

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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JUNE 30, 2023

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Select Board
Town of Westford, Massachusetts

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Westford, Massachusetts (the "Town"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying 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 Westford, Massachusetts, as of June 30, 2024, 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 ("GAAS") and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States ("*Government Auditing Standards*"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS 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 GAAS 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's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis, the budgetary comparison for the General Fund, and certain pension and OPEB schedules (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 March 10, 2025 on our consideration of the Town's 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's 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's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Boston, MA
March 10, 2025

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

As management of the Town of Westford, Massachusetts (the Town), we offer readers this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements are comprised of three components (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to financial statements. This report also contains required supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

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

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows and inflows of resources with the difference 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 Town's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused 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, interest, and intergovernmental. The business-type activities include water, stormwater, ambulance, and recreation 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. The Town's funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Governmental Funds

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

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the Town's near-term financing decisions. Reconciliations are provided to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. The proprietary fund category includes enterprise and internal service funds.

Enterprise funds are used to report activity for which a fee is charged to external users, and must be used when one of the following criteria are met (1) activity is financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges, (2) laws or regulations require the activity's costs of providing services be recovered with fees and charges, and (3) the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs such as depreciation or debt service. The primary focus on these criteria is on fees charged to external users. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. Specifically, enterprise funds are used to account for water and stormwater services, which are considered to be major funds, recreation and ambulance services, which are considered to be nonmajor funds.

Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among various functions. Specifically, internal service funds are used to account for self-insured employee health programs. Because these services predominantly benefit governmental rather than business-type functions, they have been included within governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

Fiduciary Funds

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

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Notes to Financial Statements

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

Required Supplementary Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Financial Highlights

- As of the close of the current fiscal year, net position in governmental activities was \$72,490,583, a change of \$(8,736,009), and net position in business-type activities was \$47,169,574, a change of \$2,292,941.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$41,018,641, a change of \$102,436 in comparison to the prior year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$12,537,258 a change of \$(75,677) in comparison to the prior year.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The following is a summary of condensed government-wide financial data for the current and prior fiscal year:

	NET POSITION					
	(in Thousands)					
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Assets						
Current and other assets	\$ 65,229	\$ 58,849	\$ 17,023	\$ 14,806	\$ 82,252	\$ 73,655
Capital assets	<u>208,321</u>	<u>212,801</u>	<u>46,803</u>	<u>46,129</u>	<u>255,124</u>	<u>258,930</u>
Total Assets	273,550	271,650	63,826	60,935	337,376	332,585
Deferred Outflows of Resources	27,282	35,583	326	616	27,608	36,199
Liabilities						
Other liabilities	20,487	16,096	8,989	6,944	29,476	23,040
Long-term liabilities	<u>193,249</u>	<u>202,222</u>	<u>7,820</u>	<u>9,597</u>	<u>201,069</u>	<u>211,819</u>
Total Liabilities	213,736	218,318	16,809	16,541	230,545	234,859
Deferred Inflows of Resources	14,605	7,688	174	133	14,779	7,821
Net Position						
Net investment in capital assets	175,976	180,958	35,253	34,670	211,229	215,628
Restricted	25,231	25,014	--	--	25,231	25,014
Unrestricted	<u>(128,716)</u>	<u>(124,745)</u>	<u>11,916</u>	<u>10,207</u>	<u>(116,800)</u>	<u>(114,538)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 72,491</u>	<u>\$ 81,227</u>	<u>\$ 47,169</u>	<u>\$ 44,877</u>	<u>\$ 119,660</u>	<u>\$ 126,104</u>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the Town's financial position. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, total net position was \$119,660,157, a change of \$(6,443,068) in comparison to the prior year.

The largest portion of net position \$211,228,900 reflects our investment in capital assets (e.g., land, construction in progress, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, and furnishings, and infrastructure), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of 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.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

An additional portion of net position, \$25,231,191, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position reflects a deficit of \$(116,799,934), primarily resulting from unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities.

CHANGE IN NET POSITION						
(in Thousands)						
	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Revenues						
Program revenues						
Charges for services	\$ 5,916	\$ 5,961	\$ 8,523	\$ 7,280	\$ 14,439	\$ 13,241
Operating grants and contributions	42,285	43,447	20	624	42,305	44,071
Capital grants and contributions	60	10	21	279	81	289
General revenues						
Property taxes	94,449	92,510	--	--	94,449	92,510
Excises	5,702	5,193	--	--	5,702	5,193
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	350	445	--	--	350	445
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs	2,687	2,514	--	--	2,687	2,514
Investment income (loss)	2,145	1,390	289	133	2,434	1,523
Other	<u>1,002</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1,162</u>	<u>1,026</u>
Total Revenues	154,596	152,383	9,013	8,429	163,609	160,812
Expenses						
General government	9,638	10,141	--	--	9,638	10,141
Public safety	18,255	19,003	--	--	18,255	19,003
Education	115,309	112,464	--	--	115,309	112,464
Public works	11,006	11,971	--	--	11,006	11,971
Health and human services	2,471	2,456	--	--	2,471	2,456
Culture and recreation	3,284	3,050	--	--	3,284	3,050
Interest on long-term debt	1,074	1,119	--	--	1,074	1,119
Intergovernmental	676	562	--	--	676	562
Miscellaneous	90	30	--	--	90	30
Water services	--	--	4,376	4,777	4,376	4,777
Stormwater services	--	--	1,064	950	1,064	950
Ambulance and recreation services	--	--	<u>2,810</u>	<u>2,671</u>	<u>2,810</u>	<u>2,671</u>
Total Expenses	<u>161,803</u>	<u>160,796</u>	<u>8,250</u>	<u>8,398</u>	<u>170,053</u>	<u>169,194</u>
Change in Net Position						
Before Transfers	(7,207)	(8,413)	763	31	(6,444)	(8,382)
Transfers in (Out)	<u>(1,529)</u>	<u>(1,291)</u>	<u>1,529</u>	<u>1,291</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Change in Net Position	(8,736)	(9,704)	2,292	1,322	(6,444)	(8,382)
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>81,227</u>	<u>90,931</u>	<u>44,877</u>	<u>43,555</u>	<u>126,104</u>	<u>134,486</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$ 72,491</u>	<u>\$ 81,227</u>	<u>\$ 47,169</u>	<u>\$ 44,877</u>	<u>\$ 119,660</u>	<u>\$ 126,104</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities for the year resulted in a change in net position of \$(8,736,009). Key elements of this change are as follows:

