



**Powers &
Sullivan, LLC**
CPAs AND ADVISORS

TOWN OF TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

***REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

TOWN OF TOPSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT ON EXAMINATION OF BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Independent Auditor’s Report..... 1

Management’s Discussion and Analysis4

Basic Financial Statements 12

 Statement of net position 13

 Statement of activities 14

 Governmental funds – balance sheet 16

 Reconciliation of the governmental funds balance sheet total fund balances to the statement of net position ... 17

 Governmental funds – statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances 18

 Reconciliation of the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance to
 the statement of activities 19

 Proprietary funds – statement of net position 20

 Proprietary funds – statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position 21

 Proprietary funds – statement of cash flows 22

 Fiduciary funds – statement of fiduciary net position 23

 Fiduciary funds – statement of changes in fiduciary net position 24

 Notes to basic financial statements 25

Required Supplementary Information 56

 Budgetary Comparison Schedules 57

 Schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance – general fund – budget and actual 58

 Pension Plan Schedules 59

 Schedule of the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability 60

 Schedule of the Town’s contributions 61

 Schedule of the special funding amounts of the net pension liability 62

 Other Postemployment Benefit Plan Schedules 63

 Schedule of changes in the Town’s net OPEB liability and related ratios 64

 Schedule of the Town’s contributions 65

 Schedule of investment returns 66

 Notes to required supplementary information 67

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Honorable Select Board
Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

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 Topsfield, Massachusetts, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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 of Topsfield, Massachusetts, 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 and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts 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 of Topsfield, Massachusetts' 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.

Auditor's 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 auditor's 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 and *Government 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 and *Government 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 of Topsfield, Massachusetts' 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 of Topsfield, Massachusetts' 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 required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it 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.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 19, 2023, on our consideration of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Powers & Sullivan LLC

December 19, 2023

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Management's Discussion and Analysis

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. These basic financial statements comprise of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements.

Government-wide financial statements. The *government-wide financial statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of finances, in a manner similar to private-sector business.

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

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government's net position changed during the most recent 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 periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused vacation leave).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*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 include general government, public safety, education, public works, health and human services, culture and recreation, and interest. The Town's business-type activities relate to the water 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. Fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

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 year.

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. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The Town adopts annual appropriated budget for its general fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided as required supplementary information after the notes to the financial statements to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

Proprietary funds. *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements. The Town maintains one proprietary fund to account for its water activities.

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. The Town maintains an other postemployment benefits trust fund and a private-purpose trust fund within the fiduciary fund statements.

Notes to the basic 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.

Other information. In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain *required supplementary information* concerning the Town’s budgetary basis of accounting as well as pension and other postemployment benefits obligations.

Government-wide Financial Analysis

Governmental Activities

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government’s financial position. The Town’s governmental assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$24.8 million at the close of 2023. Key components of the Town’s governmental financial position are listed below.

	2023		2022
Assets:			
Current assets.....	\$ 29,695,659	\$	26,468,859
Capital assets, non depreciable.....	6,214,687		6,128,673
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.....	31,625,088		32,108,188
Total assets.....	67,535,434		64,705,720
Deferred outflows of resources.....	5,129,812		4,897,275
Liabilities:			
Current liabilities (excluding debt).....	1,198,559		1,629,130
Noncurrent liabilities (excluding debt).....	29,606,092		25,519,277
Current debt.....	664,067		636,170
Noncurrent debt.....	13,673,024		14,337,091
Total liabilities.....	45,141,742		42,121,668
Deferred inflows of resources.....	2,718,423		6,236,164
Net position:			
Net investment in capital assets.....	23,502,684		23,263,600
Restricted.....	15,820,884		14,359,268
Unrestricted.....	(14,518,487)		(16,377,705)
Total net position.....	\$ 24,805,081	\$	21,245,163

Net position of \$23.5 million reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g., land, buildings, infrastructure, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that are still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are *not* available for future spending. Although the investment in its capital assets is reported net of its related debt, it should be noted that 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.

A restricted portion of the net position totaling \$15.8 million represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of *unrestricted net position* has a year-end deficit of \$14.5 million as a result of recognizing the Town's net pension and OPEB liabilities of \$15.0 million and \$15.0 million, respectively.

The governmental activities of the Town are detailed below.

	2023	2022
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services..... \$	2,463,991	\$ 2,632,021
Operating grants and contributions.....	6,664,163	5,926,987
Capital grants and contributions.....	570,289	201,929
General Revenues:		
Real estate and personal property taxes, net of tax refunds payable.....	27,220,292	26,823,146
Tax and other liens.....	49,151	126,573
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	1,303,661	1,287,680
Penalties and interest on taxes.....	50,344	43,335
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	74,887	82,031
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.....	40,051	148,397
Unrestricted investment income (loss).....	1,926,704	(1,660,246)
Total revenues.....	40,363,533	35,611,853
Expenses:		
General government.....	4,169,730	3,475,752
Public safety.....	5,688,239	5,159,508
Education.....	22,118,974	21,603,136
Public works.....	2,232,169	2,776,703
Health and human services.....	710,479	547,398
Culture and recreation.....	1,621,688	1,426,320
Interest.....	453,007	480,362
Total expenses.....	36,994,286	35,469,179
Excess (Deficiency) before transfers.....	3,369,247	142,674
Transfers.....	190,671	129,081
Change in net position.....	3,559,918	271,755
Net position, beginning of year.....	21,245,163	20,973,408
Net position, end of year..... \$	24,805,081	\$ 21,245,163

The governmental activities net position increased by \$3.6 million during the current year compared to an increase in net position of \$272,000 in the prior year. This \$3.6 million increase in the current year included a \$1.3 million increase of investment income in the Gould Trust Fund caused by favorable market conditions, an increase of \$1.1 million in the Town's General Fund, which includes a \$776,000 increase in the Town's stabilization fund and an increase of \$1.3 million in the nonmajor governmental funds.

Charges for services remained consistent with prior year. Operating grants and increased by \$737,000, mostly from American Rescue Plan grant revenue of \$348,00 along with various other operating grant revenue receipts. Investment income increased by \$3.6 million due to favorable market conditions. Real estate and personal property, motor vehicle, excise and other taxes increased slightly whereas the remaining general revenues decreased overall.

Business-type Activities

The Town's business-type activities reflect the operations of the Town's water enterprise fund. Business-type assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$9.0 million at the close of 2023. The following table identifies key elements of the net position of the Town's business-type activities.

	2023	2022
Assets:		
Current assets.....	\$ 3,662,696	\$ 3,387,862
Capital assets, non depreciable.....	323,038	323,038
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation....	15,772,503	16,319,783
Total assets.....	19,758,237	20,030,683
Deferred outflows of resources.....	210,024	153,007
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities (excluding debt).....	116,998	132,958
Noncurrent liabilities (excluding debt).....	1,274,421	1,011,092
Current debt.....	650,500	652,300
Noncurrent debt.....	8,832,086	9,524,377
Total liabilities.....	10,874,005	11,320,727
Deferred inflows of resources.....	49,253	272,154
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets.....	6,612,955	6,466,144
Unrestricted.....	2,432,048	2,124,665
Total net position.....	\$ 9,045,003	\$ 8,590,809

The Town's business-type activities net position increased by \$454,000 during the current year. The results reflect the Town's intention to recover its costs of operations through rates.

	2023	2022
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services..... \$	2,351,091	\$ 2,354,618
Capital grants and contributions.....	-	108,852
Total revenues.....	2,351,091	2,463,470
Expenses:		
Water.....	1,706,226	1,701,103
Excess (Deficiency) before transfers.....	644,865	762,367
Transfers.....	(190,671)	(129,081)
Change in net position.....	454,194	633,286
Net position, beginning of year.....	8,590,809	7,957,523
Net position, end of year..... \$	9,045,003	\$ 8,590,809

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

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

Governmental funds. The focus of *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing 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 year.

As of the end of the current year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$27.6 million, a net increase of \$3.5 million from the prior year.

The general fund is the Town's chief operating fund. At the end of the current year, unassigned and total fund balance of the general fund totaled \$6.7 million and \$9.5 million, respectively. 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 and total fund balance represent 20.1% and 28.2% of total general fund expenditures, respectively. The general fund total fund balance increased by \$1.1 million during 2023, mainly due to a surplus in actual revenue compared to the budget and an increase in the Town's stabilization funds, which are reported within the general fund. The stabilization funds reported year-end balances totaling \$3.3 million.

The Gould trust fund is used to account for the library trust activity. During the current year, the fund expended \$207,000 and reported investment income of \$1.3 million. The Gould trust fund reported an ending fund balance of \$12.6 million compared to a balance of \$11.5 million in the prior year.

There was a net \$1.3 million increase in other nonmajor governmental funds, which reported \$4.5 million in revenues and \$3.1 million in expenditures and (\$122,000) of net transfers in (out).

Budgetary Highlights

The Town of Topsfield adopts an annual appropriated budget for its general fund. The Town adopted a \$34.2 million operating budget in the current year. Actual revenues were higher than budgeted amounts by approximately \$1.3 million or 4%. Actual expenditures, including carryovers, were less than the budgeted amount by approximately \$823,000. The Town budgeted to use \$2 million in free cash and \$384,000 in prior year appropriations in the fiscal year 2023 budget. The budgetary fund balance increased by \$382,000.

Capital Asset and Debt Administration

Major capital additions during the year related to infrastructure, Town buildings, and equipment. Total additions for the Governmental-Type Activities amounted to \$1.3 million. This includes construction in progress additions of \$523,000, of which \$450,000 relates to Washington Street intersections.

Outstanding long-term debt of the general government, as of June 30, 2023, totaled \$14.3 million and water enterprise outstanding debt totaled \$9.5 million, respectively. No new debt was issued in the governmental or water enterprise funds.

Please refer to the Notes to the Basic Financial Statements for further discussion of the debt and capital activity.

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 requests for additional financial information should be addressed to the Town Accountant, Topsfield Town Hall, 8 West Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983.

