fund balance* may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds balance sheet reported a combined ending fund balance of approximately \$80.4 million, which was over \$0.8 million higher than the prior year. This was primarily the result of the positive operations in the general fund of nearly \$1.9 million reduced by over \$1.7 million of capital expenditures and revenues exceeding expenditures by nearly \$0.7 million in various nonmajor governmental funds. Of the ending fund balance, nearly \$9.4 million is *available for spending* at the government's discretion as *unassigned fund balance*. The remainder is earmarked for specific expenditures.

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the general fund was nearly \$9.4 million, while total general fund balance was nearly \$12.1 million. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents approximately 20.6% of total general fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents approximately 26.6% of that same amount. Fund balance increased nearly \$1.9 million as positive operations of \$3.0 million were offset by the budgetary use of approximately \$1.4 million of surplus fund balance during the year.

The Town maintains the capital projects major fund to account for its various capital projects. The Town reported a restricted fund balance of nearly \$60.7 million, a decrease of approximately \$1.7 million over the prior year. The decrease was primarily the result of spending on costs for the new municipal building complex.

The Town also maintains the ARPA grant major fund to account for the activity of its ARPA federal grant. The fund reported no fund balance as over \$2.9 million in federal funds are reported as unearned

revenue which will be expended in subsequent years once allowable activities have been identified. Expenditures in the current year were approximately \$45,000.

The Town's aggregate nonmajor funds include the Town's special revenue funds and trust funds. The fund balances in the nonmajors funds increased approximately \$0.7 million from the prior year to a total of over \$7.6 million. The increase was primarily due to unspent ambulance (\$0.2 million) and community preservation act (\$0.2 million) revenues, and other one-time grants and gifts. The fund reports over \$7.4 million as restricted and the remainder is nonspendable.

Proprietary Funds – The Town's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. At the end of the year, net position of the Light Department was over \$28.1 million.

Fiduciary Fund – The Town's fiduciary fund is comprised of the Town and Light Department's OPEB trusts and private purpose trust funds. The Town OPEB trust increased nearly \$0.3 million while the Light Department OPEB trust decreased nearly \$0.3 million, primarily due to the impact of the net appreciation of trust investments which have differing year-ends. The private purpose trust funds net position was a slight increase of approximately \$35,000 from higher investment earnings.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

A budget to actual schedule for the general fund has been provided as required supplementary information. During the fiscal year, Town Meeting increased appropriations approximately \$0.5 million as more fully described in the notes to required supplementary information.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Capital Assets – The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of June 30, 2023, amounts to approximately \$68.5 million, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization. This investment in capital assets includes land and land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment and infrastructure. The balance increased approximately \$0.6 million as additions were higher than depreciation/amortization. Additions were primarily related to municipal facilities projects, roadway improvements and departmental equipment purchases.

Additional information on the Town capital assets can be found in Note II, Section C of this report.

Long-term Debt – At June 30, 2023, the Town had total bonded debt outstanding of approximately \$72.0 million, all reported in the governmental activities. Debt decreased approximately \$1.4 million due to regular scheduled maturities.

Standard and Poor's has assigned a bond rating of AA+ for its general obligation debt.

Additional information on the Town's debt can be found in Note II, Sections E, F and G of this report.

Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

- The Town's real estate tax base is made up predominantly of residential taxes, which when setting the 2024 tax rate will be approximately 83% of the entire real estate tax levy. In addition, Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1980, more commonly referred to as Proposition 2 ½, limits the Town's ability to increase

taxes in any one year by more than 2 ½% of the previous year tax levy without a ballot override by the voters.

- The Town's housing market has been very strong for the past several years. This has been bolstered by mortgage rates at historic lows. Current actions by the Federal Open Market Committee to soften the economy due to inflation have caused mortgage rates to spike during fiscal year 2023. Such trends may have an adverse effect on the housing market, and the Town is monitoring this.
- Inflation is peaking near 40-year historic highs. This is having adverse impacts on the Town. Wage inflation cannot guarantee that the Town will be able to maintain employees without increasing wages. Energy inflation is causing a spike in energy costs. Price inflation is causing a spike in the price of the delivery and cost of goods and services. The construction building index is nearing historic highs which may cause the estimates of major capital projects to increase, in addition to the financing costs of these projects. The Town continues to monitor this situation.
- The Town anticipates receiving approximately \$0.1 million more in state aid for 2023 as in the previous fiscal year based on state budget estimates.

The above items were considered when the Town accepted its budget for fiscal year 2024 at the June 2023 Town Meeting.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or request for additional financial information should be addressed to the Office of the CFO/Town Accountant, 48 South Main Street, Middleton, Massachusetts 01949.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 36,761,752	\$ 4,997,294	\$ 41,759,046
Investments	48,826,750	10,086,314	58,913,064
Receivables, net:			
Property taxes	919,470	-	919,470
User charges	363,815	2,206,733	2,570,548
Departmental and other	669,812	-	669,812
Inventory	-	762,516	762,516
Prepaid expenses	-	2,657,704	2,657,704
Other assets	-	1,881	1,881
Tax foreclosures	468,461	-	468,461
Equity investment in joint venture	-	300,000	300,000
Net other postemployment benefits asset	-	187,980	187,980
Capital assets not being depreciated or amortized	13,260,966	2,238,719	15,499,685
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization	42,796,808	10,218,886	53,015,694
Total Assets	144,067,834	33,658,027	177,725,861
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Related to Pensions	3,596,153	1,093,060	4,689,213
Related to OPEB	2,253,456	627,417	2,880,873
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	5,849,609	1,720,477	7,570,086
Liabilities			
Warrants and accounts payable	637,450	1,062,969	1,700,419
Accrued payroll and withholdings	982,089	-	982,089
Accrued interest	181,924	-	181,924
Accrued expenses	-	486,439	486,439
Unearned revenue	2,922,213	-	2,922,213
Tax refunds payable	377,000	-	377,000
Customer deposits	-	322,334	322,334
Other liabilities	384,760	-	384,760
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Due within one year	2,340,450	86,034	2,426,484
Due in more than one year	113,487,866	3,719,291	117,207,157
Total Liabilities	121,313,752	5,677,067	126,990,819
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Related to Pensions	1,058,817	963,206	2,022,023
Related to OPEB	3,913,745	593,038	4,506,783
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	4,972,562	1,556,244	6,528,806
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	40,978,977	12,457,605	53,436,582
Restricted for:			
Nonexpendable permanent funds	208,821	-	208,821
Expendable permanent funds	117,991	-	117,991
Grants and gifts	1,467,426	-	1,467,426
Other specific purposes	6,523,651	-	6,523,651
Unrestricted	(25,665,737)	15,687,588	(9,978,149)
Total Net Position	\$ 23,631,129	\$ 28,145,193	\$ 51,776,322

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Primary government:							
Governmental activities:							
General government	\$ 3,239,803	\$ 805,404	\$ 123,996	\$ -	\$ (2,310,403)		\$ (2,310,403)
Public safety	7,020,390	2,052,955	5,286	-	(4,962,149)		(4,962,149)
Education	30,809,927	489,632	4,683,223	-	(25,637,072)		(25,637,072)
Public works	3,326,785	873,805	12,900	676,788	(1,763,292)		(1,763,292)
Health and human services	789,109	114,399	225,928	-	(448,782)		(448,782)
Culture and recreation	1,162,838	6,806	26,343	105,049	(1,024,640)		(1,024,640)
Interest expense	1,597,689	1,934	-	-	(1,595,755)		(1,595,755)
Total governmental activities	47,946,541	4,344,935	5,077,676	781,837	(37,742,093)		(37,742,093)
Business-type activities:							
Electric Light	13,954,994	14,703,445	394,670	-		\$ 1,143,121	1,143,121
Total business-type activities	13,954,994	14,703,445	394,670	-		1,143,121	1,143,121
Total Primary Government	\$ 61,901,535	\$ 19,048,380	\$ 5,472,346	\$ 781,837	(37,742,093)	1,143,121	(36,598,972)
General Revenues:							
Property taxes					36,012,167	-	36,012,167
Motor vehicle and other excise					2,807,903	-	2,807,903
Payments in lieu of taxes					148,868	-	148,868
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					666,713	-	666,713
Penalties and interest on taxes					88,349	-	88,349
Unrestricted investment income					1,184,283	(1,480,569)	(296,286)
Transfers (net)					262,979	(262,979)	-
Total general revenues					41,171,262	(1,743,548)	39,427,714
Change in Net Position					3,429,169	(600,427)	2,828,742
Net Position:							
Beginning of year					20,201,960	28,745,620	48,947,580
End of year					\$ 23,631,129	\$ 28,145,193	\$ 51,776,322

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Capital Projects	ARPA Grant	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,676,562	\$ 16,979,536	\$ 2,922,213	\$ 7,183,441	\$ 36,761,752
Investments	4,682,218	43,688,415	-	456,117	48,826,750
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:					
Property taxes	911,483	-	-	7,987	919,470
User charges	-	-	-	363,815	363,815
Departmental and other	265,844	-	-	403,968	669,812
Tax foreclosures	468,461	-	-	-	468,461
Total Assets	16,004,568	60,667,951	2,922,213	8,415,328	88,010,060
Deferred Outflows of Resources	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 16,004,568	\$ 60,667,951	\$ 2,922,213	\$ 8,415,328	\$ 88,010,060
Liabilities					
Warrants and accounts payable	\$ 637,450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 637,450
Accrued payroll and withholdings	982,089	-	-	-	982,089
Tax refunds payable	377,000	-	-	-	377,000
Unearned revenue	-	-	2,922,213	-	2,922,213
Other liabilities	378,881	-	-	5,879	384,760
Total Liabilities	2,375,420	-	2,922,213	5,879	5,303,512
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Unavailable revenues - property taxes	796,230	-	-	7,987	804,217
Unavailable revenues - other	734,305	-	-	767,783	1,502,088
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	1,530,535	-	-	775,770	2,306,305
Fund Balances					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	208,821	208,821
Restricted	258,440	60,667,951	-	7,424,858	68,351,249
Committed	707,142	-	-	-	707,142
Assigned	1,755,608	-	-	-	1,755,608
Unassigned	9,377,423	-	-	-	9,377,423
Total Fund Balances	12,098,613	60,667,951	-	7,633,679	80,400,243
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 16,004,568	\$ 60,667,951	\$ 2,922,213	\$ 8,415,328	\$ 88,010,060