Increase in pension expense from GASB 68	\$ (1,062,548)
Increase in OPEB expense from GASB 75	(7,987,864)
Other	<u>314,403</u>
	<u><u>\$ (8,736,009)</u></u>

Business-Type Activities

Business-type activities for the year resulted in a change in net position of \$2,292,941. Key elements of this change are as follows:

Water Fund (positive operating results)	\$ 689,572
Stormwater Fund (primarily from the General Fund subsidy)	755,069
Nonmajor enterprise funds (primarily from the General Fund subsidy)	<u>848,300</u>
	<u><u>\$ 2,292,941</u></u>

Financial Analysis of the Town's Funds

As noted earlier, fund accounting is used 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 the Town's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

As of the end of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$41,018,641, a change of \$102,436 in comparison to the prior year. Key elements of this change are as follows:

General Fund results	\$	71,288
Community Preservation Act Fund results		397,283
Federal Grants Fund results		11,229
Town Capital Fund results		83,370
School Capital Fund results		(859,604)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds results		<u>398,870</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>102,436</u>

General Fund

The General Fund is the chief operating fund. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was \$12,537,258, while total fund balance was \$18,856,822. Unassigned fund balance decreased by \$(75,677), primarily from favorable budgetary results of \$3,313,713, less “Free Cash” of \$4,049,639 used to supplement the fiscal year 2024 budget. As a measure of the General Fund’s liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to General Fund expenditures. Refer to the table below.

General Fund	6/30/24	6/30/23	Change	% of General Fund Expenditures**
Unassigned fund balance*	\$ 12,537,258	\$ 12,612,935	\$ (75,677)	10.5%
Total fund balance	\$ 18,856,822	\$ 18,785,534	\$ 71,288	15.8%

*These figures include the general stabilization fund.

**Expenditure amounts used to calculate the above percentages have been adjusted to exclude the on-behalf payment from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System of \$10,742,915.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

The total fund balance of the General Fund changed by \$71,288 during the current fiscal year. Key factors in this change are as follows:

Revenues in excess of budget	\$ 1,185,714
Expenditures less than budget	2,277,105
Use of free cash	(4,049,014)
Other	<u>657,483</u>
	<u>\$ 71,288</u>

Included in the total fund balance of the General Fund are the Town's stabilization accounts with the following balances:

	<u>6/30/24</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>	<u>Change</u>
General stabilization (unassigned)	\$ 5,939,046	\$ 5,627,249	\$ 311,797
Capital stabilization (committed)	550,900	521,978	28,922
Fire training tower capital stabilization (committed)	<u>83,814</u>	<u>79,414</u>	<u>4,400</u>
	<u>\$ 6,573,760</u>	<u>\$ 6,228,641</u>	<u>\$ 345,119</u>

Community Preservation Act Fund - Major Governmental Fund

The fund balance of the Community Preservation Act Fund changed by \$397,283.

Federal Grants Fund - Major Governmental Fund

The fund balance of the Federal Grants Fund changed by \$11,229, primarily from timing differences between the receipt and disbursement of federal grants.

Town Capital Fund - Major Governmental Fund

The fund balance of the Town Capital Fund changed by \$83,370, primarily from timing differences between expenditures on various Town capital projects and the permanent financing of those projects.

School Capital Fund - Major Governmental Fund

The fund balance of the Town Capital Fund changed by \$(859,604), primarily from timing differences between expenditures on various Town capital projects and the permanent financing of those projects.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

The fund balance of nonmajor governmental funds changed by \$398,870, primarily from timing differences between the receipt and disbursement of grants.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the business-type activities reported in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

Unrestricted net position of the enterprise funds at the end of the year amounted to \$11,916,249, a change of \$3,030,455 in comparison to the prior year.

Unrestricted net position of the internal service fund at the year end of the year amounted to \$1,085,375.

Other factors concerning the finances of proprietary funds have already been addressed in the entity-wide discussion of business-type activities.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Differences between the original budget and the final amended budget resulted in an overall change in appropriations of \$2,661,448, funded with use of free cash. The change between the original budget and final budget is primarily due to \$2,150,472 for capital appropriations. The actual results of both revenues and expenditures were favorable when compared with the budget.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

Total investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities at year-end amounted to \$255,123,796 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land, construction in progress, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, and furnishings, and infrastructure.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

- \$2,066,424 for various buildings and building improvements.
- \$848,348 for various machinery and equipment.
- \$292,117 for various infrastructure.
- \$193,400 for land.
- \$3,716,898 of construction in progress for various projects.
- \$(10,883,325) of depreciation expense.

Additional information on capital assets can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2024

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, bonds and loans payable outstanding including unamortized premiums totaled 33,923,007, all of which was backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

The Town maintained its AAA rating from S&P for general obligation debt.

Additional information on long-term debt can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town of Westford's finances for all those with an interest in the Town's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Town of Westford, Massachusetts
55 Main Street
Westford, Massachusetts 01886