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Basic Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	<i>Primary Government</i>		
	Governmental Activities	Business-type Activities	Total
ASSETS			
CURRENT:			
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 12,935,709	\$ 2,969,458	\$ 15,905,167
Investments.....	15,381,492	-	15,381,492
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Real estate and personal property taxes.....	255,483	-	255,483
Tax liens.....	367,971	-	367,971
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	96,901	-	96,901
User charges.....	-	693,238	693,238
Departmental and other.....	121,199	-	121,199
Intergovernmental - other.....	502,965	-	502,965
Tax foreclosures.....	33,939	-	33,939
Total current assets.....	<u>29,695,659</u>	<u>3,662,696</u>	<u>33,358,355</u>
NONCURRENT:			
Capital assets, nondepreciable.....	6,214,687	323,038	6,537,725
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.....	<u>31,625,088</u>	<u>15,772,503</u>	<u>47,397,591</u>
Total noncurrent assets.....	<u>37,839,775</u>	<u>16,095,541</u>	<u>53,935,316</u>
TOTAL ASSETS.....	<u>67,535,434</u>	<u>19,758,237</u>	<u>87,293,671</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred outflows related to pensions.....	2,502,485	191,676	2,694,161
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	<u>2,627,327</u>	<u>18,348</u>	<u>2,645,675</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	<u>5,129,812</u>	<u>210,024</u>	<u>5,339,836</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT:			
Warrants payable.....	479,641	23,980	503,621
Accrued payroll.....	408,588	7,497	416,085
Accrued interest.....	129,613	75,469	205,082
Other liabilities.....	92,954	-	92,954
Landfill closure.....	27,875	-	27,875
Compensated absences.....	59,888	10,052	69,940
Bonds payable.....	<u>664,067</u>	<u>650,500</u>	<u>1,314,567</u>
Total current liabilities.....	<u>1,862,626</u>	<u>767,498</u>	<u>2,630,124</u>
NONCURRENT:			
Landfill closure.....	632,078	-	632,078
Compensated absences.....	179,662	30,157	209,819
Net pension liability.....	14,985,936	1,147,834	16,133,770
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	13,808,416	96,430	13,904,846
Bonds payable.....	<u>13,673,024</u>	<u>8,832,086</u>	<u>22,505,110</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities.....	<u>43,279,116</u>	<u>10,106,507</u>	<u>53,385,623</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	<u>45,141,742</u>	<u>10,874,005</u>	<u>56,015,747</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Deferred inflows related to pensions.....	434,834	33,306	468,140
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	<u>2,283,589</u>	<u>15,947</u>	<u>2,299,536</u>
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	<u>2,718,423</u>	<u>49,253</u>	<u>2,767,676</u>
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets.....	23,502,684	6,612,955	30,115,639
Restricted for:			
Permanent funds:			
Expendable.....	1,493,933	-	1,493,933
Nonexpendable.....	12,592,335	-	12,592,335
Gifts and grants.....	1,734,616	-	1,734,616
Unrestricted.....	<u>(14,518,487)</u>	<u>2,432,048</u>	<u>(12,086,439)</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	<u>\$ 24,805,081</u>	<u>\$ 9,045,003</u>	<u>\$ 33,850,084</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	
Primary Government:					
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General government.....	\$ 4,169,730	\$ 865,683	\$ 3,828,225	\$ 314,631	\$ 838,809
Public safety.....	5,688,239	986,156	77,760	-	(4,624,323)
Education.....	22,118,974	424,469	2,695,388	-	(18,999,117)
Public works.....	2,232,169	47,180	513	255,658	(1,928,818)
Health and human services.....	710,479	-	33,362	-	(677,117)
Culture and recreation.....	1,621,688	140,503	28,915	-	(1,452,270)
Interest.....	453,007	-	-	-	(453,007)
Total Governmental Activities.....	36,994,286	2,463,991	6,664,163	570,289	(27,295,843)
<i>Business-Type Activities:</i>					
Water.....	1,706,226	2,351,091	-	-	644,865
Total Primary Government.....	\$ 38,700,512	\$ 4,815,082	\$ 6,664,163	\$ 570,289	\$ (26,650,978)

See notes to basic financial statements.

(Continued)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (continued)

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Primary Government		
	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Changes in net position:			
Net (expense) revenue from previous page..... \$	(27,295,843)	\$ 644,865	\$ (26,650,978)
<i>General revenues:</i>			
Real estate and personal property taxes, net of tax refunds payable.....	27,220,292	-	27,220,292
Tax and other liens.....	49,151	-	49,151
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	1,303,661	-	1,303,661
Penalties and interest on taxes.....	50,344	-	50,344
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	74,887	-	74,887
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs.....	40,051	-	40,051
Unrestricted investment income.....	1,926,704	-	1,926,704
<i>Transfers, net</i>	190,671	(190,671)	-
Total general revenues and transfers.....	30,855,761	(190,671)	30,665,090
Change in net position.....	3,559,918	454,194	4,014,112
<i>Net position:</i>			
Beginning of year.....	21,245,163	8,590,809	29,835,972
End of year..... \$	<u>24,805,081</u>	\$ <u>9,045,003</u>	\$ <u>33,850,084</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET**

JUNE 30, 2023

	General	Gould Trust Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 7,743,238	\$ 353,385	\$ 4,839,086	\$ 12,935,709
Investments.....	2,466,081	12,272,706	642,705	15,381,492
Receivables, net of uncollectibles:				
Real estate and personal property taxes.....	255,483	-	-	255,483
Tax liens.....	367,971	-	-	367,971
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	96,901	-	-	96,901
Departmental and other.....	121,199	-	-	121,199
Intergovernmental - other.....	-	-	502,965	502,965
Tax foreclosures.....	33,939	-	-	33,939
TOTAL ASSETS.....	\$ 11,084,812	\$ 12,626,091	\$ 5,984,756	\$ 29,695,659
LIABILITIES				
Warrants payable.....	\$ 254,762	\$ -	\$ 224,879	\$ 479,641
Accrued payroll.....	404,586	-	4,002	408,588
Other liabilities.....	92,954	-	-	92,954
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	752,302	-	228,881	981,183
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES				
Unavailable revenue.....	863,359	-	215,813	1,079,172
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	863,359	-	215,813	1,079,172
FUND BALANCES				
Nonspendable.....	-	11,660,776	931,559	12,592,335
Restricted.....	-	965,315	4,608,503	5,573,818
Committed.....	433,191	-	-	433,191
Assigned.....	2,291,567	-	-	2,291,567
Unassigned.....	6,744,393	-	-	6,744,393
TOTAL FUND BALANCES.....	9,469,151	12,626,091	5,540,062	27,635,304
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES.....	\$ 11,084,812	\$ 12,626,091	\$ 5,984,756	\$ 29,695,659

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET
TOTAL FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

JUNE 30, 2023

Total governmental fund balances.....		\$ 27,635,304
Capital assets (net) used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.....		37,839,775
Accounts receivable are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are unavailable in the funds.....		1,079,172
The statement of net position includes certain deferred inflows of resources and deferred outflows of resources that will be amortized over future periods. In governmental funds, these amounts are not deferred.....		2,411,389
In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt, whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due.....		(129,613)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds:		
Bonds payable.....	(14,337,091)	
Net pension liability.....	(14,985,936)	
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	(13,808,416)	
Landfill closure.....	(659,953)	
Compensated absences.....	<u>(239,550)</u>	
		<u>(44,030,946)</u>
Net position of governmental activities.....		<u>\$ 24,805,081</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General	Gould Trust Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:				
Real estate and personal property taxes, net of tax refunds.....	\$ 27,099,756	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,099,756
Tax liens.....	85,496	-	-	85,496
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	1,353,626	-	-	1,353,626
Charges for services.....	-	-	1,213,050	1,213,050
Penalties and interest on taxes.....	50,344	-	-	50,344
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	74,887	-	-	74,887
Licenses and permits.....	389,278	-	-	389,278
Fines and forfeitures.....	20,448	-	-	20,448
Intergovernmental - Teachers Retirement.....	1,610,534	-	-	1,610,534
Intergovernmental - other.....	2,335,396	-	3,078,627	5,414,023
Departmental and other.....	680,437	-	21,563	702,000
Contributions and donations.....	-	-	184,890	184,890
Investment income/loss.....	531,700	1,315,093	9,416	1,856,209
Miscellaneous.....	159,695	-	-	159,695
TOTAL REVENUES.....	34,391,597	1,315,093	4,507,546	40,214,236
EXPENDITURES:				
Current:				
General government.....	1,644,127	-	1,173,539	2,817,666
Public safety.....	2,988,058	-	698,566	3,686,624
Education.....	18,871,479	-	968,319	19,839,798
Public works.....	1,816,169	-	59,764	1,875,933
Health and human services.....	260,557	-	128,857	389,414
Culture and recreation.....	675,658	206,581	45,926	928,165
Pension benefits.....	1,547,146	-	-	1,547,146
Pension benefits - Teachers Retirement.....	1,610,534	-	-	1,610,534
Employee benefits.....	2,884,110	-	-	2,884,110
State and county charges.....	216,009	-	-	216,009
Debt service:				
Principal.....	590,000	-	-	590,000
Interest.....	506,364	-	-	506,364
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	33,610,211	206,581	3,074,971	36,891,763
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES.....	781,386	1,108,512	1,432,575	3,322,473
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):				
Transfers in.....	492,530	-	180,000	672,530
Transfers out.....	(180,000)	-	(301,859)	(481,859)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)...	312,530	-	(121,859)	190,671
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES.....	1,093,916	1,108,512	1,310,716	3,513,144
FUND BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	8,375,235	11,517,579	4,229,346	24,122,160
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR.....	\$ 9,469,151	\$ 12,626,091	\$ 5,540,062	\$ 27,635,304

See notes to basic financial statements.

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds.....	\$	3,513,144
<p>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.</p>		
Capital outlay.....		1,250,950
Depreciation expense.....		<u>(1,648,036)</u>
Net effect of reporting capital assets.....		(397,086)
<p>types of accounts receivable differ between the two statements. This amount represents the net change in unavailable revenue.....</p>		
		149,297
<p>financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction has any effect on net position. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are unavailable and amortized in the Statement of Activities.</p>		
Net amortization of premium from issuance of bonds.....		46,170
Debt service principal payments.....		<u>590,000</u>
		636,170
<p>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.</p>		
Net change in compensated absences accrual.....		(45,783)
Net change in accrued interest on long-term debt.....		7,187
Net change in deferred outflow/(inflow) of resources related to pensions.....		3,541,425
Net change in net pension liability.....		(3,890,227)
Net change in deferred outflow/(inflow) of resources related to other postemployment benefits.....		208,853
Net change in net other postemployment benefits liability.....		(188,572)
Net change in landfill closure.....		<u>25,510</u>
		<u>(341,607)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities.....	\$	<u><u>3,559,918</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

PROPRIETARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-type Water Enterprise
ASSETS	
CURRENT:	
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 2,969,458
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:	
User charges.....	693,238
Total current assets.....	3,662,696
NONCURRENT:	
Capital assets, non depreciable.....	323,038
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation.....	15,772,503
Total noncurrent assets.....	16,095,541
TOTAL ASSETS.....	19,758,237
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows related to pensions.....	191,676
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	18,348
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	210,024
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT:	
Warrants payable.....	23,980
Accrued payroll.....	7,497
Accrued interest.....	75,469
Compensated absences.....	10,052
Bonds payable.....	650,500
Total current liabilities.....	767,498
NONCURRENT:	
Compensated absences.....	30,157
Net pension liability.....	1,147,834
Net other postemployment benefits liability.....	96,430
Bonds payable.....	8,832,086
Total noncurrent liabilities.....	10,106,507
TOTAL LIABILITIES.....	10,874,005
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred inflows related to pensions.....	33,306
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	15,947
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES.....	49,253
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets.....	6,612,955
Unrestricted.....	2,432,048
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	\$ 9,045,003

See notes to basic financial statements.