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TOTAL FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 80,400,243
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	56,057,774
Other long-term assets are unavailable to pay current-period expenditures	2,306,305
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources to be recognized in future fiscal years are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred outflows related to pensions	3,596,153
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits	2,253,456
Deferred inflows related to pensions	(1,058,817)
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits	<u>(3,913,745)</u>
Net effect of reporting deferred outflows and inflows of resources	877,047
In the Statement of Activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt whereas in the governmental funds interest is not reported until due.	(181,924)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the government funds:	
Bonds and notes payable	(71,965,000)
Unamortized premiums on bonds	(3,786,748)
Landfill closure	(630,000)
Net pension liability	(19,582,045)
Net other postemployment benefits liability	<u>(19,864,523)</u>
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities	<u>(115,828,316)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 23,631,129</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Capital Projects	ARPA Grant	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:					
Property taxes	\$ 35,700,377	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 308,660	\$ 36,009,037
Intergovernmental	4,425,085	-	44,578	1,854,118	6,323,781
Motor vehicle and other excises	2,817,197	-	-	-	2,817,197
Licenses and permits	946,037	-	-	-	946,037
Penalties and interest on taxes	88,349	-	-	-	88,349
Payments in lieu of taxes	148,868	-	-	-	148,868
Fines and forfeitures	11,548	-	-	-	11,548
Charges for services	-	-	-	993,721	993,721
Departmental and other revenue	886,407	-	-	1,211,736	2,098,143
Investment income	1,170,208	-	-	14,075	1,184,283
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	202,445	202,445
Total Revenues	<u>46,194,076</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,578</u>	<u>4,584,755</u>	<u>50,823,409</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	2,688,965	1,710,028	5,000	10,220	4,414,213
Public safety	5,096,429	-	-	459,188	5,555,617
Education	25,094,317	-	-	1,235,083	26,329,400
Public works	1,996,898	14,661	39,578	982,607	3,033,744
Health and human services	487,437	-	-	84,062	571,499
Culture and recreation	710,036	-	-	29,833	739,869
Pension and employee benefits	4,933,268	-	-	-	4,933,268
State and county assessments	345,510	-	-	-	345,510
Debt service:					
Principal	1,237,500	-	-	134,086	1,371,586
Interest	2,975,143	-	-	930	2,976,073
Total Expenditures	<u>45,565,503</u>	<u>1,724,689</u>	<u>44,578</u>	<u>2,936,009</u>	<u>50,270,779</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>628,573</u>	<u>(1,724,689)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,648,746</u>	<u>552,630</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):					
Transfers in	1,227,631	-	-	-	1,227,631
Transfers out	-	(3,177)	-	(961,475)	(964,652)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,227,631</u>	<u>(3,177)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(961,475)</u>	<u>262,979</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	1,856,204	(1,727,866)	-	687,271	815,609
FUND BALANCES - Beginning of year	<u>10,242,409</u>	<u>62,395,817</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,946,408</u>	<u>79,584,634</u>
FUND BALANCES - End of year	<u>\$ 12,098,613</u>	<u>\$ 60,667,951</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,633,679</u>	<u>\$ 80,400,243</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 815,609
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. The net amounts are reflected here as reconciling items:	
Capital outlays	2,959,254
Disposal of assets	(9,774)
Depreciation/amortization	<u>(2,524,839)</u>
Net effect of reporting capital assets	424,641
The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither has any effect on net position. Also governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are amortized in the Statement of Activities. The net amounts are reflected here as reconciling items:	
Amortization of premiums on bonds and notes payable	480,128
Payments of lease liability principal	118,861
Repayments of debt	<u>1,371,586</u>
Net effect of reporting long-term debt	1,970,575
Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are unavailable in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances. Therefore, the recognition of revenue for various types of accounts receivable differ between the two statements. The amount presented represents the difference in unavailable revenue.	
	289,322
In the Statement of Activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt; whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due. The net amount presented here as a reconciling item represents the difference in accruals between this year and the prior year.	
	898,256
Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:	
Landfill closure	52,500
Pension benefits	(322,418)
Other postemployment benefits	<u>(699,316)</u>
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities	<u>(969,234)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	\$ <u>3,429,169</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Business-Type Activities Electric Light Enterprise (December 31, 2022)
Assets	
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,997,294
Investments	10,086,314
Receivables (net):	
User charges	2,206,733
Inventory	762,516
Prepaid expenses	2,657,704
Other current assets	1,881
Total current assets	<u>20,712,442</u>
Noncurrent assets:	
Equity investment in joint venture	300,000
Net other postemployment benefits asset	187,980
Nondepreciable capital assets	2,238,719
Capital assets (net of depreciation/amortization)	10,218,886
Total noncurrent assets	<u>12,945,585</u>
Total Assets	<u>33,658,027</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Related to Pensions	1,093,060
Related to OPEB	627,417
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>1,720,477</u>
Liabilities	
Current liabilities:	
Warrants and accounts payable	1,062,969
Accrued expenses	486,439
Customer deposits	322,334
Accrued compensated absences	86,034
Total current liabilities	<u>1,957,776</u>
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Accrued compensated absences	86,033
Net pension liability	3,633,258
Total noncurrent liabilities	<u>3,719,291</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>5,677,067</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Related to Pensions	963,206
Related to OPEB	593,038
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,556,244</u>
Net Position	
Net investment in capital assets	12,457,605
Unrestricted	15,687,588
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 28,145,193</u></u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION
PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-Type Activities Electric Light Enterprise (December 31, 2022)
Operating Revenues:	
Charges for services	\$ 14,703,445
Other operating revenues	394,670
Total Operating Revenues	<u>15,098,115</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Purchased power and production	9,453,145
Other operating expenses	3,776,955
Depreciation/amortization and bad debts	724,894
Total Operating Expenses	<u>13,954,994</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>1,143,121</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):	
Investment income (loss)	<u>(1,480,569)</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>(1,480,569)</u>
Income (Loss) Before Transfers	(337,448)
Transfers out	<u>(262,979)</u>
Change in Net Position	(600,427)
Total Net Position - Beginning of the Year	<u>28,745,620</u>
Total Net Position - End of the Year	<u><u>\$ 28,145,193</u></u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
PROPRIETARY FUNDS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Business-Type Activities Electric Light Enterprise (December 31, 2022)
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Receipts from customers	\$ 14,573,249
Payments to suppliers	(11,143,229)
Payments to employees	(2,117,669)
Operating transfers out	(262,979)
	<u>1,049,372</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>1,049,372</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:	
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(931,881)
	<u>(931,881)</u>
Net Cash Used in Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(931,881)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:	
Capital contribution for joint venture equity	(300,000)
Investment income	(1,480,569)
Investment of operating cash, net	1,375,722
	<u>(404,847)</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	<u>(404,847)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(287,356)
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Beginning of the year	<u>5,284,650</u>
End of the year	<u>\$ 4,997,294</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities:	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 1,143,121
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:	
Operating transfers out	(262,979)
Depreciation/amortization, bad debts and reserve	724,894
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Receivables	(574,779)
Inventory	(71,982)
Prepaid expenses	(112,732)
Other assets	(1,881)
Net other postemployment benefits asset	(107,608)
Deferred outflows of resources	(394,459)
Accounts payable	84,657
Accrued expenses	22,191
Customer deposits	49,913
Compensated absences	9,923
Net pension liability	(339,200)
Deferred inflows of resources	880,293
	<u>880,293</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>\$ 1,049,372</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund	(Light Department) December 31, 2022 Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Funds
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 6,907	\$ 114,524
Investments:			
Common stock	-	-	12,754
Corporate fixed income securities	-	-	23,131
U.S. government obligations	-	-	16,769
Equity mutual funds	-	391,942	400,124
Fixed income mutual funds	-	1,134,365	93,979
Fixed income ETF funds	-	-	388
PRIT	2,226,788	-	-
Total Assets	<u>2,226,788</u>	<u>1,533,214</u>	<u>661,669</u>
Liabilities			
Other liabilities	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Position			
Restricted for other postemployment benefits	2,226,788	1,533,214	-
Held in trust for private purposes	-	-	661,669
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 2,226,788</u>	<u>\$ 1,533,214</u>	<u>\$ 661,669</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund	(Light Department) December 31, 2022 Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Funds
Additions			
Contributions:			
Employer	\$ 717,286	\$ 65,248	\$ -
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,985</u>
Total contributions	<u>717,286</u>	<u>65,248</u>	<u>1,985</u>
Investment income:			
Interest and dividends	55,986	-	9,827
Realized gain (loss) on investments	12,902	-	14,676
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	57,348	(306,845)	24,030
Less - investment management fees	<u>(10,570)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net investment earnings	115,666	(306,845)	48,533
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Additions	<u>832,952</u>	<u>(241,597)</u>	<u>50,518</u>
Deductions			
Education - scholarships	-	-	2,500
Health and human services	-	-	12,384
Retiree benefits	<u>567,286</u>	<u>65,248</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Deductions	<u>567,286</u>	<u>65,248</u>	<u>14,884</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	265,666	(306,845)	35,634
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>1,961,122</u>	<u>1,840,059</u>	<u>626,035</u>
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 2,226,788</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,533,214</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 661,669</u></u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

I. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Town of Middleton, Massachusetts (the “Town”) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) as applied to state and local governments. GAAP is prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), which is the primary standard-setting body for state and local governmental entities. The following is a summary of the more significant policies and practices used by the Town:

A. Reporting Entity

The Town is located approximately twenty miles north of Boston. It is bordered by the Towns of North Reading, North Andover, Boxford, Topsfield, Danvers, Peabody and Lynnfield. The Town was settled in 1659 and incorporated as a Town in 1728; and uses the open town meeting form of government. It is governed by a five-member elected Board of Selectmen with an appointed Town Administrator. Members of the Town’s Board of Selectmen serve three-year terms.