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Assets			
Current Assets:			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 35,775,505	\$ 14,271,367	\$ 50,046,872
Investments	25,800,802	--	25,800,802
Receivables:			
Property taxes	1,505,755	--	1,505,755
Excises	521,942	--	521,942
User fees	--	2,271,650	2,271,650
Departmental and other	730,323	39,494	769,817
Total Current Assets	<u>64,334,327</u>	<u>16,582,511</u>	<u>80,916,838</u>
Noncurrent Assets:			
Receivables:			
Property taxes	894,691	--	894,691
Departmental and other	--	441,128	441,128
Capital assets:			
Nondepreciable capital assets	43,184,690	8,486,626	51,671,316
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	165,136,313	38,316,167	203,452,480
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>209,215,694</u>	<u>47,243,921</u>	<u>256,459,615</u>
Total Assets	<u>273,550,021</u>	<u>63,826,432</u>	<u>337,376,453</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Related to pension	9,914,807	118,427	10,033,234
Related to OPEB	17,366,850	207,376	17,574,226
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>27,281,657</u>	<u>325,803</u>	<u>27,607,460</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities:			
Accounts payable	2,582,101	572,403	3,154,504
Accrued liabilities	2,759,792	131,565	2,891,357
Unearned revenue	2,746,858	--	2,746,858
Tax refunds payable	554,000	--	554,000
Notes payable	11,333,100	8,284,800	19,617,900
Other current liabilities	511,376	--	511,376
Current portion of long-term liabilities:			
Bonds and loans payable	2,600,312	544,492	3,144,804
Compensated absences liability	103,406	9,629	113,035
Total Current Liabilities	23,190,945	9,542,889	32,733,834
Noncurrent Liabilities:			
Bonds and loans payable, net of current portion	24,499,718	6,278,485	30,778,203
Compensated absences liability, net of current portion	1,964,722	182,942	2,147,664
Net pension liability	61,920,548	739,608	62,660,156
Net OPEB liability	102,160,318	64,332	102,224,650
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	190,545,306	7,265,367	197,810,673
Total Liabilities	213,736,251	16,808,256	230,544,507
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Related to pension	2,948,485	35,218	2,983,703
Related to OPEB	11,656,359	139,187	11,795,546
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	14,604,844	174,405	14,779,249
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	175,975,575	35,253,325	211,228,900
Restricted for:			
Grants and other statutory restrictions:			
Community Preservation Funds	10,088,661	--	10,088,661
Circuit Breaker	2,427,520	--	2,427,520
School Choice	1,287,975	--	1,287,975
Revolving Funds	3,457,744	--	3,457,744
Other	4,627,274	--	4,627,274
Endowment funds:			
Nonexpendable	917,002	--	917,002
Expendable	2,425,015	--	2,425,015
Unrestricted	(128,716,183)	11,916,249	(116,799,934)
Total Net Position	\$ 72,490,583	\$ 47,169,574	\$ 119,660,157

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Federal Grants Fund	Town Capital Fund	School Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets							
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 11,931,869	\$ 342,512	\$ 2,931,498	\$ 1,748,772	\$ 6,931,288	\$ 11,742,474	\$ 35,628,413
Investments	9,839,030	9,911,985	--	--	--	3,329,994	23,081,009
Receivables:							
Property taxes	2,361,343	39,103	--	--	--	--	2,400,446
Excises	521,942	--	--	--	--	--	521,942
Departmental and other	36,446	--	--	--	--	666,475	702,921
Total Assets	\$ 24,690,630	\$ 10,293,600	\$ 2,931,498	\$ 1,748,772	\$ 6,931,288	\$ 15,738,943	\$ 62,334,731
Liabilities							
Accounts payable	\$ 1,261,530	\$ 165,396	\$ 39,068	\$ 79,580	\$ 759,848	\$ 271,044	\$ 2,576,466
Accrued liabilities	587,170	440	5,953	--	--	41,892	635,455
Unearned revenue	--	--	2,746,858	--	--	--	2,746,858
Tax refunds payable	554,000	--	--	--	--	--	554,000
Notes payable	--	--	--	4,020,200	7,312,900	--	11,333,100
Other liabilities	511,376	--	--	--	--	--	511,376
Total Liabilities	2,914,076	165,836	2,791,879	4,099,780	8,072,748	312,936	18,357,255
Deferred Inflows of Resources							
Unavailable revenues	2,919,732	39,103	--	--	--	--	2,958,835
Fund Balances							
Nonspendable	--	--	--	--	--	917,002	917,002
Restricted	--	10,088,661	150,701	1,009,100	808	14,987,701	26,236,971
Committed	5,139,023	--	--	--	--	--	5,139,023
Assigned	1,180,541	--	--	--	--	--	1,180,541
Unassigned	12,537,258	--	(11,082)	(3,360,108)	(1,142,268)	(478,696)	7,545,104
Total Fund Balances	18,856,822	10,088,661	139,619	(2,351,008)	(1,141,460)	15,426,007	41,018,641
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	\$ 24,690,630	\$ 10,293,600	\$ 2,931,498	\$ 1,748,772	\$ 6,931,288	\$ 15,738,943	\$ 62,334,731