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

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-type Water Enterprise
<u>OPERATING REVENUES:</u>	
Charges for services.....	\$ <u>2,351,091</u>
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES:</u>	
Cost of services and administration.....	522,805
Salaries and wages.....	306,720
Depreciation.....	<u>547,280</u>
 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES.....	 <u>1,376,805</u>
 OPERATING INCOME (LOSS).....	 <u>974,286</u>
<u>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):</u>	
Interest expense.....	<u>(329,421)</u>
 TOTAL NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES), NET.....	 <u>(329,421)</u>
 INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND TRANSFERS.....	 <u>644,865</u>
<u>TRANSFERS:</u>	
Transfers out.....	<u>(190,671)</u>
 CHANGE IN NET POSITION.....	 454,194
 NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	 <u>8,590,809</u>
 NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR.....	 \$ <u><u>9,045,003</u></u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

PROPRIETARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>Business-type Water Enterprise</u>
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</u>	
Receipts from customers and users.....	\$ 2,413,274
Payments to vendors.....	(562,272)
Payments to employees.....	<u>(293,019)</u>
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES.....	<u>1,557,983</u>
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</u>	
Transfers out.....	<u>(190,671)</u>
<u>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</u>	
Principal payments on bonds and notes.....	(652,300)
Interest expense.....	<u>(377,995)</u>
NET CASH FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES.....	<u>(1,030,295)</u>
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS.....	337,017
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	<u>2,632,441</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR.....	<u>\$ 2,969,458</u>
<u>RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</u>	
Operating income (loss).....	\$ <u>974,286</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash from operating activities:	
Depreciation.....	547,280
Deferred (outflows)/inflows related to pensions.....	(278,459)
Deferred (outflows)/inflows related to other postemployment benefits.....	(1,459)
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
User charges.....	62,183
Warrants payable.....	(6,037)
Accrued payroll.....	(9,239)
Compensated absences.....	24,399
Net pension liability.....	243,712
Other postemployment benefits.....	<u>1,317</u>
Total adjustments.....	<u>583,697</u>
NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES.....	<u>\$ 1,557,983</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Fund
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents.....	\$ 8,383	\$ 28,545
Investments:		
U.S. treasuries.....	-	237,336
Government sponsored enterprises.....	-	28,955
Corporate bonds.....	-	317,222
Equity securities.....	-	177,412
Equity mutual funds.....	1,826,181	-
Fixed income mutual funds.....	-	5,782
Mutual funds.....	582,323	-
Other investments.....	257,443	-
	2,674,330	795,252
TOTAL ASSETS.....	2,674,330	795,252
NET POSITION		
Restricted for other postemployment benefits.....	2,674,330	-
Held in trust for other purposes.....	-	795,252
	2,674,330	795,252
TOTAL NET POSITION.....	\$ 2,674,330	\$ 795,252

See notes to basic financial statements.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Fund
<u>ADDITIONS:</u>		
Contributions:		
Employer contributions.....	\$ 360,000	\$ -
Employer contributions for other postemployment benefit payments.....	656,181	-
Total contributions.....	<u>1,016,181</u>	<u>-</u>
Net investment income:		
Investment income (loss).....	191,454	86,522
TOTAL ADDITIONS.....	<u>1,207,635</u>	<u>86,522</u>
<u>DEDUCTIONS:</u>		
Other postemployment benefit payments.....	656,181	-
Public assistance.....	-	2,725
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS.....	<u>656,181</u>	<u>2,725</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION.....	551,454	83,797
NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	<u>2,122,876</u>	<u>711,455</u>
NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR.....	<u>\$ 2,674,330</u>	<u>\$ 795,252</u>

See notes to basic financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts (the Town) have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the recognized standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The significant accounting policies are described herein.

A. Reporting Entity

The Town is a municipal corporation governed by an elected five member Select Board and an appointed Town Administrator.

For financial reporting purposes, the Town has included all funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions and institutions. The Town has also considered all potential component units for which it is financially accountable as well as other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the Town are such that exclusion would cause the basic financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. As required by GAAP, these basic financial statements present the Town (the primary government) and its component units. The Town has determined that there are no component units.

Joint Ventures

The Town is a member of the Masconomet Regional School District that provides middle and high school education for the Town's students. The members share in the operations of the District and each member is responsible for its proportionate share of the operational and capital costs of the District, which are paid in the form of assessments. The Town does not have any equity interest in the District and the 2023 assessment was \$8,776,843. Please contact the finance office at 20 Endicott Road, Boxford, MA 01921, for audited financial statements.

The Town is a member of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School that serves the member students seeking an education in academic, technical and agriculture studies. The members share in the operations of the District and each member is responsible for its proportionate share of the operational and capital cost of the District, which are paid in the form of assessments. The Town does not have an equity interest in the District and the 2023 assessment was \$442,571. Please contact the finance office at 565 Maple Street, Hathorne, MA 01937, for audited financial statements.

B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements***Government-Wide Financial Statements***

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., 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 are primarily supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which are supported primarily by user fees and charges.

Fund Financial Statements

The GASB requires separate financial statements be provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and displayed in a single column.

Major Fund Criteria

Major funds must be reported if the following criteria are met:

- If the total assets and deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding element for all funds of that category or type (total governmental or total enterprise funds), *and*
- If the total assets and deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

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

Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation*Government-Wide Financial Statements*

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 the liabilities are incurred. Real estate and personal property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a particular function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include the following:

- Charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment.
- Grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational requirements of a particular function or segment.
- Grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the capital requirements of a particular function or segment.

Taxes and other items not identifiable as program revenues are reported as general revenues.

For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements. However, the effect of interfund services provided and used between functions is not eliminated as the elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the functions affected.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the flow of current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e., measurable and available). Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and available means 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 unmatured interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, and certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

Real estate and personal property tax revenues are considered available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Investment income is susceptible to accrual. Other receipts and tax revenues become measurable and available when the cash is received and are recognized as revenue at that time.

Entitlements and shared revenues are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria is met. Expenditure driven grants recognize revenue when the qualifying expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements are met.

The following major governmental funds are reported:

The *general fund* is the primary operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *gould trust fund* is used to account for the library trust fund. There are expendable and nonexpendable portions of the trust.

The 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:

The *special revenue fund* is used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than permanent funds or capital projects.

The *capital projects fund* is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets of the governmental funds.

The *permanent fund* is used to account for and report financial resources that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, may be used for purposes that support the governmental programs.

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

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the proprietary funds principal ongoing operations. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

The following proprietary fund type is reported:

The *water enterprise fund* is used to account for the Town's water activities.

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

The following fiduciary fund type is reported:

The *other postemployment benefit trust fund* is used to accumulate resources to provide funding for future other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities.

The *private-purpose trust fund* is used to account for trust arrangements, other than those properly reported in the permanent fund, under which principal and investment income exclusively benefit individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

D. Cash and Investments

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition. Investments are carried at fair value.

E. Fair Value Measurements

The Town reports required types of financial instruments in accordance with the fair value standards. These standards require an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs (such as quoted prices in active markets) and minimize the use of unobservable inputs (such as appraisals or valuation techniques) to determine fair value. Fair value standards also require the government to classify these financial instruments into a three-level hierarchy, based on the priority of inputs to the valuation technique or in accordance with net asset value practical expedient rules, which allow for either Level 2 or Level 3 depending on lock up and notice periods associated with the underlying funds.

Instruments measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

Level 1 – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical instruments as of the reporting date. Instruments, which are generally included in this category, include actively traded equity and debt securities, U.S. government obligations, and mutual funds with quoted market prices in active markets.

Level 2 – Pricing inputs are other than quoted in active markets, which are either directly or indirectly observable as of the reporting date, and fair value is determined through the use of models or other valuation methodologies. Certain fixed income securities, primarily corporate bonds, are classified as Level 2 because fair values are estimated using pricing models, matrix pricing, or discounted cash flows.

Level 3 – Pricing inputs are unobservable for the instrument and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the instrument. The inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

In some instances, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy and is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Market price is affected by a number of factors, including the type of instrument and the characteristics specific to the instrument. Instruments with readily available active quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of market price observability and a lesser degree of judgment used in measuring fair value. It is reasonably possible that change in values of these instruments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect amounts reported in these financial statements. For more information on the fair value of the Town's financial instruments, see Note 2 – Cash and Investments.

F. Accounts Receivable

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the government-wide financial statements are reported under the accrual basis of accounting. The recognition of revenue related to accounts receivable reported in the governmental funds financial statements are reported under the modified accrual basis of accounting.

Real Estate, Personal Property Taxes and Tax Liens

Real estate and personal property taxes are levied and based on values assessed on January 1st of every year. Assessed values are established by the Board of Assessors for 100% of the estimated fair market value. Taxes are due on August 1st, November 1st, February 1st and May 1st and are subject to penalties and interest if they are not paid by the respective due date. Real estate and personal property taxes levied are recorded as receivables in the year of the levy.

Real estate tax liens are processed after the close of the valuation year on delinquent properties and are recorded as receivables in the year they are processed.

Real estate receivables are secured via the tax lien process and are considered 100% collectible. Accordingly, an allowance for uncollectibles is not reported.

Personal property taxes cannot be secured through the lien process. The allowance for uncollectibles is estimated based on historical trends and specific account analysis.

Motor Vehicle Excise

Motor vehicle excise taxes are assessed annually for each vehicle registered and are recorded as receivables in the year of the levy. The Commonwealth is responsible for reporting the number of vehicles registered and the fair values of those vehicles. The tax calculation is the fair value of the vehicle multiplied by \$25 per \$1,000 of value.

The allowance for uncollectibles is estimated based on historical trends and specific account analysis.

Water Fees

Water user fees are levied quarterly based on individual meter readings and are subject to penalties and interest if they are not paid by the respective due date. Unbilled user fees are estimated at year-end and are recorded as revenue in the current period. Water liens are processed after year-end and included as a lien on the property owner's tax bill.

Since the receivables are secured via the lien process, these accounts are considered 100% collectible and therefore do not report an allowance for uncollectibles.

Departmental and Other

Departmental and other receivables consist primarily of ambulance details and are recorded as receivables in the year accrued. The allowance for uncollectibles is estimated based on historical trends and specific account analysis.

Intergovernmental

Various federal and state grants for operating and capital purposes are applied for and received annually. For non-expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. For expenditure driven grants, receivables are recorded when the qualifying expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements are met.

These receivables are considered 100% collectible and therefore do not report an allowance for uncollectibles.

G. Inventories

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

Inventories are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase. Such inventories are not material in total to the government-wide and fund financial statements, and therefore are not reported.

H. Capital Assets

Government-Wide and Proprietary Fund Financial Statements

Capital assets, which include land, buildings, improvements, equipment, vehicles, and infrastructure (e.g., roads, water mains, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental activity column of the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost, or at estimated historical cost, if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Capital assets of the governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements do not include construction period interest.

All purchases and construction costs in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction, respectively, with expected useful lives of greater than one year.