The Town provides governmental services for the territory within its boundaries, including police and fire protection, public education in grades K-12, utility services, street maintenance, parks and recreational facilities.

Component units, while separate entities, are in substance part of the governmental operations if the significance of their operations and/or financial relationship with the Town meet certain criteria. Pursuant to these criteria there are no component units required to be included in the financial statements.

The Town is a member community of the Masconomet Regional School District that provides educational services in grades 7 to 12 to the Towns of Middleton, Topsfield and Boxford. This joint venture assesses each community its share of operational and debt service costs based on student population and other factors. In fiscal year 2023, the Town’s share of the operating and debt service expenses was \$10,477,590. Complete audited financial statements can be obtained directly from the District’s administrative office located at 20 Endicott Road, Topsfield, Massachusetts 01983.

The Town is a member community of the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District that provides educational services in grades 9 to 12 to many area communities. This joint venture assesses each community its share of operational and debt service costs based on student population and other factors. In fiscal year 2023, the Town’s share of the operating and debt service expenses was \$834,852. Complete audited financial statements can be obtained directly from the District’s administrative office located at 565 Maple Street, Hathorne, Massachusetts 01937.

The Town does not have an equity interest in either of the joint ventures.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds, even though fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual government funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

Major Fund Criteria – Major funds must be reported if both of the following criteria are met:

- 1) The total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least ten percent of the corresponding element (assets and deferred outflows of financial resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources, etc.) for all funds of that category or type (total governmental or total enterprise funds), and
- 2) The total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund are at least five percent of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

In addition, any other governmental or enterprise fund that management believes is particularly significant to the basic financial statements may be reported as a major fund.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the fiscal year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider are met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. *Program revenues* include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. measurable and available). Revenues are considered to be *available*

when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when payment is due, certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

The Town applies the susceptible to accrual criteria to intergovernmental revenues. In applying the susceptible to accrual concept, there are two types of revenues. In one, moneys must be expended for a specific purpose or project before any amounts will be paid to the; therefore, revenues are recognized as expenditures are incurred. In the other, moneys are virtually unrestricted and are usually revocable only for failure to comply with prescribed requirements. These resources are reflected as revenues when cash is received, or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria are met. State aid is accrued as revenue in the year that the funds are appropriated by the Commonwealth.

The Town considers property tax revenues to be available if they are collected within sixty days after the end of the fiscal year and are material. Investment income associated with the current fiscal period is susceptible to accrual and has been recognized as revenue of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the cash is received and are recognized as revenue at that time.

The government reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund – is the government’s primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

Town Capital Projects Fund – are used to account for financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays.

ARPA Grant Fund – is used to account for activities of the Town’s ARPA federal grant program.

Nonmajor Governmental Funds – consist of other special revenue, capital projects and permanent funds that are aggregated and presented in the Nonmajor Governmental Funds column on the Governmental Funds financial statements. The following describes the general use of these fund types:

Special Revenue Funds – are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Permanent Funds – are used to account for financial resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, may be used for purposes that support the governmental programs.

The proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liabilities are incurred.

Proprietary funds distinguish *operating* revenues and expenses from *non-operating* items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and

delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues are user charges and fees, while operating expenses consist of salaries, ordinary maintenance, indirect costs and depreciation/amortization. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

The government reports the following major proprietary funds:

Light Department – accounts for user charges collected to finance costs associated with providing electric power to the Town's residents and businesses.

Fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held in a trustee capacity for others that may not be used for governmental programs.

The government reports the following fiduciary funds:

Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund – is used to account for funds accumulated by the Town to assist it in its future OPEB obligations.

Private-Purpose Trust Fund – is used to account for trust arrangements under which principal and income benefit individuals, private organizations or other governments. This fund is used primarily for public assistance and scholarships.

D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Equity

Deposits and Investments – The Town's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments of the Town are recorded at fair value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Accordingly, the change in fair value of investments is recognized as an increase or decrease to investment assets and investment income.

Receivables – Real estate and personal property taxes are assessed on January 1 every year. Bills are sent quarterly and are due on August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1, or thirty days subsequent to the mailing date. Interest accrues on delinquent taxes to the statutory rate per annum. The Town is allowed to take delinquent tax accounts into tax title fourteen days subsequent to the mailing of demand of delinquent taxes. Property taxes levied are recorded as receivables in the fiscal year of the levy.

Real estate taxes that are secured through a lien process and are considered 100% collectible. Accordingly, an allowance for uncollectible balances for these receivables is not reported. All personal property tax and excise tax receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible balances comprised of those outstanding amounts greater than five years old. Departmental receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible balances based on historical trends and specific account analysis.

Inventories and Prepaid Expenses – Inventories, which are not material to the basic financial statements, are considered to be expenditures at the time of purchase. Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses in both government-wide and fund financial statements. The Light Department's prepaid

expenses represent a deposit used to facilitate timely payments of certain monthly power invoices.

Capital Assets – Capital assets, which include land, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment (including leased equipment), vehicles and infrastructure (e.g. roads, sewer mains, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements.

Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased, leased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities, if material is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

All purchases, the present value of leased assets and construction costs in excess of \$10,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction, respectively, with expected lives of greater than two years. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Capital assets (excluding land and construction-in-process) are depreciated or amortized using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and improvements	7 to 40 years
Land improvements	20 to 30 years
Machinery and equipment	3 to 10 years
Infrastructure	30 to 100 years

Interfund Balances – Activity between funds that are representative of lending arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either *due to/from other funds* or *advances to/from other funds*. All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as due to/from other funds. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as *internal balances*.

Interfund Transfers – During the course of its operations, resources are permanently reallocated between and within funds. These transactions are reported as transfers in and transfers out in the individual fund statements. Transfers between and within governmental and fiduciary funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of activities. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and the business –type activities are reported in the statement of activities as *transfers, net*.

Investment Income – Investment income derived from major and nonmajor governmental funds is legally assigned to the general fund unless otherwise directed by state law. Investment income of the permanent funds and proprietary funds is retained in the funds.

Compensated Absences – It is the Town’s policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick-pay benefits. Compensated absence liabilities related to both governmental and business-type activities are normally paid from the funds reporting payroll and related expenditures. Amounts related to these benefits are accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in Governmental Funds only if they have matured. For governmental activities, the liability for compensated absences is not material and is therefore not reported in these financial statements.

Long-term Obligations – Long-term debt is reported as liabilities in the government-wide and proprietary fund statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bond anticipation notes payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the governmental fund financial statements, the face amount of long-term debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on a debt issuance are reported as other financing sources while discounts are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs are exclusively reported as general government expenditures regardless of whether they are withheld from the actual proceeds.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources – In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Town has two types of items that are reported on the government-wide statement of net position which relate to outflows from changes in the net pension liability and the other postemployment benefit liability. The deferred pensions will be recognized in pension expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection A. The deferred other postemployment benefits will be recognized in employee benefits expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection C.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Town has three items that are reported as deferred inflows of resources. The first arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting and, accordingly, the item *unavailable revenue* is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from two sources: property taxes and other. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The other items are reported on the government-wide statement of net position and relate to outflows from changes in the net pension liability and the other postemployment benefit liability. The deferred pensions will be recognized in pension expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection A. The deferred other postemployment benefits will be recognized in employee benefits expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection C.

Net Position – In the government-wide financial statements, net position reported as “net investment in capital assets,” includes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, less the principal balance of outstanding debt used to acquire capital assets. Unspent proceeds of capital related debt are not considered to be capital related debt.

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific use. Net position has been *restricted* for the following:

Nonexpendable permanent funds represent the endowment portion of donor restricted trusts that support governmental programs.

Expendable permanent funds represent the spendable portion of donor restricted trusts that support governmental programs.

Grants and gifts represent assets that have restrictions placed on them from federal and state granting agencies, donors and other outside parties for specific governmental programs and uses.

Other specific purposes represent assets that are restricted by third parties for specific governmental programs and uses.

Fund Equity – The Town presents its fund balances in its governmental funds using classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent in which the Town is required to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent.

Fund balance is reported in five components – nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as described below:

Nonspendable represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (i.e. inventory or prepaid) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact as the corpus of the endowment.

Restricted represents amounts that have constraints placed either externally by third-parties (creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments) or by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Enabling legislation authorizes the Town to assess, levy, charge or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement (compelled by external parties) that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation.

Committed represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Town's highest level of decision making authority, which consists of the Town Meeting members through Town Meeting Votes. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Town Meeting removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (through Town Meeting Votes) it employed previously to commit those amounts.

Assigned represents amounts that are constrained by the Town's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The Town has by ordinance authorized the Town Accountant to assign fund balance. The Town Meeting may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget.

Unassigned represents amounts that have not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. The general fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. Other governmental funds besides the general fund can only report a negative unassigned fund balance amount.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) are available for use it is the Town's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned as they are needed. The Town has not established financial policies with respect to maintaining minimum fund balance amounts.