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 41,018,641
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds.	208,321,003
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	9,914,807
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	17,366,850
Revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting and are not deferred until collection.	2,958,834
Internal service funds are used by management to account for health insurance activities. The assets and liabilities of the internal funds are included in governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position.	1,085,375
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds.	
Bonds payable	(27,100,030)
Net pension liability	(61,920,548)
Net OPEB liability	(102,160,318)
Compensated absences liability	(2,068,128)
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	(2,948,485)
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	(11,656,359)
Other.	<u>(321,059)</u>
Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 72,490,583</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Federal Grants Fund	Town Capital Fund	School Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues							
Property taxes	\$ 91,770,934	\$ 2,338,410	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 94,109,344
Excises	5,669,096	--	--	--	--	--	5,669,096
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	303,377	4,800	--	--	--	--	308,177
Charges for services	296,875	--	43,930	--	--	4,142,366	4,483,171
Intergovernmental	31,512,128	517,403	1,323,295	--	50,813	10,206,033	43,609,672
Licenses and permits	1,350,372	--	--	--	--	--	1,350,372
Fines and forfeitures	83,192	--	--	--	--	--	83,192
Investment income	1,192,389	556,840	24	80,006	--	177,283	2,006,542
Other	321,567	--	--	--	--	545,120	866,687
Total Revenues	<u>132,499,930</u>	<u>3,417,453</u>	<u>1,367,249</u>	<u>80,006</u>	<u>50,813</u>	<u>15,070,802</u>	<u>152,486,253</u>
Expenditures							
Current							
General government	5,258,530	1,846,680	668,513	97,343	--	429,214	8,300,280
Public safety	12,009,406	--	392,598	869	--	986,761	13,389,634
Education	77,895,048	--	81,013	--	1,020,417	10,608,943	89,605,421
Public works	6,159,231	--	40,811	915,196	--	595,225	7,710,463
Health and human services	1,142,685	--	173,085	--	--	683,284	1,999,054
Culture and recreation	2,357,522	--	--	683,148	--	153,967	3,194,637
Employee benefits	21,941,963	--	--	--	--	--	21,941,963
Debt service							
Principal	2,179,550	625,450	--	--	--	--	2,805,000
Interest	755,620	358,040	--	--	--	--	1,113,660
Intergovernmental	675,985	--	--	--	--	--	675,985
Total Expenditures	<u>130,375,540</u>	<u>2,830,170</u>	<u>1,356,020</u>	<u>1,696,556</u>	<u>1,020,417</u>	<u>13,457,394</u>	<u>150,736,097</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>2,124,390</u>	<u>587,283</u>	<u>11,229</u>	<u>(1,616,550)</u>	<u>(969,604)</u>	<u>1,613,408</u>	<u>1,750,156</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)							
Issue costs	--	--	--	--	--	(88,133)	(88,133)
Transfers in	53,894	--	--	1,699,920	110,000	543,019	2,406,833
Transfers out	(2,106,996)	(190,000)	--	--	--	(1,669,424)	(3,966,420)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(2,053,102)</u>	<u>(190,000)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,699,920</u>	<u>110,000</u>	<u>(1,214,538)</u>	<u>(1,647,720)</u>
Change in Fund Balance	71,288	397,283	11,229	83,370	(859,604)	398,870	102,436
Fund Balances at 6/30/23, as previously reported	18,785,534	9,691,378	128,390	(2,434,378)	--	14,745,281	40,916,205
Adjustment - change from nonmajor to major fund	--	--	--	--	(281,856)	281,856	--
Fund Balances, at Beginning of Year, as Adjusted	<u>18,785,534</u>	<u>9,691,378</u>	<u>128,390</u>	<u>(2,434,378)</u>	<u>(281,856)</u>	<u>15,027,137</u>	<u>40,916,205</u>
Fund Balances, at End of Year	<u>\$ 18,856,822</u>	<u>\$ 10,088,661</u>	<u>\$ 139,619</u>	<u>\$ (2,351,008)</u>	<u>\$ (1,141,460)</u>	<u>\$ 15,426,007</u>	<u>\$ 41,018,641</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Net Changes in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 102,436
<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	4,736,519
Net effect from disposal of assets	(39,601)
Depreciation	(9,176,464)
<p>The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position:</p>	
Repayments of general obligation bonds	2,805,000
<p>Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are fully deferred in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances. Therefore, the recognition of revenue for certain types of receivables (i.e., real estate and personal property, motor vehicle excise, etc.) differ between the two statements. This amount represents the net change in unavailable revenue.</p>	
	514,354
<p>Internal service funds are used by management to account for health insurance activities. The net activity of internal service funds is reported with governmental activities.</p>	
	1,436,779
<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 governmental funds:</p>	
Change in pension expense from GASB 68	(1,062,548)
Change in OPEB expense from GASB 75	(7,987,864)
Change in compensated absences liability	(29,404)
Bond premium amortization	30,488
Change in accrued interest on bonds payable	37,577
Other differences.	(103,281)
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (8,736,009)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION PROPRIETARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2024