Capital assets (excluding land) are depreciated on a straight-line basis. The estimated useful lives of capital assets are as follows:

<u>Capital Asset Type</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life (in years)</u>
Buildings.....	20-50
Improvements.....	20-50
Equipment.....	5-25
Vehicles.....	5-15
Infrastructure.....	40-50

The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the assets or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized and are treated as expenses when incurred. Improvements are capitalized.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Capital asset costs are recorded as expenditures in the acquiring fund in the year of the purchase.

I. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources*Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)*

In addition to assets, the statement of net 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 assets 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 recorded deferred outflows of resources related to pensions and other postemployment benefits in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net 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 assets that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Town recorded a deferred inflow related to taxes paid in advance, pensions, and other postemployment benefits in this category.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

In addition to liabilities, the governmental funds balance sheet will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents assets that have been recorded in the governmental fund financial statements but the revenue is not available and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until it becomes available. The Town has recorded taxes paid in advance and unavailable revenue as deferred inflows of resources in the governmental funds balance sheet. Unavailable revenue is recognized as revenue in the conversion to the government-wide (full accrual) financial statements.

J. Interfund Receivables and Payables

During the course of its operations, transactions occur between and within individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds.

Fund Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements. Receivables and payables resulting from these transactions are classified as "Due from other funds" or "Due to other funds" on the balance sheet.

Government Wide Financial Statements

Transactions of a buyer/seller nature between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position.

K. 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.

Fund Financial Statements

Transfers between and within funds are *not* eliminated from the individual fund statements and are reported as transfers in and transfers out.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

Transfers between and within governmental funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of net position. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the Statement of Activities as "Transfers, net".

L. Net Position and Fund Equity*Government-Wide Financial Statements (Net Position)*

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific future use.

Net position reported as "net investment in capital assets" includes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, less the principal balance of outstanding debt used to acquire capital assets. Unspent proceeds of capital related debt are not considered capital assets.

Net position has been "restricted for" the following:

"Permanent funds - expendable" represents the amount of realized and unrealized investment earnings of donor restricted trusts. The donor restrictions and trustee policies only allow the trustees to approve spending of the realized investment earnings that support governmental programs.

"Permanent funds - nonexpendable" represents the endowment portion of donor restricted trusts that support governmental programs.

"Grants and gifts" represents restrictions placed on assets from outside parties and consist primarily of gifts and federal and state grants.

Sometimes the Town will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted net position and unrestricted net position in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the Town's policy to consider restricted net position to have been depleted before unrestricted net position is applied.

Fund Financial Statements (Fund Balances)

Governmental fund balances are classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.

The governmental fund balance classifications are as follows:

"Nonspendable" fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

“Restricted” fund balance includes amounts subject to constraints placed on the use of resources that is either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or that are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

“Committed” fund balance includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government’s highest level of decision-making authority. Town Meeting is the highest level of decision making authority that can, by Town Meeting vote, commit funds for a specific purpose. Once voted, the limitation imposed by the vote remains in place until the funds are used for their intended purpose or a vote is taken to rescind the commitment.

“Assigned” fund balance includes amounts that are constrained by the Town’s intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The Town’s by-laws authorize the Town Accountant to assign fund balance. Assignments generally only exist temporarily. Additional action does not have to be taken for the removal of an assignment.

“Unassigned” fund balance includes the residual classification for the general fund. This classification represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund.

M. Long-term Debt

Government-Wide and Proprietary Fund Financial Statements

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

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

The face amount of governmental funds long-term debt is reported as other financing sources. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are recognized in the current period. Bond premiums are reported as other financing sources and bond discounts are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual bond proceeds received, are reported as general government expenditures.

N. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Essex Regional Retirement System and Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System and additions to/deductions from the System’s fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the System. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

O. Investment Income

Excluding the permanent funds, investment income derived from major and nonmajor governmental funds is legally assigned to the general fund unless otherwise directed by Massachusetts General Law (MGL).

Investment income from proprietary funds is voluntarily assigned and transferred to the general fund.

P. Compensated Absences

Employees are granted vacation and sick leave in varying amounts based on collective bargaining agreements, state laws and executive policies.

Government-Wide and Proprietary Fund Financial Statements

Vested or accumulated vacation and sick leave are reported as liabilities and expensed as incurred.

Governmental Fund Financial Statements

Vested or accumulated vacation and sick leave, which will be liquidated with expendable available financial resources, are reported as expenditures and fund liabilities.

Q. Use of Estimates

Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

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 year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

R. Total Column

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The total column presented on the government-wide financial statements represents consolidated financial information.

Fund Financial Statements

The total column on the fund financial statements is presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in this column is not the equivalent of consolidated financial information.

NOTE 2 – CASH 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 the trust funds are held separately from those of other funds.

Statutes authorize the Town to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies, instrumentalities, certificates of deposit, repurchase agreements, money market accounts, bank deposits and the State Treasurer's investment pool (the Pool). The Treasurer may also invest trust funds in securities, other than mortgages or collateral loans, which are legal for the investment of funds of savings banks under the laws of the Commonwealth.

The Pools meets the criteria of an external investment pool. The Pool is administered by the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT), which was established by the Treasure 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 Town of Topsfield's deposits may not be returned to it. The Town's policy related to custodial credit risk is to apply the guidelines established by Massachusetts General Law and to invest in institutions which are financially strong. At year-end, the carrying amount of deposits totaled \$14,158,620 and the bank balance totaled \$14,895,241. Of the bank balance, \$1,798,470 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance, \$2,303,112 was covered by Depositors Insurance Fund, \$6,737,508 was collateralized, and \$4,056,151 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and uncollateralized.

Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the Town had the following investments:

Investment Type	Fair value	Maturities		
		Under 1 Year	1-5 Years	6-10 Years
<u>Debt securities:</u>				
U.S. treasury notes.....	\$ 814,637	\$ 175,039	\$ 639,598	\$ -
Government sponsored enterprises.....	99,387	-	99,387	-
Corporate bonds.....	1,088,840	204,150	766,091	118,599
Total debt securities.....	2,002,864	\$ 379,189	\$ 1,505,076	\$ 118,599
<u>Other investments:</u>				
Equity securities.....	6,955,428			
Equity mutual funds.....	3,960,870			
Fixed income.....	3,393,643			
Mutual funds.....	2,079,320			
Closed end investment companies.....	257,443			
Money market mutual funds.....	68,192			
MMDT - Cash portfolio.....	1,848,318			
Total investments.....	\$ 20,566,078			

The Town participates in MMDT, which maintains a cash portfolio and a short-term bond fund with combined average maturities of approximately 33 days.

Custodial Credit Risk – Investments

For an investment, this is the risk that, in the event of a failure by the counterparty, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral security that are in the possession of an outside party. The Town's investments of \$814,637 in U.S. treasury notes, \$99,387 in government sponsored enterprises, \$1,088,840 in corporate bonds, \$2,692,578 in equity securities and \$602,169 in fixed income securities are all registered in the Town's name. The remaining \$6,346,474 in equity securities and \$3,373,797 in fixed income securities have custodial credit risk exposure because the related securities are uninsured, unregistered and are not held in the Town's name.

The Town has adopted a custodial credit risk policy requiring the Treasurer to review the financial statements of institutions that hold custody of Town deposits or securities, and the background of the sales representative. The intent of this qualification is to limit the Town's exposure to only those institutions with a proven financial strength, capital adequacy, and an overall affirmative reputation in the municipal industry. Furthermore, all securities not held directly by the Town be held in the Town's name and tax identification number by a third party custodian

approved by the Treasurer and evidenced by safekeeping receipts showing individual CUSIP numbers for each security.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in the market interest rates. The Town’s investment policy states that the Town will manage interest rate risk by managing the duration of investments that are held in an account.

Credit Risk

The Town’s policy for credit risk states the Town will manage credit risk several ways. There will be no limit to the amount of U.S. treasury and U.S. government agency obligations. In regard to other investments, the Town will only purchase investment grade securities. All other securities the Town purchases must be investment grade, a high concentration of which must be rated A or above. The Town may invest in the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT) with no limit to the amount of funds placed in the fund.

The Town’s investments at June 30, 2023, are rated as follows:

<u>Quality Rating</u>	<u>Government Sponsored Enterprises</u>	<u>Corporate Bonds</u>
AAA.....	\$ -	\$ 96,163
AA+.....	99,387	-
A+.....	-	301,299
A.....	-	105,779
A-.....	-	303,268
BBB+.....	-	77,288
BBB.....	-	205,043
Total.....	<u>\$ 99,387</u>	<u>\$ 1,088,840</u>

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the government’s investment in a single issuer. The Town does not have a formal policy that limits the amount it may invest in a single issuer.

Fair Value of Investments

The Town holds investments that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis. Because investing is not a core part of the Town’s mission, the Town determines that the disclosures related to these investments only need to be disaggregated by major type. The Town chooses a tabular format for disclosing the levels within the fair value hierarchy.

The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

The Town has the following recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	June 30, 2023	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Investments measured at fair value:				
<u>Debt securities:</u>				
U.S. treasury notes.....	\$ 814,637	\$ 814,637	\$ -	\$ -
Government sponsored enterprises.....	99,387	99,387	-	-
Corporate bonds.....	1,088,840	-	1,088,840	-
Total debt securities.....	2,002,864	914,024	1,088,840	-
<u>Other investments:</u>				
Equity securities.....	6,955,428	6,955,428	-	-
Equity mutual funds.....	3,960,870	3,960,870	-	-
Fixed income.....	3,393,643	3,393,643	-	-
Mutual funds.....	2,079,320	2,079,320	-	-
Closed end investment companies.....	257,443	-	-	257,443
Money market mutual funds.....	68,192	68,192	-	-
Total other investments.....	16,714,896	16,457,453	-	257,443
Total investments measured at fair value.....	\$ 18,717,760	\$ 17,371,477	\$ 1,088,840	\$ 257,443
Investments measured at amortized cost:				
MMDT - Cash portfolio.....	1,848,318			
Total investments.....	\$ 20,566,078			

U.S. Treasury notes, government sponsored enterprises, equity securities, fixed income and money market mutual funds classified in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities. Corporate bonds classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy are valued using a matrix pricing technique. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities’ relationship to benchmark quoted prices.

The Town holds investments in MMDT Cash Portfolio which are valued at amortized cost. The total value of the portfolio as of June 30, 2023, is \$1,848,318. Under the amortized cost valuation method, an investment is valued initially at its cost and thereafter adjusted for the amount of interest income accrued each day over the term of the investment to account for any difference between the initial cost of the investment and the amount payable at its maturity. If amortized cost is determined not to approximate fair value, the value of the portfolio securities will be determined under procedures established by MMDT’s adviser.