Encumbrances – The Town’s encumbrance policy regarding the general fund is to (1) classify encumbrances that arise from the issuance of purchase orders resulting from normal purchasing activity approved by the Town Accountant as assigned, and (2) classify encumbrances that result from an action of the Town Meeting as committed. Encumbrances of funds already restricted, or committed are included within the classification of those fund balances and not reported separately. The Town reports \$233,498 of encumbrances from normal purchasing activity in the general fund as assigned and \$707,142 of encumbrances from Town Meeting Articles in the general fund as committed. There are no encumbrances reported in any other fund.

The following table reflects the Town’s fund equity categorizations:

	General	Capital Projects	ARPA Grant	Nonmajor Governmental	Total
Nonspendable:					
Nonexpendable trust funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 208,821	\$ 208,821
Restricted:					
School revolving	-	-	-	1,133,039	1,133,039
Federal and state grants	-	-	-	907,911	907,911
Ambulance services	-	-	-	1,430,438	1,430,438
Gift funds	-	-	-	559,515	559,515
Septic betterments	-	-	-	48,493	48,493
Cable access programming	-	-	-	572,415	572,415
Water services	-	-	-	1,188,648	1,188,648
Community preservation	-	-	-	1,023,753	1,023,753
Public facilities project	-	59,957,951	-	-	59,957,951
Departmental equipment	-	710,000	-	-	710,000
Cemetery trust funds	-	-	-	28,117	28,117
Other trust funds	-	-	-	89,874	89,874
Debt service	258,440	-	-	-	258,440
Other purposes	-	-	-	442,655	442,655
Committed:					
General government	360,545	-	-	-	360,545
Public works	110,260	-	-	-	110,260
Public safety	179,415	-	-	-	179,415
Education	52,744	-	-	-	52,744
Other purposes	4,178	-	-	-	4,178
Assigned:					
Purchase orders	233,498	-	-	-	233,498
Subsequent years' budget	1,522,110	-	-	-	1,522,110
Unassigned	9,377,423	-	-	-	9,377,423
	<u>\$ 12,098,613</u>	<u>\$ 60,667,951</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,633,679</u>	<u>\$80,400,243</u>

Stabilization Funds – The Town maintains a general stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any municipal purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its stabilization fund of \$2,275,284, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

The Town maintains a special education stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any special education purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its special education stabilization fund of \$419,901, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

The Town maintains a capital stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any capital purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its capital stabilization fund of \$957,220, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

The Town maintains a retirement stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for retirement costs upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its retirement stabilization fund of \$486,152, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

The Town maintains a sidewalk/pedestrian improvements stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for capital sidewalk improvements costs upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its sidewalk/pedestrian improvements stabilization fund of \$131,596, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

The Town maintains a facilities complex stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for construction or improvement costs for the Town's facilities complex upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a balance in its facilities complex stabilization fund of \$312,934, which is reported as unassigned in the general fund.

E. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations and Fund Deficits

During the fiscal year ended, expenditures exceeded appropriations for state and county charges in the General Fund by \$29,903, which was paid from available funds. The Town did not incur any individual fund deficits.

F. Use of Estimates

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

II. Detailed Notes to All Funds

A. Deposits and Investments

A cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents." The deposits and investments of trust funds are held separately from those of other funds.

State laws and regulations require the Town to invest funds only in pre-approved investment instruments which include but are not necessarily limited to bank deposits, money markets, certificates of deposit, U.S. obligations, repurchase agreements, and State Treasurer's investment pool (the "Pool"). In addition, the statutes impose various limitations on the amount and length of investments and deposits. Repurchase agreements cannot be for a period of over ninety days, and the underlying security must be a United States obligation.

The Pool meets the criteria of an external investment pool. The Pool is administered by the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust, or MMDT, which was established by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth who serves as Trustee. The fair value of the position in the Pool is the same as the value of the Pool shares.

Custodial Credit Risk: Deposits - In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Town does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk relative to cash holdings. At June 30, 2023, the Town, excluding the Light Department, had bank deposits totaling \$18,007,525, with a carrying value of \$16,689,356. Of the bank balance, \$2,381,645 was not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), the depositors' insurance fund or collateralization agreements and therefore exposed to custodial credit risk.

At year-end, the Light Department's carrying amount of *segregated* bank deposits was \$163,805. The bank balance of these Department segregated funds maintained by the Town Treasurer was \$179,088. In addition to the segregated funds, there was \$4,806,539 of operating cash pooled within various accounts maintained by the Town Treasurer. Bank deposits are pooled with, or in the same financial institution as, Town operated funds and therefore specific collateralization information on these deposits is not available.

Custodial Credit Risk: Investments – In the case of investments, this is the risk that in the event of the invested party not being able to provide required payments to investors, ceasing to exist, or filing of bankruptcy, the Town or Light Department may not be able to recover the full amount of its principal investment and/or investment earnings. The Town's investment in the MMDT and PRIT are not exposed to custodial credit risk because their existence is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. The Town's investments in United States governmental obligations, bond and equity mutual funds and other investment funds are exposed to custodial credit risk because the related securities are uninsured, unregistered and are held by the counterparty. The Town's investments in negotiable certificates of deposit are fully insured by the FDIC.

Fair Value of Investments – The Town reports its investments at fair value. When actively quoted observable prices are not available, the Town generally uses either implied pricing from similar investments or valuation models based on net present values of estimated future cash flows (adjusted as appropriate for liquidity, credit, market and/or other risk factors).

The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GAAP. This hierarchy is based on valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability. The three levels of the hierarchy are as follows:

- *Level 1* – Inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical investments at the measurement date.
- *Level 2* – Inputs (other than quoted prices included in Level 1) are either directly or indirectly observable for the investment through correlation with market data at the measurement date and for the duration of the instrument's anticipated life.
- *Level 3* – Inputs reflect the Town's best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the investment at the measurement date.

The following table presents the Town's investments (not including the Light Department) carried at fair value on a recurring basis in the statement of net position at June 30, 2022:

		Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Fair Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Investments by fair value level				
Debt securities:				
Corporate fixed income securities	\$ 2,263,897	\$ 2,263,897	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. government obligations	45,329,613	45,104,377	225,236	-
Fixed income ETF funds	37,965	-	37,965	-
State treasurer's PRIT fund	2,226,788	-	2,226,788	-
Total debt securities	49,858,263	47,368,274	2,489,989	-
Equity securities:				
Common stock	1,248,317	1,248,317	-	-
Mutual funds	494,103	494,103	-	-
Total equity securities	1,742,420	1,742,420	-	-
Total investments by fair value level	\$ 51,600,683	\$ 49,110,694	\$ 2,489,989	\$ -
Investments measured at amortized costs				
Money market mutual funds	\$ 17,887,319			
Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust	2,299,601			
Total investments	71,787,603			

U.S government obligations, fixed income and equity securities classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities. The remaining investments are classified in Level 2. Fixed income ETF funds are valued using matrix pricing based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quoted prices. The State Treasurer's PRIT fund is valued based on the composition and fair value of the underlying investments contained within this pool, which can be determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable either directly or indirectly. The State Treasurer's investment pool (MMDT) is valued at amortized cost. The MMDT's investment advisor may value the pool using an alternative valuation method that more accurately reflects the fair value in accordance with the pools fair value pricing policies should amortized cost not approximate the fair value of the pool.

At December 31, 2022, the Light Department's investments are categorized as follows: Level 1 - \$963,028 equities and \$44,709 U.S. government obligations; Level 2 - \$9,887 U.S. government obligations, \$232,813 municipal bonds, \$54,361 corporate bonds, \$1,170 fixed income ETF funds, \$7,187,677 bond mutual funds, \$1,912,700 equity mutual funds and \$1,167,663 negotiable certificates of deposit.

Interest Rate Risk: Deposits – This is the risk that fair value losses may arise due to increasing interest rates. The Town does not have formal investment policies that limit investment maturities as a way of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates.

Interest Rate Risk: Investments – Debt securities are subject to interest rate risk. Debt securities may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, which may negatively affect the fair value of individual debt instruments. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investments maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

At June 30, 2023, the Town (not including the Light Department) had the following investments with maturities:

Investments	Fair Value	Maturities in Years		
		Less than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10
Corporate fixed income securities	\$ 2,263,897	\$ 347,697	\$ 1,457,679	\$ 458,521
U.S. government obligations	45,329,613	43,923,428	1,406,185	-
Total investments with maturities	<u>\$ 47,593,510</u>	<u>\$ 44,271,125</u>	<u>\$ 2,863,864</u>	<u>\$ 458,521</u>

At December 31, 2022, the Light Department had the following investments with maturities:

Investments	Fair Value	Maturities in Years		
		Less than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10
U.S. government obligations	\$ 54,596	\$ 19,032	\$ 32,982	\$ 2,582
Municipal bonds	232,813	-	-	232,813
Corporate bonds	54,361	4,835	49,526	-
Exchange traded funds - fixed income	1,170	-	1,170	-
Certificates of deposit	1,167,663	228,844	854,153	84,666
Total investments with maturities	<u>\$ 1,510,603</u>	<u>\$ 252,711</u>	<u>\$ 937,831</u>	<u>\$ 320,061</u>

Concentration of Credit Risk – The Town does not place a limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. At June 30, 2022, Town has 63% of its investments in U. S. government obligations.

Credit Risk – The Town has not adopted a formal policy related to credit risk. The Town's investments in U.S. government obligations are rated Aaa by Moody's. Corporate bonds are rated \$195,823 as Aaa, \$445,462 as A1, \$483,970 as A2, \$228,520 as A3, \$537,106 as Baa1 and \$373,017 as Baa2. The Town's remaining investments are unrated.