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Governmental Activities
	Water Fund	Stormwater Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total	Internal Service Fund
Assets					
Current Assets:					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,512,863	\$ 4,940,943	\$ 1,817,561	\$ 14,271,367	\$ 147,092
Investments	--	--	--	--	2,719,793
Receivables:					
User fees	1,011,270	56,148	1,204,232	2,271,650	--
Betterments	39,494	--	--	39,494	--
Other	--	--	--	--	27,402
Total Current Assets	<u>8,563,627</u>	<u>4,997,091</u>	<u>3,021,793</u>	<u>16,582,511</u>	<u>2,894,287</u>
Noncurrent Assets:					
Receivables:					
Betterments	441,128	--	--	441,128	--
Capital assets					
Nondepreciable capital assets	6,225,142	1,986,737	274,747	8,486,626	--
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	37,180,466	293,700	842,001	38,316,167	--
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>43,846,736</u>	<u>2,280,437</u>	<u>1,116,748</u>	<u>47,243,921</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Assets	<u>52,410,363</u>	<u>7,277,528</u>	<u>4,138,541</u>	<u>63,826,432</u>	<u>2,894,287</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources					
Related to pension	118,427	--	--	118,427	--
Related to OPEB	207,376	--	--	207,376	--
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>325,803</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>325,803</u>	<u>--</u>
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	394,320	151,763	26,320	572,403	5,635
Accrued liabilities	77,526	--	54,039	131,565	1,803,277
Notes payable	4,347,300	3,937,500	--	8,284,800	--
Current portion of long-term liabilities:					
Bonds and loans payable	544,492	--	--	544,492	--
Compensated absences liability	4,917	1,000	3,712	9,629	--
Total Current Liabilities	<u>5,368,555</u>	<u>4,090,263</u>	<u>84,071</u>	<u>9,542,889</u>	<u>1,808,912</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities:					
Bonds and loans payable, net of current portion	6,278,485	--	--	6,278,485	--
Compensated absences liability, net of current portion	93,415	18,995	70,532	182,942	--
Net pension liability	739,608	--	--	739,608	--
Net OPEB liability	64,332	--	--	64,332	--
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>7,175,840</u>	<u>18,995</u>	<u>70,532</u>	<u>7,265,367</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>12,544,395</u>	<u>4,109,258</u>	<u>154,603</u>	<u>16,808,256</u>	<u>1,808,912</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Related to pension	35,218	--	--	35,218	--
Related to OPEB	139,187	--	--	139,187	--
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>174,405</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>174,405</u>	<u>--</u>
Net Position					
Net investment in capital assets	33,117,334	117,102	2,018,889	35,253,325	--
Unrestricted	6,900,032	3,051,168	1,965,049	11,916,249	1,085,375
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 40,017,366</u>	<u>\$ 3,168,270</u>	<u>\$ 3,983,938</u>	<u>\$ 47,169,574</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,375</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Governmental Activities
	Water Fund	Stormwater Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total	Internal Service Fund
Operating Revenues					
Charges for services	\$ 4,627,543	\$ 1,148,896	\$ 2,746,490	\$ 8,522,929	\$ --
Employee and employer contributions	--	--	--	--	18,228,231
Interest and penalties	24	249	--	273	--
Other	<u>158,729</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,391</u>	<u>160,120</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>4,786,296</u>	<u>1,149,145</u>	<u>2,747,881</u>	<u>8,683,322</u>	<u>18,228,231</u>
Operating Expenses					
Salaries and benefits	422,960	47,887	1,783,098	2,253,945	16,960,243
Other operating expenses	2,044,874	901,635	905,519	3,852,028	--
Depreciation	<u>1,579,542</u>	<u>5,913</u>	<u>121,406</u>	<u>1,706,861</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>4,047,376</u>	<u>955,435</u>	<u>2,810,023</u>	<u>7,812,834</u>	<u>16,960,243</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>738,920</u>	<u>193,710</u>	<u>(62,142)</u>	<u>870,488</u>	<u>1,267,988</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)					
Intergovernmental revenue	--	20,000	--	20,000	--
Investment income	198,186	49,429	41,744	289,359	138,180
Interest expense	<u>(328,822)</u>	<u>(108,070)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(436,892)</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses), Net	<u>(130,636)</u>	<u>(38,641)</u>	<u>41,744</u>	<u>(127,533)</u>	<u>138,180</u>
Income (Loss) Before Transfers and Capital Contributions	<u>608,284</u>	<u>155,069</u>	<u>(20,398)</u>	<u>742,955</u>	<u>1,406,168</u>
Capital Contributions	21,010	--	--	21,010	--
Transfers In	<u>60,278</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>868,698</u>	<u>1,528,976</u>	<u>30,611</u>
Change in Net Position	689,572	755,069	848,300	2,292,941	1,436,779
Net Position, at Beginning of Year	<u>39,327,794</u>	<u>2,413,201</u>	<u>3,135,638</u>	<u>44,876,633</u>	<u>(351,404)</u>
Net Position, at End of Year	<u>\$ 40,017,366</u>	<u>\$ 3,168,270</u>	<u>\$ 3,983,938</u>	<u>\$ 47,169,574</u>	<u>\$ 1,085,375</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS PROPRIETARY FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Governmental Activities
	Water Fund	Stormwater Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total	Internal Service Fund
Cash Flows from Operating Activities					
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 4,654,690	\$ 1,149,778	\$ 2,275,609	\$ 8,080,077	\$18,236,504
Payments to employees	(1,281,883)	(47,194)	\$ (1,779,211)	(3,108,288)	--
Payments to vendors	(1,801,650)	(909,543)	(889,847)	(3,601,040)	(17,793,522)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	<u>1,571,157</u>	<u>193,041</u>	<u>(393,449)</u>	<u>1,370,749</u>	<u>442,982</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities					
Capital contributions	60,503	--	--	60,503	--
Acquisition, construction, and disposition of capital assets	(1,652,380)	(728,289)	--	(2,380,669)	--
Proceeds of notes	4,347,300	3,937,500	--	8,284,800	--
Principal payments on bonds and loans	(574,989)	--	--	(574,989)	--
Payments on notes	(3,460,800)	(3,030,000)	--	(6,490,800)	--
Interest expense	(346,111)	(108,071)	--	(454,182)	--
Net Cash (Used for) Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(1,626,477)</u>	<u>71,140</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(1,555,337)</u>	<u>--</u>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities					
Intergovernmental	--	20,000	--	20,000	--
Transfers in	60,278	600,000	868,698	1,528,976	30,611
Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>60,278</u>	<u>620,000</u>	<u>868,698</u>	<u>1,548,976</u>	<u>30,611</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities					
Investment income	198,185	49,430	41,743	289,358	138,180
Investment purchases	--	--	--	--	(486,341)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Investing Activities	<u>198,185</u>	<u>49,430</u>	<u>41,743</u>	<u>289,358</u>	<u>(348,161)</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>203,143</u>	<u>933,611</u>	<u>516,992</u>	<u>1,653,746</u>	<u>125,432</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	<u>7,309,720</u>	<u>4,007,332</u>	<u>1,300,569</u>	<u>12,617,621</u>	<u>21,660</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	<u>\$ 7,512,863</u>	<u>\$ 4,940,943</u>	<u>\$ 1,817,561</u>	<u>\$14,271,367</u>	<u>\$ 147,092</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities					
Operating income (loss)	\$ 738,920	\$ 193,710	\$ (62,142)	\$ 870,488	\$ 1,267,988
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used for) operating activities					
Depreciation	1,579,542	5,913	121,406	1,706,861	--
Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows					
Receivables	(131,606)	633	(472,273)	(603,246)	8,273
Accounts payable	247,565	(7,546)	11,329	251,348	(1,037,390)
Accrued liabilities	(4,341)	(362)	4,345	(358)	204,111
Compensated absences liability	(33,964)	693	3,886	(29,385)	--
Net pension liability and related deferrals	(277,836)	--	--	(277,836)	--
Net OPEB liability and related deferrals	(547,123)	--	--	(547,123)	--
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	<u>\$ 1,571,157</u>	<u>\$ 193,041</u>	<u>\$ (393,449)</u>	<u>\$ 1,370,749</u>	<u>\$ 442,982</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION FIDUCIARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2024

	OPEB Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 742,978	\$ 465,009
Investments:		
Corporate equities	9,213,883	--
Equity mutual funds	1,048,560	--
Fixed income mutual funds	4,576,410	--
Total Investments	14,838,853	--
Total Assets	<u>15,581,831</u>	<u>465,009</u>
Liabilities		
Other liabilities	--	880
Total Liabilities	--	880
Net Position		
Restricted for OPEB	15,581,831	--
Restricted for individuals and organizations	--	464,129
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 15,581,831</u>	<u>\$ 464,129</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
FIDUCIARY FUNDS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	OPEB Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Additions		
Employer contributions	\$ 4,970,690	\$ --
Fees collected for students	--	1,147,195
Investment income, net	1,566,055	--
Fees collected for Commonwealth of Massachusetts	--	21,413
Total Additions	6,536,745	1,168,608
Deductions		
Benefit payments to plan members and beneficiaries	3,972,143	--
Payments on behalf of students	--	1,140,985
Payment of fees to Commonwealth of Massachusetts	--	18,710
Total Deductions	3,972,143	1,159,695
Change in Net Position	2,564,602	8,913
Restricted Net Position		
Beginning of Year	13,017,229	455,216
End of Year	\$ 15,581,831	\$ 464,129

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Town of Westford, Massachusetts (the Town) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of the significant policies of the Town:

REPORTING ENTITY

The Town is a municipal corporation governed by an elected Select Board. As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the Town and applicable component units for which the Town is considered to be financially accountable. In fiscal year 2024, no entities met the component unit requirements of GASB 14 (as amended).

GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given 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 (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter 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.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. 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. As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include (1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, (2) operating grants and contributions, and (3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes and excises.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Town considers property tax revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, certain expenditures such as debt service, claims and judgments, compensated absences, OPEB, and pension are recorded only when payment is due.

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

- The *General Fund* is the Town's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- The *Community Preservation Act Fund* accounts for funds used for the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space, historic resources, and community housing.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

- The *Federal Grants Fund* accounts for all financial resources related to federal grants for the Town.
- The *Town Capital Fund* accounts for capital expenditures for the Town.
- The *School Capital Fund* accounts for capital expenditures for the School Department.

The proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement* focus and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when 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 a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of proprietary funds are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

The Town reports the following major proprietary funds:

- The *Water Fund* is used to account for the Town's water operations.
- The *Stormwater Fund* is used to account for the Town's stormwater operations.

The Town's self-insured employee health program is reported as an internal service fund in the accompanying financial statements.

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

The Town reports the following fiduciary funds:

- The *Other Post-Employment Benefit Trust Fund* is used to accumulate resources for health and life insurance benefits for retired employees.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

- The *Custodial Funds* account for fiduciary assets held by the Town in a custodial capacity as an agent on behalf of others and are not required to be reported elsewhere on the financial statements. Custodial funds include fees collected on behalf of student activity funds and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for various license fees.

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash balances from all funds, except those required to be segregated by law, are combined to form a consolidation of cash. Cash balances are invested to the extent available, and interest earnings are recognized in the General Fund. Certain special revenue, proprietary, and fiduciary funds segregate cash, and investment earnings become a part of those funds.

Deposits with financial institutions consist primarily of demand deposits, certificates of deposits, savings accounts, and money market accounts. Generally, a cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund's portion of this pool is reflected on the financial statements under the caption "cash and short-term investments."

For purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, the proprietary funds consider investments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

State and local statutes place certain limitations on the nature of deposits and investments available. Deposits in any financial institution may not exceed certain levels within the financial institution.

Investments are carried at fair value, except certificate of deposits, which are reported at cost.

PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS

Legislation known as "Proposition 2½" has limited the amount of revenue that can be derived from property taxes. The prior fiscal year's tax levy limit is used as a base and cannot increase by more than 2.5% (excluding new growth), unless an override is voted. Certain provisions of Proposition 2 ½ can be overridden by a referendum.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements and in the proprietary financial statements.

Capital assets are defined by the Town as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$50,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of five years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings and improvements	20 - 40
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	5
Infrastructure	30 - 75

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

It is the Town's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. All vested sick and vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

In the government-wide financial statements, and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt, and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type Statement of Net Position.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

FUND EQUITY

Fund equity at the governmental fund financial reporting level is classified as “fund balance.” Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as “net position.”

Fund Balance

Generally, fund balance represents the difference between current assets/deferred outflows and current liabilities/deferred inflows. The Town has implemented GASB Statement No. 54 (GASB 54), *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, which enhances the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied and by clarifying existing governmental fund type definitions, as follows:

- *Nonspendable* represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (1) not in spendable form or (2) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. This fund balance classification includes nonmajor governmental fund reserves for the principal portion of permanent trust funds.
- *Restricted* represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes by constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. This fund balance classification includes General Fund debt service funds, various special revenue funds, various capital project funds, and the income portion of permanent trust funds.
- *Committed* represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Town’s highest level of decision-making authority. This fund balance classification includes General Fund non-lapsing appropriations approved at Town Meeting, special purpose stabilization funds, and the Community Preservation Act Fund.
- *Assigned* represents amounts that are constrained by the Town’s intent to use these resources for a specific purpose. This fund balance classification includes General Fund encumbrances that have been established by various Town departments for the expenditure of current year budgetary financial resources upon vendor performance in the subsequent budgetary period, petty cash reserves, and General Fund surplus fund balance that has been appropriated as a funding source for the subsequent fiscal period.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

FUND EQUITY (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance (Continued)

- *Unassigned* represents amounts that are available to be spent in future periods, general stabilization funds, and deficit funds. The General Fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance.

When an expenditure is incurred that would qualify for payment from multiple fund balance types, the Town uses the following order to liquidate liabilities: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows. Net investment in capital assets, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on use either through enabling legislation adopted by the Town or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The remaining net position is reported as unrestricted.

USE OF ESTIMATES

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

NOTE 2 - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

At the annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee presents an operating and capital budget for the proposed expenditures of the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget, as enacted by Town Meeting, establishes the legal level of control and specifies that certain appropriations are to be funded by particular revenues.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 2 - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CONTINUED)

BUDGETARY INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

The original budget is amended during the fiscal year at special town meetings as required by changing conditions. In cases of extraordinary or unforeseen expenses, the Finance Committee is empowered to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund (a contingency appropriation) to a departmental appropriation. "Extraordinary" includes expenses which are not in the usual line, or are great or exceptional. "Unforeseen" includes expenses which are not foreseen as of the time of the annual meeting when appropriations are voted.

Departments are limited to the line items as voted. Certain items may exceed the line-item budget as approved if it is for an emergency and for the safety of the general public. These items are limited by Massachusetts General Laws and must be raised in the next year's tax rate. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund, Community Preservation Act Fund, and proprietary funds. Effective budgetary control is achieved for all other funds through provisions of Massachusetts General Laws. At year-end, appropriation balances lapse, except for certain unexpended capital items and encumbrances which will be honored during the subsequent year.

DEFICIT FUND EQUITY

Certain individual funds reflected deficit balances as of June 30, 2024. It is anticipated that the deficits in these funds will be eliminated through future departmental revenues, bond proceeds, and transfers from other funds.

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 44, Section 55 place certain limitation on the nature of deposits and investments available to the Town. Deposits, including demand deposits, money markets, and certificates of deposits in any one financial institution may not exceed 60% of the capital and surplus of such institution unless collateralized by the institution involved. Investments may be made in unconditionally guaranteed U.S. government obligations having maturities of a year or less from the date of purchase, or through repurchase agreements with maturities of no greater than 90 days in which the underlying securities consist of such obligations. Other allowable investments include certificates of deposits having a maturity date of up to 3 years from the date of purchase, national banks, and Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT). MMDT, which is an external investment pool overseen by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, meets the criteria established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

MMDT has an average maturity of less than 1 year and is not rated or subject to custodial credit risk disclosure. MGL Chapter 44, Section 54 provides additional investment options for certain special revenue, trust, and OPEB funds.