NOTE 3 – RECEIVABLES

At June 30, 2023, receivables for the governmental funds, in the aggregate, including the applicable allowance for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
<u>Receivables:</u>			
Real estate and personal property taxes.....	\$ 255,483	\$ -	\$ 255,483
Tax liens.....	367,971	-	367,971
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	96,901	-	96,901
Departmental and other.....	257,848	(136,649)	121,199
Intergovernmental - other.....	502,965	-	502,965
Total.....	<u>\$ 1,481,168</u>	<u>\$ (136,649)</u>	<u>\$ 1,344,519</u>

At June 30, 2023, receivables for the water enterprise consist of the following:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
<u>Receivables:</u>			
Water user charges.....	\$ 693,238	\$ -	\$ 693,238

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. At the end of the current fiscal year, the various components of *deferred inflows of resources* reported in the governmental funds were as follows:

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total
<u>Receivables and other asset types:</u>			
Real estate and personal property taxes.....	\$ 243,349	\$ -	\$ 243,349
Tax liens.....	367,971	-	367,971
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	96,901	-	96,901
Departmental and other.....	121,199	-	121,199
Intergovernmental - other.....	-	215,813	215,813
Tax foreclosures.....	33,939	-	33,939
Total.....	<u>\$ 863,359</u>	<u>\$ 215,813</u>	<u>\$ 1,079,172</u>

NOTE 4 – CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities:				
<u>Capital assets not being depreciated:</u>				
Land.....	\$ 5,691,577	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,691,577
Construction in progress.....	437,096	523,110	(437,096)	523,110
Total capital assets not being depreciated....	6,128,673	523,110	(437,096)	6,214,687
<u>Capital assets being depreciated:</u>				
Buildings.....	35,986,981	141,882	-	36,128,863
Improvements.....	333,982	193,361	-	527,343
Equipment.....	2,558,945	187,388	-	2,746,333
Vehicles.....	3,807,922	62,012	(65,164)	3,804,770
Infrastructure.....	15,716,727	580,293	-	16,297,020
Total capital assets being depreciated.....	58,404,557	1,164,936	(65,164)	59,504,329
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>				
Buildings.....	(12,627,728)	(1,011,742)	-	(13,639,470)
Improvements.....	(202,178)	(23,039)	-	(225,217)
Equipment.....	(1,428,569)	(249,669)	-	(1,678,238)
Vehicles.....	(2,228,552)	(181,111)	65,164	(2,344,499)
Infrastructure.....	(9,809,342)	(182,475)	-	(9,991,817)
Total accumulated depreciation.....	(26,296,369)	(1,648,036)	65,164	(27,879,241)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net.....	32,108,188	(483,100)	-	31,625,088
Total governmental activities capital assets, net....	\$ 38,236,861	\$ 40,010	\$ (437,096)	\$ 37,839,775
	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Business-Type Activities:				
<u>Capital assets not being depreciated:</u>				
Land.....	\$ 323,038	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323,038
<u>Capital assets being depreciated:</u>				
Buildings.....	12,049,514	-	-	12,049,514
Improvements.....	10,400	-	-	10,400
Equipment.....	129,342	-	-	129,342
Vehicles.....	132,418	-	-	132,418
Infrastructure.....	11,300,016	-	-	11,300,016
Total capital assets being depreciated.....	23,621,690	-	-	23,621,690
<u>Less accumulated depreciation for:</u>				
Buildings.....	(1,120,130)	(299,381)	-	(1,419,511)
Improvements.....	(10,400)	-	-	(10,400)
Equipment.....	(102,875)	(3,700)	-	(106,575)
Vehicles.....	(132,419)	-	-	(132,419)
Infrastructure.....	(5,936,083)	(244,199)	-	(6,180,282)
Total accumulated depreciation.....	(7,301,907)	(547,280)	-	(7,849,187)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net.....	16,319,783	(547,280)	-	15,772,503
Total business-type activities capital assets, net....	\$ 16,642,821	\$ (547,280)	\$ -	\$ 16,095,541

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental Activities:	
General government.....	\$ 265,859
Public safety.....	257,052
Education.....	662,794
Public works.....	358,305
Health and human services.....	7,425
Culture and recreation.....	<u>96,601</u>
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities.....	<u>\$ 1,648,036</u>
 Business-Type Activities:	
Water.....	<u>\$ 547,280</u>

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Interfund transfers for the end of year, are summarized as follows:

Transfers Out:	Transfers In:		
	General fund	Nonmajor governmental funds	Total
General fund.....	\$ -	\$ 180,000	\$ 180,000 (1)
Nonmajor governmental funds.....	301,859	-	301,859 (2)
Water fund.....	<u>190,671</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>190,671 (3)</u>
Total.....	<u>\$ 492,530</u>	<u>\$ 180,000</u>	<u>\$ 672,530</u>

- (1) Transfer out of the general fund and into nonmajor funds for compensated absences, and unemployment compensation.
- (2) Transfers out of nonmajor governmental funds to the general fund, from the ARPA fund, Gould Expendable funds, Revolving funds and the Cable Advisory Committee fund.
- (3) Transfer into the general fund from the water enterprise fund, for indirect costs supplementation.

NOTE 6 – SHORT-TERM FINANCING

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

- Current operating costs prior to the collection of revenues through issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes (RANS or TANS).
- Capital project costs and other approved expenditures incurred prior to obtaining permanent financing through issuance of bond anticipation notes (BANS) or grant anticipation notes (GANS).

Short-term loans are general obligations of the Town and carry maturity dates that are limited by statute. Interest expenditures for short-term borrowings are accounted for in the General Fund.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town did not have any short-term debt activity.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT

State law permits the Town, under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 10, to authorize indebtedness up to a limit of 5% of its equalized valuation. Debt issued in accordance with this section of the law is designated as being "inside the debt limit". In addition, however, a Town may authorize debt in excess of that limit for specific purposes. Such debt, when issued, is designated as being "outside the debt limit".

Details related to the Town's debt service requirements at June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Bonds Payable Schedule

Project	Maturities Through	Original Loan Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Outstanding at June 30, 2023
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2025	\$ 172,000	3.00-4.00	\$ 50,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2036	172,300	3.00-4.00	145,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2036	947,000	3.00-4.00	735,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2025	108,000	3.00-4.00	28,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2029	103,500	3.00-4.00	54,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2028	46,000	3.00-4.00	23,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2043	1,487,000	3.00-4.00	1,280,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2019.....	2044	5,800,000	3.00-4.00	5,225,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2019.....	2038	3,246,000	3.00-4.00	2,840,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2020.....	2045	2,182,000	2.00-5.00	2,012,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2020.....	2038	1,665,000	2.00-5.00	1,460,000
				13,852,000
Total Bonds Payable.....				13,852,000
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds.....				485,091
Total Bonds Payable, net.....				\$ 14,337,091

Debt service requirements for principal and interest for governmental bonds payable in future years are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024.....\$	620,000	\$ 476,066	\$ 1,096,066
2025.....	635,000	446,641	1,081,641
2026.....	630,000	416,916	1,046,916
2027.....	670,000	386,966	1,056,966
2028.....	700,000	355,941	1,055,941
2029.....	720,000	325,041	1,045,041
2030.....	730,000	295,066	1,025,066
2031.....	740,000	269,816	1,009,816
2032.....	750,000	249,417	999,417
2033.....	770,000	228,449	998,449
2034.....	775,000	206,381	981,381
2035.....	785,000	185,211	970,211
2036.....	775,000	162,977	937,977
2037.....	745,000	141,143	886,143
2038.....	755,000	118,895	873,895
2039.....	465,000	97,706	562,706
2040.....	477,000	83,007	560,007
2041.....	495,000	67,537	562,537
2042.....	510,000	50,862	560,862
2043.....	530,000	33,606	563,606
2044.....	455,000	17,225	472,225
2045.....	120,000	1,800	121,800
Total..... \$	<u>13,852,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,616,669</u>	<u>\$ 18,468,669</u>

Bonds Payable Schedule – Enterprise Fund

Details related to the Water Enterprise Fund's debt service requirements at June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Project	Maturities Through	Original Loan Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Outstanding at June 30, 2023
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2035	\$ 930,900	3.00-4.00	\$ 688,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2018.....	2035	626,600	3.00-4.00	457,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2019	2039	3,465,000	3.00-5.00	2,765,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2019	2039	3,734,000	3.00-5.00	2,975,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2020.....	2040	1,630,000	2.00-5.00	1,375,000
Municipal Purpose Bonds of 2020.....	2040	918,000	2.00-5.00	768,000
Municipal Purpose Refunding Bonds of 2021...	2026	176,300	0.86%	102,800
Municipal Purpose Refunding Bonds of 2021...	2026	156,100	0.86%	88,000
Total Bonds Payable.....				<u>9,218,800</u>
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds.....				<u>263,786</u>
Total Bonds Payable, net.....				<u>\$ 9,482,586</u>

Debt service requirements for principal and interest for Water Enterprise Fund bonds payable in future years are as follows:

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024.....	\$ 650,500	\$ 309,558	\$ 960,058
2025.....	643,600	284,203	927,803
2026.....	636,700	259,091	895,791
2027.....	570,000	232,835	802,835
2028.....	560,000	206,388	766,388
2029.....	560,000	182,888	742,888
2030.....	560,000	161,513	721,513
2031.....	560,000	143,488	703,488
2032.....	560,000	127,907	687,907
2033.....	555,000	112,231	667,231
2034.....	555,000	96,356	651,356
2035.....	555,000	80,207	635,207
2036.....	555,000	63,549	618,549
2037.....	555,000	46,676	601,676
2038.....	545,000	29,620	574,620
2039.....	480,000	13,640	493,640
2040.....	118,000	1,446	119,446
Total.....	\$ 9,218,800	\$ 2,351,596	\$ 11,570,396

The Town is subject to various debt limits by statute and may issue additional general obligation debt under the normal debt limit. At June 30, 2023, the Town had the following authorized and unissued debt:

Purpose	Amount
Water Storage Tank Replacement.....	\$ 3,000,000

Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities:

	Beginning Balance	Bonds and Notes Issued	Bonds and Notes Redeemed	Other Increases	Other Decreases	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities:							
Long-term bonds payable.....	\$ 14,442,000	\$ -	\$ (590,000)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,852,000	\$ 620,000
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds.....	531,261	-	-	-	(46,170)	485,091	44,067
Total bonds payable.....	14,973,261	-	(590,000)	-	(46,170)	14,337,091	664,067
Landfill closure.....	685,463	-	-	-	(25,510)	659,953	27,875
Compensated absences.....	193,767	-	-	94,225	(48,442)	239,550	59,888
Net pension liability.....	11,095,709	-	-	5,331,759	(1,441,532)	14,985,936	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability..	13,619,844	-	-	977,946	(789,374)	13,808,416	-
Total governmental activity long-term liabilities.....	\$ 40,568,044	\$ -	\$ (590,000)	\$ 6,403,930	\$ (2,351,028)	\$ 44,030,946	\$ 751,830
Business-Type Activities:							
Long-term bonds payable.....	\$ 9,871,100	\$ -	\$ (652,300)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,218,800	\$ 612,689
Add: Unamortized premium on bonds.....	305,577	-	-	-	(41,791)	263,786	37,811
Total bonds payable.....	10,176,677	-	(652,300)	-	(41,791)	9,482,586	650,500
Compensated absences.....	15,810	-	-	28,352	(3,953)	40,209	10,052
Net pension liability.....	904,122	-	-	354,125	(110,413)	1,147,834	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability..	95,113	-	-	6,830	(5,513)	96,430	-
Total business-type activity long-term liabilities.....	\$ 11,191,722	\$ -	\$ (652,300)	\$ 389,307	\$ (161,670)	\$ 10,767,059	\$ 660,552

NOTE 8 – GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Town classifies fund balance according to the constraints imposed on the uses of the resources. There are two major types of fund balances, which are nonspendable and spendable. Nonspendable fund balances are balances that cannot be spent because they are not expected to be converted to cash or they are legally or contractually required to remain intact. Examples of this classification are prepaid items, inventories, and principal (corpus) of an endowment fund. The Town has reported principal portions of endowment funds as nonspendable.