The Light Department's investments in U.S. government obligations are rated as Aaa by Moody's. Municipal bonds are rated \$44,989 as Aaa, \$52,258 as Aa1, \$63,166 as Aa2 and \$72,400 as Aa3. Corporate bonds are rated \$6,058 as Aaa, \$6,631 as A1, \$13,288 as A2, \$11,604 as Baa1 and \$16,780 as Baa2. The Light Department's remaining investments are unrated.

B. Receivables

Receivables as of year-end for the Town's individual major and non-major governmental funds in the aggregate, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
Receivables:			
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 635,108	\$ -	\$ 635,108
Tax liens and deferrals	276,375	-	276,375
Community preservation surcharges	7,987	-	7,987
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	265,844	-	265,844
User charges	363,815	-	363,815
Ambulance fees	622,169	(248,867)	373,302
Other	30,666	-	30,666
Total	<u>\$ 2,201,964</u>	<u>\$ (248,867)</u>	<u>\$ 1,953,097</u>

Receivables for the Town's Light Plant Enterprise Fund are as follows:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
Receivables:			
Customer accounts receivable	\$ 1,742,368	\$ (167,213)	\$ 1,575,155
Other accounts receivable	631,578	-	631,578
Total	<u>\$ 2,373,946</u>	<u>\$ (167,213)</u>	<u>\$ 2,206,733</u>

Governmental funds report deferred inflows of resources in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. The following identifies the components of deferred inflows of resources in the governmental funds:

	General Fund	Other Governmental	Total
Receivables and other asset type:			
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 519,855	\$ -	\$ 519,855
Tax liens and deferrals	276,375	-	276,375
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	265,844	-	265,844
Community preservation surcharges	-	7,987	7,987
User charges	-	363,815	363,815
Ambulance fees	-	373,302	373,302
Other	-	30,666	30,666
Tax foreclosures	468,461	-	468,461
Total	<u>\$ 1,530,535</u>	<u>\$ 775,770</u>	<u>\$ 2,306,305</u>

C. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 (December 31, 2022 for Electric Light Department) was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated/amortized:				
Land	\$ 10,383,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,383,884
Construction in process	879,143	2,036,150	(38,211)	2,877,082
Total capital assets not being depreciated/amortized	11,263,027	2,036,150	(38,211)	13,260,966
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized:				
Land improvements	1,975,543	38,211	-	2,013,754
Buildings and improvements	44,838,529	49,663	-	44,888,192
Machinery and equipment	8,552,324	277,820	(96,804)	8,733,340
Infrastructure	32,851,848	595,621	-	33,447,469
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	88,218,244	961,315	(96,804)	89,082,755
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization for:				
Land improvements	(1,224,654)	(52,293)	-	(1,276,947)
Buildings and improvements	(19,470,968)	(1,157,111)	-	(20,628,079)
Machinery and equipment	(5,841,805)	(673,069)	87,030	(6,427,844)
Infrastructure	(17,310,711)	(642,366)	-	(17,953,077)
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	(43,848,138)	(2,524,839)	87,030	(46,285,947)
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	44,370,106	(1,563,524)	(9,774)	42,796,808
Total governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 55,633,133	\$ 472,626	\$ (47,985)	\$ 56,057,774
<u>Business-Type Activities:</u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated/amortized:				
Land	\$ 2,219,869	\$ 18,850	\$ -	\$ 2,238,719
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized:				
Buildings and improvements	1,291,020	-	-	1,291,020
Machinery and equipment	2,936,006	877,979	(399,000)	3,414,985
Infrastructure	19,936,099	35,052	(8,000)	19,963,151
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	24,163,125	913,031	(407,000)	24,669,156
Less accumulated depreciation/amortization for:				
Buildings and improvements	(1,173,429)	(38,731)	-	(1,212,160)
Machinery and equipment	(783,283)	(88,081)	8,000	(863,364)
Infrastructure	(12,175,663)	(598,083)	399,000	(12,374,746)
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	(14,132,375)	(724,895)	407,000	(14,450,270)
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	10,030,750	188,136	-	10,218,886
Total business-type activities capital assets, net	\$ 12,250,619	\$ 206,986	\$ -	\$ 12,457,605

Depreciation/amortization was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Governmental Activities:		Business-Type Activities:	
General government	\$ 101,004	Light Department	\$ 724,895
Public safety	400,463		<u>\$ 724,895</u>
Education	925,761		
Public works	878,711		
Health and human services	20,386		
Culture and recreation	198,514		
	<u>\$ 2,524,839</u>		

D. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

Interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, are summarized as follows:

<u>Transfers Out</u>		<u>Transfers In</u>	
		<u>General Fund</u>	
Capital Projects Fund	\$	3,177	(1)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds		961,475	(1)
Electric Light Enterprise Fund		262,979	(1)
Total	\$	<u>1,227,631</u>	

(1) Transfers to general fund to supplement operating budgets.

E. Temporary Debt

The Town is authorized to borrow on a temporary basis to fund the following:

Current Operating Costs – Prior to the collection of revenues, expenditures may be financed through the issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes.

Capital Projects and Other Approved Costs – Projects may be temporarily funded through the issuance of bond anticipation notes (“BANS”) or grant anticipation notes (“GANS”). In certain cases, prior to the issuance of these temporary notes, the governing body must take the necessary legal steps to authorize the issuance of the general obligation bonds. Temporary notes may not exceed the aggregate amount of bonds authorized or the grant award amount.

Temporary notes are general obligations of the Town and generally carry maturity dates of less than one year and are interest bearing and will be paid through future issuance of general obligation bonds.

There was no temporary debt activity during the fiscal year.

F. Long-Term Obligations

The following table reflects the activity in the Town's long-term liability accounts during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance	Due within one year
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
Bond and note indebtedness	\$ 73,320,000	\$ -	\$ (1,360,000)	\$ 71,960,000	\$ 1,960,000
Unamortized bond premium	4,266,876	-	(480,128)	3,786,748	326,950
Direct borrowings and placements	16,586	-	(11,586)	5,000	1,000
Lease liabilities	118,861	-	(118,861)	-	-
Landfill closure	682,500	-	(52,500)	630,000	52,500
Net pension liability	15,344,969	5,295,892	(1,058,816)	19,582,045	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	18,493,757	5,284,511	(3,913,745)	19,864,523	-
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 112,243,549	\$ 10,580,403	\$ (6,995,636)	\$ 115,828,316	\$ 2,340,450
<i>Business-Type Activities - MELD:</i>					
Compensated absences	\$ 162,144	\$ 90,995	\$ (81,072)	\$ 172,067	\$ 86,034
Net pension liability	3,972,458	1,672,889	(2,012,089)	3,633,258	-
Total Business-Type Activities	\$ 4,134,602	\$ 1,763,884	\$ (2,093,161)	\$ 3,805,325	\$ 86,034

The governmental activities liabilities will be liquidated by the General Fund. The business-type liabilities will be liquidated by the Electric Light Department Enterprise Fund.

G. Long-Term Debt

The Town issues general obligation bonds and notes to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and equipment. General obligation bonds and notes have been issued for both governmental and business-type activities. In addition, the Town incurs various other long-term obligations related to personnel costs.

State law permits the Town, under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 10, to authorize indebtedness up to a limit of five percent of its equalized valuation. Debt issued in accordance with this section of the law is designated as being "inside the debt limit." In addition, the Town may authorize debt in excess of that limit for specific purposes. Such debt, when issued, is designated as being "outside the debt limit."

The following is a summary of outstanding long-term debt obligations as of June 30, 2023:

Description of Issue	Interest Rate	Beginning Balance	Additions	Maturities	Ending Balance
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General Obligation Bonds	2.30 - 5.00%	\$ 72,275,000	\$ -	\$ (1,150,000)	\$ 71,125,000
General Obligation Refunding Bonds	5.00%	1,045,000	-	(210,000)	835,000
Federal Home Loan Bonds	5.00%	5,200	-	(5,200)	-
Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Notes	3.00 - 5.25%	11,386	-	(6,386)	5,000
Total Governmental Activities		73,336,586	-	(1,371,586)	71,965,000
Add: Unamortized bond premium		4,266,876		(480,128)	3,786,748
Total Governmental Activities, net		\$ 77,603,462	\$ -	\$ (1,851,714)	\$ 75,751,748

Payments on long-term debt due in future years consist of the following:

Year Ending June 30,	<i>Governmental Activities</i>			
	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 1,960,000	\$ 2,020,080	1,000	\$ -
2025	2,075,000	1,935,178	1,000	-
2026	2,195,000	1,850,225	1,000	-
2027	2,380,000	1,754,975	1,000	-
2028	2,480,000	1,651,175	1,000	-
2029-2033	13,470,000	6,609,475	-	-
2034-2038	15,035,000	4,379,725	-	-
2039-2043	14,140,000	2,876,247	-	-
2044-2048	10,705,000	1,529,084	-	-
2049-2052	7,520,000	330,125	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 71,960,000</u>	<u>\$ 24,936,290</u>	<u>\$ 5,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The following table summarizes authorized but unissued debt at June 30, 2023:

Project	Amount
<i>Governmental:</i>	
Septic loans	\$ 84,969
Total Authorized and Unissued	<u>\$ 84,969</u>

III. Other Information

A. Retirement System

Plan Description – The Town contributes to the Essex Regional Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Chapter 32 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) and administered by the Essex Regional Retirement Board. Stand-alone audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022, were issued and may be obtained by writing to the Essex Regional Retirement System, 491 Maple Street, Suite 202, Danvers MA 01923.