DEPOSITS

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Town's deposits may not be returned. The Town does not have formal deposit policies related to the custodial credit risk of deposits.

As of June 30, 2024, \$28,796,680 of the Town's bank balance of \$53,630,257 was exposed to custodial credit risk as uninsured and/or uncollateralized.

INVESTMENTS

The following is a summary of the Town's investments (in thousands) as of June 30, 2024:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Corporate bonds	\$ 10,362
Corporate equities	15,131
Equity mutual funds	1,049
Federal agency securities	1,551
Fixed income mutual funds	2,023
U.S. Treasury notes	<u>10,524</u>
	<u>\$ 40,640</u>

Credit Risk – Investments in Debt Securities

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. For short-term investments that were purchased using surplus revenues, Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 55, limit the Town's investments to the top rating issued by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSROs). Other than Massachusetts General Laws, the Town does not have formal investment policies related to credit risk.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Credit Risk – Investments in Debt Securities (Continued)

As of June 30, 2024, the credit quality ratings, as rated by Moody’s Investor Services, Inc., of the Town’s debt securities were as follows (in thousands) (U.S. Treasury notes have an implied rating of AAA):

Investment Type	Amount	Rating as of Year End						
		AAA	A1	A2	Baa1	Baa2	Unavailable	Unrated
Corporate bonds	\$ 10,362	\$ 1,385	\$ 2,513	\$ 1,409	\$ 1,099	\$ 2,858	\$ 1,098	\$ --
Federal agency securities	1,551	1,551	--	--	--	--	--	--
Fixed income mutual funds	2,023	--	--	--	--	--	--	2,023
U.S. Treasury notes	10,524	10,524	--	--	--	--	--	--
	<u>\$ 24,460</u>	<u>\$ 13,460</u>	<u>\$ 2,513</u>	<u>\$ 1,409</u>	<u>\$ 1,099</u>	<u>\$ 2,858</u>	<u>\$ 1,098</u>	<u>\$ 2,023</u>

Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. The Town does not have formal investment policies related to custodial credit risk.

As of June 30, 2024, all of the Town’s total investments were subject to custodial credit risk exposure because the related securities were uninsured, unregistered, and/or held by the Town’s brokerage firm, which is also the counterparty to these securities as follows (in thousands):

Investment Type	Amount	Held by	
		Counterparty	Counterparty's Trust or Agent
Corporate bonds	\$ 10,362	\$ --	\$ 10,362
Corporate equities	15,131	--	15,131
Federal agency securities	1,551	--	1,551
U.S. Treasury notes	10,524	--	10,524
	<u>\$ 37,568</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 37,568</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributable to the magnitude of the Town's investment in a single issuer. The Town places no limit on the amount invested in any one issuer. The Town does not have formal investment policies related to concentration of credit risk exposure.

As of June 30, 2024, the Town did not have investments in any one issuer that exceeded 5% of total investments.

Interest Rate Risk - Investments in Debt Securities

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 market interest rates. The Town does not have formal investment policies limiting investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Information about the sensitivity of the fair values of the Town's investments to market interest rate fluctuations was as follows at June 30, 2024 (in thousands):

Investment Type	Amount	Investment Maturities (in Years)		
		Less Than 1	1-5	6-10
Corporate bonds	\$ 10,362	\$ 1,902	\$ 6,810	\$ 1,650
Federal agency securities	1,551	780	766	5
U.S. Treasury notes	<u>10,524</u>	<u>4,665</u>	<u>4,436</u>	<u>1,423</u>
	<u>\$ 22,437</u>	<u>\$ 7,347</u>	<u>\$ 12,012</u>	<u>\$ 3,078</u>

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in foreign exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town does not have formal investment policies related to foreign currency risk.

At June 30, 2024, none of the Town's investments were exposed to foreign currency risk.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fair Value

The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application (GASB 72)*.

The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability and give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurement into three levels as follows:

- Level 1 - inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that are accessible at the measurement date.
- Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for an asset or liability either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active. Because they must often be priced on the basis of transactions involving similar but not identical securities or do not trade with sufficient frequency, certain directly held securities are categorized as Level 2.
- Level 3 - unobservable inputs based on the best information available, using assumptions in determining the fair value of investments and derivative instruments.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fair Value (Continued)

The Town had the following fair value measurements (in thousands) as of June 30, 2024:

Investment Type	Amount	Fair Value Measurements Using:		
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level				
Corporate bonds	\$ 10,362	\$ --	\$ 10,362	\$ --
Corporate equities	15,131	15,131	--	--
Federal agency securities	1,551	--	1,551	--
Fixed income mutual funds	2,023	2,023	--	--
U.S. Treasury notes	<u>10,524</u>	<u>10,524</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	<u>\$ 40,640</u>	<u>\$ 28,727</u>	<u>\$ 11,913</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

Equity securities and marketable mutual funds classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities.

Debt securities classified in Level 2 are valued using either a bid evaluation or a matrix pricing technique. Bid evaluations may include market quotations, yields, maturities, call features, and ratings. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities' relationship to benchmark quote prices. Level 2 debt securities have non-proprietary information that is readily available to market participants, from multiple independent sources, which are known to be actively involved in the market.

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY TAXES AND EXCISES RECEIVABLE

Real and personal property taxes are based on market values assessed as of each January 1. By law, all taxable property must be assessed at 100% of fair cash value. Also by law, property taxes must be levied at least 30 days prior to their due date. Once levied, these taxes are recorded as receivables, net of estimated uncollectible balances.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 4 - PROPERTY TAXES AND EXCISES RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

Property tax revenues have been recorded using the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting on the government-wide and fund basis statements, respectively.

The Town bills and collects its property taxes on a quarterly basis following the January 1 assessment. The due dates for those quarterly tax billings are August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1. Property taxes that remain unpaid after the respective due dates are subject to penalties and interest charges.

Based on the Town's experience, most property taxes are collected during the year in which they are assessed. Liening of properties on which taxes remain unpaid generally occurs annually. The Town ultimately has the right to foreclose on all properties where the taxes remain unpaid.