In addition to the nonspendable fund balance, accounting standards have provided a hierarchy of spendable fund balances, based on a hierarchy of spending constraints.

- Restricted: fund balances that are constrained by external parties, constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation.
- Committed: fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government from its highest level of decision making authority.
- Assigned: fund balances that contain self-imposed constraints of the government to be used for a particular purpose.
- Unassigned: fund balance of the general fund that is not constrained for any particular purpose.

The Town has classified its fund balances with the following hierarchy:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Gould Trust Fund</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable:				
Permanent fund principal.....	\$ -	\$ 11,660,776	\$ 931,559	\$ 12,592,335
Restricted for:				
Gould trust fund.....	-	965,315	-	965,315
School lunch fund.....	-	-	203,676	203,676
Federal grant fund.....	-	-	1,192,494	1,192,494
School special revenue fund.....	-	-	985,211	985,211
School federal grant fund.....	-	-	247,191	247,191
Gifts and grants.....	-	-	142,609	142,609
Revolving fund.....	-	-	27,288	27,288
State grant fund.....	-	-	152,322	152,322
Other special revenue.....	-	-	683,011	683,011
Cemetery.....	-	-	371,164	371,164
Town hall renovation fund.....	-	-	913	913
Other capital project fund.....	-	-	2,663	2,663
School roof projects.....	-	-	71,343	71,343
Expendable permanent trust fund.....	-	-	451,707	451,707
Other permanent fund.....	-	-	76,911	76,911
Committed to:				
Articles and continuing appropriations:				
General government.....	84,811	-	-	84,811
Public safety.....	108,270	-	-	108,270
Education.....	114,026	-	-	114,026
Public works.....	126,084	-	-	126,084
Assigned to:				
General government.....	21,908	-	-	21,908
Public safety.....	1,440	-	-	1,440
Education.....	177,180	-	-	177,180
Public works.....	577	-	-	577
Free cash used for subsequent year budget.....	2,090,462	-	-	2,090,462
Unassigned.....	6,744,393	-	-	6,744,393
Total Fund Balances.....	<u>\$ 9,469,151</u>	<u>\$ 12,626,091</u>	<u>\$ 5,540,062</u>	<u>\$ 27,635,304</u>

Massachusetts General Law Ch.40 §5B allows for the establishment of stabilization funds for one or more different purposes. The creation of a fund requires a two-thirds vote of the legislative body and must clearly define the purpose of the fund. Any change to the purpose of the fund along with any additions to or appropriations from the fund requires a two-thirds vote of the legislative body. At year end the balances for the general stabilization fund, capital stabilization fund and ambulance stabilization fund totaled \$1.8 million, \$1.2 million and \$268,000 are reported as unassigned fund balance within the general fund.

NOTE 9 – 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 Town participates in premium-based health care plans for its employees and retirees. The Town participates in a premium-based workers' compensation insurance plan for its employees.

The Town provides health insurance through the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA). MIIA is a partner with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. This partnership allows the Town to offer a variety of competitive health plans for employees. The Town pays between 60% - 70% of the premium.

NOTE 10 – PENSION PLAN

Plan Description

The Town is a member of the Essex Regional Retirement System (ERRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan covering eligible employees of the 47 member units. The System is administered by five board members (Board) on behalf of all current employees and retirees except for current teachers and retired teachers. Chapter 32 of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. The System issues a publicly available, audited financial report that may be obtained by contacting the System located at 491 Maple Street, Suite 202, Danvers, MA 01923 or by visiting www.essexregional.com.

Special Funding Situation

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make 100% of all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the Town to 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* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS. Since the Town does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. The total of the Commonwealth provided contributions have been allocated based on each employer's covered payroll to the total covered payroll of employers in MTRS as of the measurement date of June 30, 2022. The Town's portion of the collective pension expense, contributed by the Commonwealth, of \$1,610,534 is reported in the general fund as intergovernmental revenue and pension expense in the current year. The portion of the Commonwealth's collective net pension liability associated with the Town is \$19,578,638 as of the measurement date.

Benefits Provided

The System provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Massachusetts Contributory Retirement System benefits are, with certain minor exceptions, uniform from system to system. The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest three-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For persons who became members on or after April 2, 2012, average salary is the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the five consecutive years that produce the highest average, or, if greater, during the last five years (whether or not consecutive)

preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation, and group classification. Members become vested after ten years of creditable service.

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance or are under the age of 55 are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Survivor benefits are extended to eligible beneficiaries of members whose death occurs prior to or following retirement.

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. Cost-of-living adjustments granted after 1997 must be approved by the Board and are borne by the System.

There were no changes in benefit terms that affect the measurement of the total pension liability this year.

Contributions

Chapter 32 of the MGL governs the contributions of plan members and member units. Active plan members are required to contribute to the System at rates ranging from 5% to 9% of gross regular compensation with an additional 2% contribution required for compensation exceeding \$30,000. The percentage rate is keyed to the date upon which an employee's membership commences. The member units are required to pay into the ERRS a legislatively mandated actuarially determined contribution that is apportioned among the employers based on active current payroll. The Town's proportionate share of the required contribution was \$1,547,146, which exceeded its actual contribution of \$1,551,945 by \$4,799 for the year ended December 31, 2022, and was 27.87% of covered payroll, actuarially determined as an amount that, when combined with plan member contributions, is expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by plan members during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability.

Pension Liabilities

At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a liability of \$16,133,770 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The 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. The Town's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members. At December 31, 2022, the Town's proportion was 3.48%, which increased from 3.46% its proportion measured at December 31, 2021.

Pension Expense

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town recognized pension expense of \$1,866,000. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to pensions of \$2,694,161 and \$468,140, respectively, from the net difference between expected and actual experience, between projected and actual investment earnings on pension plan investments along with changes in proportion.

The balances of deferred outflows and inflows at June 30, 2023 consist of the following:

Deferred Category	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Total
Differences between expected and actual experience.....	\$ 503	\$ (277,079)	\$ (276,576)
Difference between projected and actual earnings, net.....	1,496,041		1,496,041
Changes in assumptions.....	880,438	-	880,438
Changes in proportion and proportionate share of contributions...	317,179	(191,061)	126,118
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 2,694,161	\$ (468,140)	\$ 2,226,021

The Town’s deferred outflows/ (inflows) of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
1900.....	\$ 440,907
1900.....	407,166
1900.....	467,417
1900.....	910,531
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 2,226,021

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement that was updated to December 31, 2022:

Valuation date.....	January 1, 2022
Salary increases.....	Based on years of service, ranging from 7.50% at 0 years of service decreasing to 3.75% after 5 years of service.
Net investment return/Discount rate.....	7.00%
Wage inflation rate.....	3.50%
Cost of living adjustments.....	3% of first \$16,000.
Mortality Rates:	
Pre-Retirement.....	RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.
Healthy Retiree.....	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.
Disabled Retiree.....	RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward two years projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.

Investment Policy

The pension plan’s policy in regard to the allocation of invested assets is established by PRIT. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the pension plan.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension 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 pension 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. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan’s target asset allocation as of January 1, 2022, are summarized below.

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity.....	21.20%	7.10%
International developed markets equity.....	12.20%	6.90%
International emerging markets equity.....	4.70%	9.60%
Core fixed income.....	13.80%	4.70%
High-yield fixed income.....	7.00%	3.80%
Private equity.....	17.70%	10.20%
Real estate.....	11.20%	5.70%
Timberland.....	3.20%	7.00%
Hedge fund, PCS.....	9.00%	6.50%
Total.....	100.00%	

Rate of Return

For the year ended December 31, 2022, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expenses, was -11.36%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expenses, adjusted for the changing amount actually invested.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’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 of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the net pension liability, calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
The Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability.....	\$ 20,494,599	\$ 16,133,770	\$ 12,472,148

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued Essex Regional Retirement System financial report.

Changes in Assumptions

The net investment return assumption decreased from 7.30% to 7.00%.

The mortality assumption was revised to update the mortality improvement projection scale from MP-2019 to MP-2021 and to change the age set forward for disabled participants from two years to one year.

The administrative expense assumption increased from \$1,000,000 for calendar year 2020 to \$1,150,000 for calendar year 2023.

Changes in Plan Provisions

The System increased the COLA base from \$14,000 to \$16,000.

NOTE 11 – POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS*Plan Description*

The Town of Topsfield administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("the Retiree Health Plan"). The plan provides healthcare, dental, and life insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the Town's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members. Chapter 32B of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. Benefit provisions are negotiated between the Town and the unions representing Town employees and are renegotiated each bargaining period. The Retiree Health Plan does not issue a publicly available financial report.

Funding Policy

The contribution requirements of plan members and the Town are established and may be amended by the Town. The required contribution is based on a pay-as-you-go financing requirement. The Town contributes 70 percent of the cost of current-year premiums for health and life insurance for eligible retired plan members and their spouses. Plan members receiving benefits contribute the remaining 30 percent of their premium costs for health and life insurance and all of the premiums related to dental insurance. During 2023, the Town contributed approximately \$1,018,978 to the plan.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed special legislation that has allowed the Town to establish a postemployment benefit trust fund for the purpose of accumulating assets to pre-fund its OPEB liabilities. The Town Treasurer is the custodian and Trustee of the OPEB Fund. The Trustee has the authority to employ an Executive Director, outside investment managers, custodians, consultants, and others as it deems necessary to formulate policies and procedures and to take such other actions as necessary and appropriate to manage the assets.

During 2023, the Town pre-funded future OPEB liabilities totaling approximately \$362,797 by contributing funds to the Other Postemployment Benefit Fund in excess of the pay-as-you-go required contribution. These funds are reported within the Fiduciary Funds financial statements. As of June 30, 2023, the balance of this fund totaled \$2,674,330. The Town has adopted a long-term policy of pre-funding future OPEB liabilities. The policy may be amended at any time by the Town's Select Board.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms

The following table represents the Plan’s membership at June 30, 2023:

Active members.....	190
Inactive members currently receiving benefits.....	<u>122</u>
Total.....	<u><u>312</u></u>

Components of OPEB Liability

The following table represents the components of the Plan’s OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023:

Total OPEB liability.....	\$ 16,579,176
Less: OPEB plan's fiduciary net position.....	<u>(2,674,330)</u>
Net OPEB liability.....	<u><u>\$ 13,904,846</u></u>
The OPEB plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability.....	16.13%

Significant Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The total OPEB liability in the July 1, 2021 actuarial valuation was determined by using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods including the measurement date that was updated to June 30, 2023.