Membership – Membership in the System as of December 31, 2022, was as follows:

Retired participants and beneficiaries	
receiving benefits	2,000
Inactive participants entitled to a return	
of their employee contributions	1,358
Active members	2,933
Total	<u>6,291</u>

Benefit Terms – The System provides retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Chapter 32 of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. Cost-of-living adjustments granted between 1981 and 1997 and any increase in other benefits imposed by the Commonwealth’s state law during those years are borne by the Commonwealth and are deposited into the pension fund directly. Cost-of-living adjustments granted after 1997 must be approved by the Board and are borne by the System.

Membership in the System is mandatory for all full-time employees and non-seasonal, part-time employees who, in general, regularly work more than twenty hours per week. Members of the System do not participate in the federal Social Security retirement system.

Massachusetts contributory retirement system benefits are uniform, with certain exceptions, from retirement system to retirement system. The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a participant’s highest three-year or five-year average annual rate of regular compensation, depending on the participant’s date of hire. Benefit payments are based upon a participant’s age, length of creditable service, level of compensation and group classification.

Contributions Requirements – The System has elected provisions of Chapter 32, Section 22D (as amended) of Massachusetts General Laws, which require that a funding schedule be established to fully fund the pension plan by June 30, 2040 (the System’s current funding schedule allows for full funding by June 30, 2035). Under provisions of this law, participating employers are assessed their share of the total retirement cost based on the entry age, normal actuarial cost method.

The Town (including the Light Department) contributed approximately \$2.3 million to the System in fiscal year 2023, which equaled the actuarially determined contribution requirement for the year.

Net Pension Liability – As of June 30, 2023, the Town (including the Light Department) reported a liability of approximately \$23.2 million for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability reported by the System at December 31, 2022 (used for fiscal year end June 30, 2023) is approximately \$24.4 million. The difference between these two figures is attributable to the difference in fiscal year ends between the Town and Light Department, which results in a one-year lag.

The Town’s (excluding the Light Department) net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022. These figures were updated by the independent actuary as of December 31, 2022. The Light Department’s net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022. These figures were updated by the independent actuary as of December 31, 2022. There were no material changes to the System’s benefit terms since the actuarial valuation.

The Town’s proportion of the net pension liability is based on a projection of the Town’s long-term share of contributions to the System relative to the projected contributions of all employers. The Town’s and Light Department’s proportionate share were approximately 5.26% as of December 31, 2022.

Pension Expense – The Town (excluding the Light Department) recognized \$2.2 million in pension expense in the statement of activities in fiscal year 2023; and the Light Department recognized \$0.6 million.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources – As of June 30, 2023, the Town (excluding the Light Department) reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual earnings	\$ 1,815,791	\$ -
Changes in assumptions	1,068,614	-
Changes in proportion differences	711,138	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	610	336,300
Changes in proportion differences	-	722,517
	<u>\$ 3,596,154</u>	<u>\$ 1,058,817</u>

The deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are expected to be recognized in the Town's pension expense as follows:

Year Ended June 30	Amount
2024	\$ 441,885
2025	548,842
2026	620,058
2027	926,551
Total	<u>\$ 2,537,337</u>

As of December 31, 2022, the Light Department reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Contributions made subsequent to measurement date	\$ 455,965	\$ -
Changes in assumptions	402,461	-
Differences between expected and actual earnings	-	805,397
Changes in proportion differences	234,332	46,637
Differences between expected and actual experience	302	111,173
Totals	<u>\$ 1,093,060</u>	<u>\$ 963,206</u>

The deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are expected to be recognized in the Light Department's pension expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31,	Amount
2023	\$ 426,559
2024	(122,242)
2025	(96,755)
2026	(77,709)
Total	<u>\$ 129,854</u>

Actuarial Valuation – The measurement of the System's total pension liability is developed by an independent actuary. The latest actuarial valuation was performed as of January 1, 2022. The significant actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation included:

Investment rate of return	Full prefunding: 7.0% per year, net of investment expenses
Discount Rate	7.00%
Inflation	2.75%
Salary Increases	7.5% decreasing to 3.75% after 5 years of service
Cost of Living Adjustment	3% of first \$16,000
Pre-Retirement Mortality	RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP 2021
Post-Retirement Mortality	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP 2021
Disabled Mortality	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward one year projected generationally with Scale MP 2021

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These returns are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocations and projected arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class after deducting inflation, but before investment expenses, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Expected Investment Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	20.50%	6.59%
International Equity	12.00%	6.87%
International Emerging Markets	4.50%	8.30%
Core fixed income	15.00%	1.53%
High Yield Fixed Income	8.00%	3.54%
Real Estate	10.00%	3.44%
Timberland	4.00%	4.01%
Hedge Fund, GTAA, Risk Parity	10.00%	3.06%
Private Equity	16.00%	9.49%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the Town’s and Light Department’s pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions were made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the Retirement System’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity Analysis – The following presents the Town’s and Light Department’s proportionate shares of the net pension liability calculated using the current discount rate as well as using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

		Discount Rate			
	Current Rate	1% lower	Current	1% greater	
Town	7.00%	\$ 24,874,914	\$ 19,582,045	\$ 15,137,824	
Light Department	7.00%	4,913,507	3,633,258	2,558,149	

B. Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System

Teachers and certain administrative employees of the Town’s school department participate in the Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System (“MTRS”), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. Like the Retirement System, MTRS was established under Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws. The Commonwealth’s legislature has the authority to amend or modify the MTRS’s funding policies.

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor to the MTRS and is legally responsible by statute for all actuarially determined employer contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. Therefore, the Town is considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, (measured as of June 30, 2022) the Commonwealth contributed \$1.9 million to the MTRS on behalf of the Town. The Town's proportionate share of the collective MTRS net pension liability at this reporting date was 0.09%, which was based on the actual, actuarially determined contribution made by the Commonwealth on behalf of the Town as a percentage of the total annual contribution made by the Commonwealth on behalf of all employers.

The table below presents the Town's proportionate share of the following (dollar amounts are in thousands):

	Commonwealth Portion	Paid (or assumed) On Behalf of the Town	Town Portion
Net pension liability	\$ 23,268,960	\$ (23,268,960)	\$ —
Pension expense	1,914,099	(1,914,099)	—

The Town recognized \$1.9 million in intergovernmental revenue and pension expense relative to this arrangement.

C. Other Postemployment Benefits

The Town administers a single employer defined benefit healthcare plan (the "OPEB Plan"). The OPEB Plan provides health, dental and life insurance benefits (other postemployment benefits) to current and future retirees, their dependents and beneficiaries in accordance with Section 20 of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 32B.

Specific benefit provisions and contribution rates are established by collective bargaining agreements, state law and Town ordinance. All benefits are provided through the Town's premium-based insurance program. The OPEB Plan does not issue an audited stand-alone financial report and is presented as a fiduciary fund in the Town's financial statements.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms – The following employees were covered by the benefit terms as of June 30, 2023:

Active employees	206
Inactive employees	84
Total	<u>290</u>

Contributions – The contribution requirements of OPEB Plan members and the Town are established and may be amended by the Town. Retirees contribute 40% of the set premium for medical; 25% for dental, and 50% for life insurance. The remainder of the cost is funded by general revenues of the Town. The Town currently contributes enough money to the Plan to satisfy current obligations on a pay-as-you-go basis and also pays 60% of a retiree's Medicare Part B premium. The costs of administering the OPEB Plan are paid by the Town. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town's average contribution rate was approximately 4.17% of covered payroll.

Net OPEB Liability – The Town's net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023 using an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021. The components of the net OPEB liability of the Town as of June 30, 2023 were as follows:

Total OPEB Liability	\$ 22,091,311
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(2,226,788)</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 19,864,523</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	10.08%

The total OPEB liability in the most recent actuarial valuation was determined using the following key actuarial assumptions applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Investment rate of return	6.30%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Municipal bond rate	4.13%
Discount Rate	5.54%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Inflation	2.50% annually as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods
Health Care Trend Rate	9.00% trending to 3.63% in 2060. Rates developed using the SOA Getzen Model of Long-Run Medical Cost Trends.
Salary Increases	3.00% annually as of July 1, 2021 and for future periods
Pre-Retirement Mortality	General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females
Post-Retirement Mortality	General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females. Set forward 1 year for females Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females
Disabled Mortality	General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age Normal

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 5.54%. The only key change in assumptions from the prior year was the decrease of this discount rate from 5.6% to 5.54%.

Long Term Expected Rate of Return – The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB Plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of OPEB Plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class.

These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return were as reflected in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Expected Investment Rate of Return
Domestic Equity - Large Cap	14.50%	4.10%
Domestic Equity - Small/Mid Cap	3.50%	4.55%
International Equity - Developed Mar	16.00%	4.64%
International Equity - Emerging Mark	6.00%	5.45%
Domestic Fixed Income	20.00%	1.05%
International Fixed Income	3.00%	96.00%
Alternatives	23.00%	5.95%
Real Estate	14.00%	6.25%
Cash	0.00%	0.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>	
Real rate of return		4.30%
Inflation assumption		2.50%
Total nominal rate of return		6.80%
Investment expense		-0.50%
Net investment return		<u>6.30%</u>

Sensitivity Analyses – The following presents the Town's net OPEB liability as well as what the Town's net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower or 1% higher than the current discount rate as well as if the healthcare cost trend rates are 1% lower or higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

Current Rate	Net OPEB liability		
	Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease	At Current Rate	1% Increase
5.54%	\$ 23,290,501	\$ 19,864,523	\$ 17,119,077
Current Rate	Health Care Trend Rate		
	1% Decrease	At Current Rate	1% Increase
	1% Decrease	At Current Rate	1% Increase
9.00% > 3.63%	\$ 16,796,879	\$ 19,864,523	\$ 23,713,500

Changes in the Net OPEB Liability – The following table summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the year ended June 30, 2023:

	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability (a) - (b)
Balances at June 30, 2022	\$ 20,454,879	\$ 1,961,122	\$ 18,493,757
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	728,862	-	728,862
Interest	1,170,622	-	1,170,622
Change in assumptions	304,234	-	304,234
Difference between expected and actual experience	-	-	-
Net investment income	-	115,666	(115,666)
Employer contributions	-	717,286	(717,286)
Benefit payments withdrawn from trust	-	(567,286)	567,286
Benefit payments	(567,286)	-	(567,286)
Net changes	1,636,432	265,666	1,370,766
Balances at June 30, 2023	\$ 22,091,311	\$ 2,226,788	\$ 19,864,523

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB – For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town recognized OPEB expense of \$1,416,602 and deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB were reported as follows:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual earnings	\$ 21,283	\$ -
Changes of Assumptions	2,232,173	-
Differences between actual and expected experience	-	3,913,745
	\$ 2,253,456	\$ 3,913,745

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense (benefit) as follows:

June 30,	
2024	\$ (338,703)
2025	(541,888)
2026	(549,470)
2027	(191,258)
2028	(49,732)
thereafter	10,762
	\$ (1,660,289)

Investment Custody – In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Treasurer is the custodian of the OPEB Plan and since the Town has not designated a Board of Trustees, the Town Treasurer is also the Trustee and as such is responsible for the general supervision of the

management, investment and reinvestment of the OPEB Plan assets. OPEB Plan assets may be invested and reinvested by the custodian consistent with the prudent investor rule established in Chapter 203C and may, with the approval of the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees, be invested in the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund established in Section 24 of Chapter 32A. OPEB Plan assets must be segregated from other funds and not be subject to the claims of any general creditor of the Town.

Investment Policy – The OPEB Plan follows the same investment policies that apply to all other Town Trust funds. Notably it can be invested in accordance with State Statutes that govern Trust investments including PRIM which is an external investment pool managed by the State.

Investment Rate of Return – For the year ended June 30, 2023, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 5.57%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

Electric Light Department OPEB – Electric Light Department OPEB, which is not material to the overall financial statements, may be reviewed in detail in the Electric Light Department financial statements.

D. Risk Financing

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the Town carries commercial insurance. The amount of claim settlements has not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the previous three years.

E. Commitments and Contingencies

General – The Town is party to certain legal claims, which are subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigation matters is not always predictable with assurance. Although the amount of liability, if any, at June 30, 2023, cannot be determined, management believes that any resulting liability, if any, should not materially affect the basic financial statements of the Town at June 30, 2023.

Grant Compliance – Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal and state governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The Town expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Arbitrage – The Town is subject to certain Federal arbitrage laws in accordance with long-term borrowing agreements. Failure to comply with the rules could result in the payment of penalties. The Town expects the amount if any, in these situations, to be immaterial.

Electric Light Department - MELD is a Town owned utility responsible for the purchase and distribution of electric power throughout the Town of Middleton. MELD has its own Board of Commissioners elected at large by the citizenry of the Town of Middleton.

MELD is a Participant in certain Projects of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC).

MMWEC is a public corporation and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, created as a means to develop a bulk power supply for its Members and other utilities. MMWEC is authorized to construct, own or purchase ownership interests in, and to issue revenue bonds to finance, electric facilities (Projects). MMWEC has acquired ownership interests in electric facilities operated by other entities and also owns and operates its own electric facilities. MMWEC operates the Stony Brook Intermediate Project and the Stony Brook Peaking Project, both fossil-fueled power plants. MMWEC has the Nuclear Mix No 1 Project, Nuclear Project Three, Nuclear Project Four, Nuclear Project Five and Project Six, which comprise an 11.6% ownership interest in the Seabrook Station nuclear generating unit operated by NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC and a 4.8% ownership interest in the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit, operated by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. The operating license for Seabrook Station extends to March 15, 2050. The operating license for the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit extends to November 25, 2045.

MMWEC sells all of the capability (Project Capability) of each of its Projects to its Members and other utilities (Project Participants) under Power Sales Agreements (PSAs). The Light Department has entered into PSAs with MMWEC. Under the PSAs the Department is required to make certain payments to MMWEC payable solely from Municipal Light Department revenues. Among other things, the PSAs require each Project Participant to pay its pro rata share of MMWEC's costs related to the Project, which costs include debt service on the revenue bonds issued by MMWEC to finance the Project. In addition, should a Project Participant fail to make any payment when due, other Project Participants of that Project may be required to increase (step-up) their payments and correspondingly their Participant's share of that Project's Project Capability. Project Participants have covenanted to fix, revise and collect rates at least sufficient to meet their obligations under the PSAs. Each Participant is unconditionally obligated to make payments due to MMWEC whether or not the Project(s) is completed or operating and notwithstanding the suspension or interruption of the output of the Project(s).

Pursuant to the PSAs, the MMWEC Project Participants are liable for their proportionate share of the costs associated with decommissioning the plants, which are funded through monthly Project billings, as needed. Also, the Millstone and Seabrook Project Participants are liable for their proportionate share of the uninsured costs of a nuclear incident that might be imposed under the Price-Anderson Act (Act). Originally enacted in 1957, the Act has been renewed several times. In July 2005, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress extended the Act until the end of 2025.

MMWEC is involved in various legal actions. In the opinion of management, the outcome of such litigation or claims will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the company.

The total capital expenditures and annual capacity, fuel and transmission costs (which include debt service and decommissioning expenses as discussed above), and amount of required debt service payments (if applicable) under the PSAs associated with the Department's Project Capability of the Projects in which it participates for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively were as follows:

Projects	Percentage Share	Total Capital Expenditures 2022	Capacity, Fuel & Transmission Billed 2022	Capacity, Fuel & Transmission Billed 2021
Stony Brook Peaking Project	1.8916%	\$ 1,171,947	\$ 101,373	\$ 75,492
Stony Brook Intermediate Project	0.9670%	1,771,692	222,863	140,877
Nuclear Mix No. 1-Seabrook	1.6535%	171,410	7,929	7,091
Nuclear Mix No. 1-Millstone	1.6535%	1,056,483	98,238	109,879
Nuclear Project No. 3-Millstone	0.5469%	846,184	64,570	72,409
Nuclear Project No. 4-Seabrook	1.6460%	5,040,733	207,718	188,581
Nuclear Project No. 5-Seabrook	0.6376%	528,163	20,864	18,796
Project No. 6-Seabrook	4.1186%	23,321,321	722,460	662,428
Totals		\$ 33,907,933	\$ 1,446,015	\$ 1,275,553

The Department purchases its power through contracts with various power suppliers, including MMWEC. These contracts are subject to certain market factors. Based on current market conditions, the Department anticipates some stability to its power cost expenses over the next few years.

F. Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Care Costs

The Town's landfill is closed and a final cover has been installed in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations. Those laws and regulations also require the Town to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions ("post-closure care") at the site for 30 years after the landfill cover is installed. In addition, the Town acquired a parcel of land in fiscal year 2009 that was formerly used as a landfill and is responsible for post-closure testing and monitoring. Finally, the Town acquired another parcel of land that was formerly used as the Town landfill and is also responsible for the post-closure testing and monitoring of the site.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the estimated remaining cost of monitoring and other post-closure liabilities for these three parcels, \$630,000, has been recorded as a governmental activities' liability; actual costs may be higher due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

G. Implementation of New GASB Pronouncements

Current Year Implementations

In May 2019, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*. The objective of this Statement was to standardize the reporting of conduit debt obligations by issuers by clarifying the existing definition of conduit debt obligation, among other matters. As amended, the provisions of this Statement became effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2021 (fiscal year 2023). The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Town's financial statements.

In March 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. The objective of this Statement was to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements. The provisions of this Statement became effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022 (fiscal year 2023). The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Town's financial statements.

In May 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. The objective of this Statement was to address accounting for subscription-based information technology arrangements to government end users based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, as amended. The provisions of this Statement became effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022 (fiscal year 2023). The adoption of this standard did not have a material impact on the Town's financial statements.

Future Year Implementations

In June 2022, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – An Amendment of GASB Statement No 62*. The objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent and comparable information for decision making or assessing accountability. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2024). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In June 2022, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. The objective of this Statement is to update the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2025). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PENSIONS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY

(dollar amounts are in thousands)

Year Ended December 31,	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2022	5.26%	\$ 24,386	\$ 8,417	289.72%	57.6%
2021	5.50%	19,110	8,942	213.71%	67.0%
2020	5.26%	20,893	7,957	262.57%	59.7%
2019	5.07%	21,354	7,652	279.06%	55.5%
2018	5.22%	22,036	7,695	286.37%	51.9%
2017	5.23%	19,679	7,388	266.36%	55.4%
2016	5.06%	19,507	7,060	276.30%	51.1%
2015	4.93%	17,900	6,129	292.05%	51.1%

SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PENSION PLAN

(dollar amounts are in thousands)

Year Ended June 30,	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2023	\$ 2,339	\$ 2,343	\$ (4)	\$ 8,417	27.84%
2022	2,280	2,282	(2)	8,942	25.52%
2021	2,032	2,034	(2)	7,957	25.56%
2020	1,820	1,822	(2)	7,652	23.81%
2019	1,743	1,745	(2)	7,695	22.68%
2018	1,628	1,630	(2)	7,388	22.06%
2017	1,467	1,468	(1)	7,060	20.79%
2016	1,258	1,258	-	6,129	20.53%

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PENSIONS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SCHEDULE OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S COLLECTIVE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHER'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS)

Year Ended June 30, *	Commonwealth's Proportionate Share of the Collective Net Pension Liability	Town's Proportion Share of the Collective Net Pension Liability	Commonwealth's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Town	Expense and Revenue Recognized for the Commonwealth's Support	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2023	100.0%	0.0%	\$ 23,268,960	\$ 1,914,099	0.089883%
2022	100.0%	0.0%	20,945,759	1,680,810	0.092244%
2021	100.0%	0.0%	25,497,070	3,149,253	0.089323%
2020	100.0%	0.0%	22,256,968	2,699,044	0.088272%
2019	100.0%	0.0%	20,991,728	2,127,208	0.088531%
2018	100.0%	0.0%	20,025,095	2,090,078	0.087502%
2017	100.0%	0.0%	19,360,972	1,974,946	0.086596%
2016	100.0%	0.0%	13,785,388	957,737	0.086720%

* Amounts determined for the previous year ended June 30.