Valuation date.....	Actuarially Determined Contribution was calculated as of July 1, 2021.
Actuarial cost method.....	Individual Entry Age Normal.
Asset valuation method.....	Market Value of Assets as of the Measurement Date, June 30, 2023.
Investment rate of return.....	6.15%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Municipal bond rate.....	4.13% as of June 30, 2023 (source: S&P Municipal Bond 20-Year High Grade Index - SAPIHG).
Single equivalent discount rate.....	6.07%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Inflation.....	2.50% as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods.
Salary increases.....	3.00% annually as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods.

Pre-retirement mortality.....	<p>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.</p> <p>Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females.</p>
Post-retirement mortality.....	<p>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.</p> <p>Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females.</p>
Disabled mortality.....	<p>General: RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year.</p> <p>Teachers: RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females.</p>

Rate of Return

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 7.69%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

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 pension 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 Plan’s expected future real rate of return of 3.90% is added to the expected inflation of 2.50% to produce the long-term expected nominal rate of return of 6.40%. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the OPEB plan’s target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table.

Asset Class	Long-Term Expected Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity - Large Cap.....	26.00%	4.10%
Domestic Equity - Small/Mid Cap.....	15.75%	4.55%
International Equity - Developed Market.....	13.75%	4.64%
International Equity - Emerging Market.....	8.75%	5.45%
Domestic Fixed Income.....	18.25%	1.05%
International Fixed Income.....	4.50%	0.96%
Alternatives.....	9.75%	5.95%
Real estate.....	3.00%	6.25%
Cash & Cash Equivalents.....	0.25%	0.00%
Total.....	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 6.07% as of June 30, 2023 and 6.03% as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made in accordance with the Plan's funding policy. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be sufficient to make all projected benefit payments to current plan members. Therefore the long-term expected rate of return on the OPEB plan assets was applied to all periods of projected future benefits payments as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost, calculated using the discount rate of 6.07%, as well as what the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.07%) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.07%) than the current rate.

	<u>1% Decrease (5.07%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (6.07%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.07%)</u>
Net OPEB liability.....	\$ 16,242,184	\$ 13,904,846	\$ 12,008,091

Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Trend Rate

The following table presents the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost, calculated using the current healthcare trend rate of, as well as what the net other postemployment benefit liability and service cost would be if it were calculated using a healthcare trend rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
Net OPEB liability.....	\$ 11,792,533	\$ 13,904,846	\$ 16,511,348

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the Plan and additions to/deductions from the Plan's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the Plan. For this purpose, the Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value, except for money market investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts (repurchase agreements) that have a maturity at the time of purchase of one year or less, which are reported at cost.

Changes in the Net OPEB Liability

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Plan		
	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability (a) - (b)
Balances at January 00, 1900.....	\$ 15,837,833	\$ 2,122,876	\$ 13,714,957
Changes for the year:			
Service cost.....	497,913	-	497,913
Interest.....	965,551	-	965,551
Changes in assumptions and other inputs.....	(65,940)	-	(65,940)
Net investment income.....	-	188,657	(188,657)
Employer contributions to Trust.....	-	1,018,978	(1,018,978)
Benefit Payments.....	(656,181)	(656,181)	-
Net change.....	741,343	551,454	189,889
Balances at June 30, 2023.....	\$ 16,579,176	\$ 2,674,330	\$ 13,904,846

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2023 the Town recognized OPEB expense of \$998,555. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

Deferred Category	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Total
Differences between expected and actual experience.....	\$ -	\$ (1,492,110)	\$ (1,492,110)
Difference between projected and actual earnings, net.....	157,826	-	157,826
Changes in assumptions.....	2,487,849	(807,426)	1,680,423
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 2,645,675	\$ (2,299,536)	\$ 346,139

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

Year ended June 30:	
1900.....	\$ (219,492)
1900.....	(149,101)
1900.....	294,027
1900.....	328,628
1900.....	95,419
Thereafter.....	(3,342)
Total deferred outflows/(inflows) of resources.....	\$ 346,139

Changes of Assumptions:

The discount rate has been changed from 6.03% to 6.07%.

Changes in Plan Provisions

None.

NOTE 12 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Town participates in a number of federal award programs. These programs are subject to financial and compliance audits. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the granting agencies cannot be determined at this time, although the Town expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Various legal actions and claims are pending against the Town. Litigation is subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigated matters is not always predictable. Although the amount of liability, if any, at June 30, 2023, cannot be ascertained, management believes any resulting liability should not materially affect the financial position of the Town at June 30, 2023.

The general fund has various commitments for goods and services related to articles and encumbrances totaling \$634,000.

It is possible that the Town may be responsible for costs associated with PFAS remediation, and these future costs may be significant. While the amounts may be substantial the ultimate liability cannot be determined because of the considerable uncertainties that exist. Therefore, it is possible that there could be material negative outcomes affected by certain contingencies existing as of June 30, 2023. The full extent of the financial impact cannot be determined at the date of the financial statements.

NOTE 13 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 19, 2023 which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 14 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

During 2023, the following GASB pronouncements were implemented:

- GASB Statement #91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.
- GASB Statement #99, *Omnibus 2022*. This pronouncement did not impact the basic financial statements.

The following GASB pronouncements will be implemented in the future:

- The GASB issued Statement #100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, which is required to be implemented in 2024.
- The GASB issued Statement #101, *Compensated Absences*, which is required to be implemented in 2025.

Management is currently assessing the impact the implementation of these pronouncements will have on the basic financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information

Budgetary Comparison Schedules

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Town. It is used to account for all of the Town's financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The Community Preservation Fund is used to account for the proceeds of a surcharge to real estate taxes along with a matching state grant.

GENERAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Budgetary Amounts	Amounts Carried Forward To Next Year	Variance to Final Budget
	Original Budget	Final Budget			
REVENUES:					
Real estate and personal property taxes, net of tax refunds.....	\$ 27,059,608	\$ 27,059,608	\$ 27,164,107	\$ -	\$ 104,499
Tax liens.....	-	-	85,496	-	85,496
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes.....	1,033,000	1,033,000	1,353,626	-	320,626
Penalties and interest on taxes.....	32,000	32,000	50,344	-	18,344
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	82,000	82,000	74,887	-	(7,113)
Licenses and permits.....	271,500	271,500	389,278	-	117,778
Fines and forfeitures.....	18,000	18,000	20,448	-	2,448
Intergovernmental - state aid.....	2,301,984	2,301,984	2,335,396	-	33,412
Departmental and other.....	325,000	325,000	680,437	-	355,437
Investment income.....	18,500	18,500	280,694	-	262,194
Miscellaneous.....	153,887	153,887	159,695	-	5,808
TOTAL REVENUES.....	31,295,479	31,295,479	32,594,408	-	1,298,929
EXPENDITURES:					
Current:					
General government.....	1,894,071	1,900,941	1,644,127	106,719	150,095
Public safety.....	3,226,975	3,273,075	2,988,058	109,710	175,307
Education.....	19,227,117	19,227,118	18,871,479	291,205	64,434
Public works.....	2,081,148	2,121,657	1,816,169	126,661	178,827
Health and human services.....	299,442	281,409	260,557	-	20,852
Culture and recreation.....	707,220	712,283	675,658	-	36,625
Pension benefits.....	1,547,146	1,547,146	1,547,146	-	-
Employee benefits.....	2,763,687	2,683,177	2,524,110	-	159,067
State and county charges.....	253,174	253,174	216,009	-	37,165
Debt service:					
Principal.....	590,000	590,000	590,000	-	-
Interest.....	506,864	506,864	506,364	-	500
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	33,096,844	33,096,844	31,639,677	634,295	822,872
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES.....	(1,801,365)	(1,801,365)	954,731	(634,295)	2,121,801
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
Use of prior year reserves.....	383,510	383,510	-	-	(383,510)
Use of free cash.....	1,990,325	1,990,325	-	-	(1,990,325)
Transfers in.....	492,530	492,530	492,530	-	-
Transfers out.....	(1,065,000)	(1,065,000)	(1,065,000)	-	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES).....	1,801,365	1,801,365	(572,470)	-	(2,373,835)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE.....	-	-	382,261	(634,295)	(252,034)
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year.....	5,797,687	5,797,687	5,797,687	-	-
BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE, End of year.....	\$ 5,797,687	\$ 5,797,687	\$ 6,179,948	\$ (634,295)	\$ (252,034)

See notes to required supplementary information.

Pension Plan Schedules

The Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability presents multi-year trend information on the Town's net pension liability and related ratios.

The Schedule of the Town's Contributions presents multi-year trend information on the Town's required and actual contributions to the pension plan and related ratios.

The Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability for the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System presents multi-year trend information on the liability and expense assumed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of the Town along with related ratios.

These schedules are intended to present information for ten years. Until a ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

**SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Year	Proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	Proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	Covered payroll	Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
December 31, 2022.....	3.48%	\$ 16,133,770	\$ 5,568,747	289.72%	57.57%
December 31, 2021.....	3.46%	11,999,831	5,256,907	228.27%	67.01%
December 31, 2020.....	3.54%	14,034,803	5,033,054	278.85%	59.73%
December 31, 2019.....	3.41%	14,362,415	4,841,572	296.65%	55.46%
December 31, 2018.....	3.35%	14,141,999	4,544,928	311.16%	51.89%
December 31, 2017.....	3.39%	12,768,498	4,366,319	292.43%	55.40%
December 31, 2016.....	3.53%	13,593,536	4,405,007	308.59%	51.12%
December 31, 2015.....	3.44%	12,512,102	4,486,856	278.86%	51.01%
December 31, 2014.....	3.38%	11,477,481	4,050,676	283.35%	52.27%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.

Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

**SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S CONTRIBUTIONS
ESSEX REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Year	Actuarially determined contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll
June 30, 2023.....	\$ 1,547,146	\$ (1,551,945)	\$ (4,799)	\$ 5,568,747	27.87%
June 30, 2022.....	1,432,033	(1,434,539)	(2,506)	5,256,907	27.29%
June 30, 2021.....	1,365,197	(1,367,672)	(2,475)	5,083,385	26.90%
June 30, 2020.....	1,224,339	(1,226,814)	(2,475)	4,889,988	25.09%
June 30, 2019.....	1,118,667	(1,121,142)	(2,475)	4,590,377	24.42%
June 30, 2018.....	1,056,547	(1,058,923)	(2,376)	4,409,982	24.01%
June 30, 2017.....	1,022,265	(1,024,777)	(2,512)	4,449,057	23.03%
June 30, 2016.....	946,077	(948,614)	(2,537)	4,531,725	20.93%
June 30, 2015.....	867,685	(867,685)	-	4,091,183	21.21%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

**SCHEDULE OF THE SPECIAL FUNDING AMOUNTS
OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Therefore, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the Commonwealth's 100% share of the associated collective net pension liability; the portion of the collective pension expense as both a revenue and pension expense recognized; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

Year	Commonwealth's 100% Share of the Associated Net Pension Liability	Expense and Revenue Recognized for the Commonwealth's Support	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Liability
2023.....	\$ 19,578,638	\$ 1,610,534	57.75%
2022.....	18,244,523	1,464,047	62.03%
2021.....	22,377,096	2,763,892	50.67%
2020.....	19,368,216	2,348,732	53.95%
2019.....	18,211,552	1,845,477	54.84%
2018.....	17,178,385	1,792,958	54.25%
2017.....	16,424,903	1,675,448	52.73%
2016.....	15,159,297	1,229,554	55.38%
2015.....	10,923,645	758,918	61.64%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

Other Postemployment Benefit Plan Schedules

The Schedule of Changes in the Town's Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios presents multi-year trend information on changes in the Plan's total OPEB liability, changes in the Plan's net position, and ending net OPEB liability. It also demonstrates the Plan's net position as a percentage of the total liability and the Plan's net other postemployment benefit liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll.

The Schedule of the Town's Contributions presents multi-year trend information on the Town's actual contributions to the other postemployment benefit plan and related ratios.

The Schedule of Investment Returns presents multi-year trend information on the money-weighted investment return on the Plan's other postemployment assets, net of investment expense.

These schedules are intended to present information for ten years. Until a ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE
TOWN'S NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN**

	June 30, 2017	June 30, 2018	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2023
Total OPEB Liability							
Service Cost.....	\$ 597,061	\$ 525,119	\$ 524,237	\$ 343,359	\$ 356,201	\$ 389,385	\$ 497,913
Interest.....	708,300	719,231	795,773	802,278	830,484	859,865	965,551
Differences between expected and actual experience....	-	(2,132,648)	-	(1,686,106)	-	(1,271,850)	-
Changes of assumptions.....	-	-	(467,400)	(1,832,347)	361,331	3,362,334	(65,940)
Benefit payments.....	(468,827)	(443,713)	(498,275)	(598,687)	(640,197)	(671,853)	(656,181)
Net change in total OPEB liability.....	836,534	(1,332,011)	354,335	(2,971,503)	907,819	2,667,881	741,343
Total OPEB liability - beginning.....	15,374,778	16,211,312	14,879,301	15,233,636	12,262,133	13,169,952	15,837,833
Total OPEB liability - ending (a).....	<u>\$ 16,211,312</u>	<u>\$ 14,879,301</u>	<u>\$ 15,233,636</u>	<u>\$ 12,262,133</u>	<u>\$ 13,169,952</u>	<u>\$ 15,837,833</u>	<u>\$ 16,579,176</u>
Plan fiduciary net position							
Employer contributions.....	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 360,000
Employer contributions for OPEB payments.....	468,827	443,713	498,275	598,687	640,197	671,853	656,181
Net investment income.....	40,148	34,450	56,410	40,725	376,002	(343,358)	191,454
Benefit payments.....	(468,827)	(443,713)	(498,275)	(598,687)	(640,197)	(671,853)	(656,181)
Net change in plan fiduciary net position.....	140,148	134,450	356,410	340,725	696,002	(3,358)	551,454
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year.....	458,499	598,647	733,097	1,089,507	1,430,232	2,126,234	2,122,876
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year (b).....	<u>\$ 598,647</u>	<u>\$ 733,097</u>	<u>\$ 1,089,507</u>	<u>\$ 1,430,232</u>	<u>\$ 2,126,234</u>	<u>\$ 2,122,876</u>	<u>\$ 2,674,330</u>
Net OPEB liability - ending (a)-(b).....	<u>\$ 15,612,665</u>	<u>\$ 14,146,204</u>	<u>\$ 14,144,129</u>	<u>\$ 10,831,901</u>	<u>\$ 11,043,718</u>	<u>\$ 13,714,957</u>	<u>\$ 13,904,846</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability.....	3.69%	4.93%	7.15%	11.66%	16.14%	13.40%	16.13%
Covered-employee payroll.....	\$ 9,205,453	\$ 12,941,235	\$ 13,399,976	\$ 13,154,640	\$ 13,549,279	\$ 14,086,783	\$ 14,509,386
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll.....	169.60%	109.31%	105.55%	82.34%	81.51%	97.36%	95.83%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

**SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S CONTRIBUTIONS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN**

Year	Actuarially determined contribution	Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	Contribution deficiency (excess)	Covered- employee payroll	Contributions as a percentage of covered- employee payroll
June 30, 2023.....	\$ 1,185,067	\$ (1,018,978)	\$ 166,089	\$ 14,509,386	7.02%
June 30, 2022.....	1,064,008	(1,013,017)	50,991	14,086,783	7.19%
June 30, 2021.....	929,536	(960,197)	(30,661)	13,549,279	7.09%
June 30, 2020.....	1,140,629	(898,687)	241,942	13,154,640	6.83%
June 30, 2019.....	1,423,506	(798,275)	625,231	13,399,976	5.96%
June 30, 2018.....	1,492,382	(543,713)	948,669	12,941,235	4.20%
June 30, 2017.....	1,473,361	(568,827)	904,534	9,205,453	6.18%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years.
Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLAN

<u>Year</u>	<u>Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expense</u>
June 30, 2023.....	7.69%
June 30, 2022.....	-14.28%
June 30, 2021.....	24.08%
June 30, 2020.....	3.29%
June 30, 2019.....	5.60%
June 30, 2018.....	5.32%
June 30, 2017.....	6.34%

Note: this schedule is intended to present information for 10 years. Until a 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years for which information is available.

See notes to required supplementary information.

NOTE A – STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Budgetary Information

Municipal Law requires the Town to adopt a balanced budget that is approved by the Finance Committee (Committee). The Committee presents an annual budget to the Open Town Meeting, which includes estimates of revenues and other financing sources and recommendations of expenditures and other financing uses. Town Meeting, which has full authority to amend and/or reject the budget or any individual line item, adopts the expenditure budget by majority vote. Increases or decreases subsequent to the approval of the annual budget require a vote at a Special Town Meeting.

The majority of the Town’s appropriations are non-continuing which lapse at the end of each year. Others are continuing appropriations for which the governing body has authorized that an unspent balance from a prior year be carried forward and made available for spending in the current year. These carry forwards are included as part of the subsequent year’s original budget.

Generally, expenditures may not exceed the legal level of spending authorized for an appropriation account. However, the Town is statutorily required to pay debt service, regardless of whether such amounts are appropriated. Additionally, expenditures for disasters, natural or otherwise, and final judgments may exceed the level of spending authorized by majority vote at Town Meeting.

The Town adopts an annual budget for the General Fund in conformity with the guidelines described above. The original 2023 budget for the General Fund includes current year appropriations and other amounts to be raised of \$33.8 million.

The Town Accountant has the responsibility to ensure that budgetary control is maintained on an individual line item appropriation account basis. Budgetary control is exercised through the Town’s accounting system.

B. Budgetary - GAAP Reconciliation

For budgetary financial reporting purposes, the Uniform Municipal Accounting System basis of accounting (established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Commonwealth)) is followed, which differs from the GAAP basis of accounting. A reconciliation of budgetary basis to GAAP basis results for the General Fund for the year ended June 30, 2023, is presented below:

Net change in fund balance - budgetary basis.....	\$ 382,261
<u>Perspective differences:</u>	
Activity of the stabilization fund recorded in the general fund for GAAP.....	776,006
<u>Basis of accounting differences:</u>	
Net change in recording 60 day receipts.....	(64,351)
Recognition of revenue for on-behalf payments.....	1,610,534
Recognition of expenditures for on-behalf payments.....	<u>(1,610,534)</u>
Net change in fund balance - GAAP basis.....	<u>\$ 1,093,916</u>

NOTE B – PENSION PLANSchedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

The Schedule of the Town's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability details the allocated percentage of the net pension liability (asset), the proportionate share of the net pension liability, and the covered employee payroll. It also demonstrates the net position as a percentage of the pension liability and the net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll.

Schedule of Town's Contributions

Governmental employees are required to pay an annual appropriation as established by PERAC. The appropriation includes the amounts to pay the pension portion of each member's retirement allowance, an amount to amortize the actuarially determined unfunded liability to zero in accordance with the system's funding schedule, and additional appropriations in accordance with adopted early retirement incentive programs. The appropriations are payable on July 1 and January 1. The Town may choose to pay the entire appropriation in July at a discounted rate. Accordingly, actual contribution may be less than the "total appropriation." The pension fund appropriation is allocated to the Town based on covered payroll.

Schedule of the Special Funding Amounts of the Net Pension Liability

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contribution on behalf of the member employers which creates a special funding situation. Since the Town does not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize. This schedule discloses the commonwealth's 100% share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the Town; the portion of the collective pension expense as both revenue and pension expense recognized by the Town; and the Plan's fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total liability.

Changes in Assumptions

The net investment return assumption decreased from 7.30% to 7.00%.

The mortality assumption was revised to update the mortality improvement projection scale from MP-2019 to MP-2021 and to change the age set forward for disabled participates from two years to one year.

The administrative expense assumption increased from \$1,000,000 for calendar year 2020 to \$1,150,000 for calendar year 2023.

Changes in Plan Provisions

The System increased the COLA base from \$14,000 to \$16,000.

NOTE C – OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Town administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan ("The Retiree Health Plan"). The plan provides lifetime healthcare, dental and life insurance for eligible retirees and their spouses through the Town's group health insurance plan, which covers both active and retired members.

The Other Postemployment Benefit Plan

The Schedule of Changes in the Town’s Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios

The Schedule of Changes in the Town’s Net Other Postemployment Benefit Liability and Related Ratios presents multi-year trend information on changes in the Plan’s total OPEB liability, changes in the Plan’s net position, and ending net OPEB liability. It also demonstrates the Plan’s net position as a percentage of the total liability and the Plan’s net other postemployment benefit liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll.

Schedule of the Town’s Contributions

The Schedule of the Town’s Contributions includes the Town’s annual required contribution to the Plan, along with the contribution made in relation to the actuarially determined contribution and the covered-employee payroll. The Town is not required to fully fund this contribution. It also demonstrates the contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll. Actuarially determined contribution rates are calculated as of June 30, two years prior to the end of the fiscal year in which contributions are reported. Methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates are as follows:

Valuation date.....	Actuarially Determined Contribution was calculated as of July 1, 2021.
Actuarial cost method.....	Individual Entry Age Normal.
Asset valuation method.....	Market Value of Assets as of the Measurement Date, June 30, 2023.
Investment rate of return.....	6.15%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Municipal bond rate.....	4.13% as of June 30, 2023 (source: S&P Municipal Bond 20-Year High Grade Index - SAPIHG).
Single equivalent discount rate.....	6.07%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Inflation.....	2.50% as of June 30, 2023 and for future periods.
Salary increases.....	3.00% annually as of June 30, 2023 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.

Schedule of Investment Returns

The Schedule of Investment Returns includes the money-weighted investment return on the Plan's other postemployment assets, net of investment expense.

Changes of Assumptions

The discount rate has been changed from 6.03% to 6.07%.

Changes in Plan Provisions

None.