Contributions to MTRS are the responsibility of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Accordingly, the Town has not recognized any portion of the net pension liability relative to Town employees covered under the MTRS pension plan

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years. However, until a full ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See accompanying independent auditor's report.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS

	June 30						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Service cost	\$ 728,862	\$ 950,245	\$ 814,764	\$ 785,898	\$ 1,055,101	\$ 883,961	\$ 845,336
Interest	1,170,622	960,155	942,679	962,580	1,048,772	1,087,561	1,012,331
Difference between expected and actual plan experience	-	(3,721,986)	-	(3,226,197)	-	302,431	-
Changes of assumptions	304,234	932,942	1,436,876	424,641	1,682,663	-	-
Benefit payments	(567,286)	(609,888)	(557,585)	(484,676)	(609,902)	(565,578)	(510,717)
Net change in total OPEB liability	1,636,432	(1,488,532)	2,636,734	(1,537,754)	3,176,634	1,708,375	1,346,950
Total OPEB liability - beginning of year	20,454,879	21,943,411	19,306,677	20,844,431	17,667,797	15,959,422	14,612,472
Total OPEB liability - end of year (a)	<u>\$ 22,091,311</u>	<u>\$ 20,454,879</u>	<u>\$ 21,943,411</u>	<u>\$ 19,306,677</u>	<u>\$ 20,844,431</u>	<u>\$ 17,667,797</u>	<u>\$ 15,959,422</u>
Plan fiduciary net position:							
Contributions - employer	\$ 717,286	\$ 784,888	\$ 632,585	\$ 534,676	\$ 684,902	\$ 615,578	\$ 610,717
Net investment income	115,666	(77,941)	419,599	26,543	72,264	96,789	109,117
Benefit payments	(567,286)	(609,888)	(557,585)	(484,676)	(609,902)	(565,578)	(510,717)
Net change in Plan fiduciary net position	265,666	97,059	494,599	76,543	147,264	146,789	209,117
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year	1,961,122	1,864,063	1,369,464	1,292,921	1,145,657	998,868	789,751
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year (b)	<u>\$ 2,226,788</u>	<u>\$ 1,961,122</u>	<u>\$ 1,864,063</u>	<u>\$ 1,369,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,292,921</u>	<u>\$ 1,145,657</u>	<u>\$ 998,868</u>
Net OPEB liability - end of year (a) - (b)	<u>\$ 19,864,523</u>	<u>\$ 18,493,757</u>	<u>\$ 20,079,348</u>	<u>\$ 17,937,213</u>	<u>\$ 19,551,510</u>	<u>\$ 16,522,140</u>	<u>\$ 14,960,554</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	10.08%	9.59%	8.49%	7.09%	6.20%	6.48%	6.26%
Covered payroll	\$ 17,217,593	\$ 16,716,013	\$ 14,679,968	\$ 14,252,396	\$ 11,055,578	\$ 10,733,570	\$ 10,700,000
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered payroll	115.37%	110.63%	136.78%	125.85%	176.85%	153.93%	139.82%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

Note: An error in assumptions was discovered during fiscal year 2020. The error, totalling \$4,884,751, was applied to all periods presented and reduced the net OPEB liability.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS

	June 30						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Actuarially-determined contribution	\$ 1,650,909	\$ 1,814,870	\$ 1,607,679	\$ 1,868,286	\$ 2,490,680	\$ 2,189,164	\$ 2,033,068
Contributions in relation to the actuarially-determined contribution	(717,286)	(784,888)	(632,585)	(534,676)	(684,902)	(615,578)	(610,717)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ 933,623	\$ 1,029,982	\$ 975,094	\$ 1,333,610	\$ 1,805,778	\$ 1,573,586	\$ 1,422,351
Covered payroll	\$ 17,217,593	\$ 16,716,013	\$ 14,679,968	\$ 14,252,396	\$ 11,055,578	\$ 10,733,570	\$ 10,700,000
Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll	4.17%	4.70%	4.31%	3.75%	6.20%	5.74%	5.71%
Valuation Date	July 1, 2021						
Amortization Period	30 years						
Investment rate of return	6.30%						
Municipal Bond Rate	4.13%						
Single Equivalent Discount Rate	5.54%						
Inflation	2.50%						
Healthcare cost trend rates	9.00% => 3.63% in 2060						
Salary increases	3.00%						
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age Normal (for all years presented)						
Asset Valuation Method	Market Value of Assets as of Reporting Date (for all years presented)						

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS

	June 30,						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	5.57%	-4.15%	29.33%	1.99%	6.14%	9.46%	10.92%

Note: These schedules are presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	Budgetary	Encumbrances	Budgetary	Positive
	Budget	Budget	Amounts		Adjusted	(Negative)
Real estate and personal property taxes, net	\$ 35,910,731	\$ 35,943,331	\$ 35,962,124		\$ 35,962,124	\$ 18,793
Intergovernmental	2,492,934	2,492,934	2,510,986		2,510,986	18,052
Motor vehicle and other excises	2,440,000	2,440,000	2,817,197		2,817,197	377,197
Payments in lieu of taxes	130,000	130,000	148,868		148,868	18,868
License and permits	510,000	510,000	946,037		946,037	436,037
Departmental and other revenue	698,037	698,037	886,407		886,407	188,370
Penalties and interest on taxes	80,000	80,000	88,349		88,349	8,349
Fines and forfeitures	5,000	5,000	11,548		11,548	6,548
Investment income	40,000	40,000	1,031,966		1,031,966	991,966
Total Revenues	42,306,702	42,339,302	44,403,482	\$ -	44,403,482	2,064,180
EXPENDITURES						
General government	3,362,824	3,410,053	2,688,965	392,026	3,080,991	329,062
Public safety	5,291,809	5,417,310	5,096,429	179,998	5,276,427	140,883
Education	25,918,941	25,918,941	25,148,037	680,545	25,828,582	90,359
Public works	2,323,519	2,304,480	1,996,898	118,760	2,115,658	188,822
Health and human services	558,965	559,173	487,437	7,435	494,872	64,301
Culture and recreation	735,378	761,530	710,036	8,346	718,382	43,148
Pension and employee benefits	3,016,917	3,097,529	3,019,169	19,305	3,038,474	59,055
State and county tax assessments	315,607	315,607	345,510	-	345,510	(29,903)
Debt service	4,212,643	4,212,643	4,212,643	-	4,212,643	-
Total Expenditures	45,736,603	45,997,266	43,705,124	1,406,415	45,111,539	885,727
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	1,141,017	1,141,017	1,227,631		1,227,631	86,614
Transfers out	(52,000)	(252,000)	(252,000)		(252,000)	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	1,089,017	889,017	975,631	\$ -	\$ 975,631	86,614
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES/USE OF PRIOR YEAR BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE	(2,340,884)	(2,768,947)	\$ 1,673,989			\$ 3,036,521
Other Budgetary Items:						
Undesignated surplus (free cash)	1,006,371	1,434,434				
Prior year encumbrances	1,334,513	1,334,513				
Net Budget	\$ -	\$ -				

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MIDDLETON, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

I. Budgetary Basis of Accounting

Budgetary Information – An annual budget is legally adopted for the general fund. Financial orders are initiated by department heads, recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Town Meeting at the Town’s annual meeting in May. Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the department level. Department heads may transfer, without Town meeting approval, appropriation balances from one expenditure account to another within each department. The Town Meeting, however, must approve any transfer of unencumbered appropriation balances between departments. At the close of each fiscal year, unencumbered appropriation balances lapse or reverts to unreserved fund balance.

The Town adopts an annual budget for the general fund in conformity with the guidelines described above. During the fiscal year, Town Meeting increased appropriations by approximately \$460,000, which were primarily used for stabilization funds (\$200,000), OPEB trust funding (\$50,000) and public safety (\$125,000).

The Town Accountant has the responsibility to ensure that budgetary control is maintained in the manner in which the appropriations were voted at Town Meeting. Budgetary control is exercised through the Town’s accounting system.

Budgetary-to-GAAP Reconciliation – The Town’s general fund is prepared on a basis other than GAAP. A reconciliation of the budgetary-basis to GAAP-basis results for the general fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, is as follows:

	Basis of Accounting Differences	Fund Perspective Differences	Total
Revenues on a budgetary basis			\$ 44,403,482
Stabilization revenue	\$ -	\$ 138,242	138,242
Change in revenue recognition	(261,747)	-	(261,747)
On behalf payments	1,914,099	-	1,914,099
Revenues on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ 1,652,352</u>	<u>\$ 138,242</u>	<u>\$ 46,194,076</u>
Expenditures on a budgetary basis			\$ 43,705,124
Change in expenditure recognition	\$ (53,720)	\$ -	(53,720)
On behalf payments	1,914,099	-	1,914,099
Expenditures on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ 1,860,379</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 45,565,503</u>
Other financing sources (uses) on a budgetary basis			\$ 975,631
Stabilization transfers, net	\$ -	\$ 252,000	252,000
Other financing sources (uses) on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 252,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,227,631</u>

Excess of Expenditures over Appropriations – During the fiscal year ended, expenditures exceeded appropriations for state and county charges in the General Fund which was paid from available funds.