A statewide property tax limitation known as "Proposition 2½" limits the amount of increase in the property tax levy in any fiscal year. Generally, Proposition 2½ limits the total levy to an amount not greater than 2½% of the total assessed value of all taxable property within the Town. Secondly, the tax levy cannot increase by more than 2½% of the prior year's levy plus the taxes on property newly added to the tax rolls. The actual fiscal year 2024 tax levy reflected an excess capacity of \$1,409.

Motor vehicle excise taxes are assessed annually for every motor vehicle and trailer registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Registry of Motor Vehicles annually calculates the value of all registered motor vehicles for the purpose of excise assessment. The amount of motor vehicle excise tax due is calculated using a fixed rate of \$25 per \$1,000 of value.

Property taxes and excise receivables at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

	Current Portion	Long- Term Portion
Real estate taxes	\$ 903,650	103,285
Personal property taxes	93,083	--
Community Preservation Act	27,685	--
Tax liens	224,620	323,540
Deferred taxes	<u>256,717</u>	<u>467,866</u>
Total property taxes	<u>\$ 1,505,755</u>	<u>\$ 894,691</u>
Motor vehicle excise	<u>\$ 521,942</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 5 - USER FEES RECEIVABLE

Receivables for user charges at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

	Amount
Water Fund	\$ 1,011,270
Stormwater Fund	56,148
Nonmajor enterprise funds	1,204,232
	\$ 2,271,650

NOTE 6 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 was as follows (in thousands):

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Convert CIP	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities					
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated					
Buildings and improvements	\$ 181,878	\$ 1,589	\$ --	\$ 861	184,328
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	44,332	849	--	--	45,181
Infrastructure	138,077	21	--	--	138,098
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated	364,287	2,459	--	861	367,607
Less Accumulated Depreciation For					
Buildings and improvements	(84,235)	(4,280)	--	--	(88,515)
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	(29,464)	(1,445)	--	--	(30,909)
Infrastructure	(79,595)	(3,452)	--	--	(83,047)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(193,294)	(9,177)	--	--	(202,471)
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	170,993	(6,718)	--	861	165,136
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated					
Land	37,224	193	--	--	37,417
Construction in progress	4,584	2,084	(39)	(861)	5,768
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	41,808	2,277	(39)	(861)	43,185
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	\$ 212,801	\$ (4,441)	\$ (39)	\$ --	\$ 208,321

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 6 - CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Convert CIP	Ending Balance
Business-Type Activities					
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated					
Buildings and improvements	\$ 16,739	\$ 478	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 17,217
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	4,946	--	--	--	4,946
Infrastructure	<u>51,286</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>51,556</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated	72,971	748	--	--	73,719
Less Accumulated Depreciation For					
Buildings and improvements	(12,139)	(644)	--	--	(12,783)
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	(3,320)	(242)	--	--	(3,562)
Infrastructure	<u>(18,237)</u>	<u>(821)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(19,058)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(33,696)</u>	<u>(1,707)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(35,403)</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	39,275	(959)	--	--	38,316
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated					
Land	2,390	--	--	--	2,390
Construction in progress	<u>4,464</u>	<u>1,633</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>6,097</u>
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>6,854</u>	<u>1,633</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>8,487</u>
Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 46,129</u>	<u>\$ 674</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 46,803</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions of the Town as follows (in thousands):

Governmental Activities	
General government	\$ 416
Public safety	980
Education	3,610
Public works	4,010
Health and Human Services	94
Culture and recreation	<u>67</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 9,177</u>
Business-Type Activities	
Water Fund	\$ 1,580
Stormwater Fund	6
Nonmajor enterprise funds	<u>121</u>
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 1,707</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 7 - DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred outflows of resources represent the consumption of net assets by the Town that apply to future reporting periods. Deferred outflows of resources have a positive effect on net position, similar to assets. Deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB, in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 75, are more fully discussed in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes.

NOTE 8 - UNEARNED REVENUE

Unearned revenue represents grant funds received by the Town from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds will be used for COVID-19 related expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19 over the next several years.

NOTE 9 - NOTES PAYABLE

The Town had the following notes outstanding at June 30, 2024:

Purpose	Interest Rate	Date of Issue	Date of Maturity	Balance at 6/30/24
Governmental Activities				
School access controls	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	\$ 312,900
Oak Hill - General Fund	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	3,620,200
Carlisle Road sidewalks	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	200,000
Plain Road phase 1	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	200,000
Middle School roof replacement	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	6,000,000
Middle School roof vent/AC	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	<u>1,000,000</u>
Total Governmental Activities				<u>11,333,100</u>
Business-Type Activities				
Old Town Farm Road water tank	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	1,020,000
Oak Hill - Water	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	2,282,300
Oak Hill - Stormwater	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	1,967,500
Pond Brook culverts	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	300,000
185 North Main Street culvert	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	470,000
Pond Brook culverts	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	1,200,000
Francis Hill water tank	4.75%	05/01/24	05/01/25	<u>1,045,000</u>
Total Business-Type Activities				<u>8,284,800</u>
				<u><u>\$ 19,617,900</u></u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 9 - NOTES PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The following summarizes activity in notes payable during fiscal year 2024:

Purpose	Balance Beginning of Year	New Issues	Rollover	Paydown	Return Unspent BAN	Balance End of Year
Governmental Activities						
Oak Hill infrastructure	\$ 3,735,200	\$ --	\$ (3,620,200)	\$ (115,000)	\$ --	\$ --
School access controls	422,900	--	(312,900)	(110,000)	--	--
School access controls	--	--	312,900	--	--	312,900
Oak Hill - General Fund	--	--	3,620,200	--	--	3,620,200
Carlisle Road sidewalks	--	200,000	--	--	--	200,000
Plain Road phase 1	--	200,000	--	--	--	200,000
Middle School roof replacement	--	6,000,000	--	--	--	6,000,000
Middle School roof vent/AC	--	1,000,000	--	--	--	1,000,000
Total Governmental Activities	<u>4,158,100</u>	<u>7,400,000</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(225,000)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>11,333,100</u>
Business-Type Activities						
Town Farm Road water tank	1,106,000	--	(1,020,000)	(86,000)	--	--
Oak Hill infrastructure - Water	2,354,800	--	(2,282,300)	(72,500)	--	--
Oak Hill infrastructure - Stormwater	2,030,000	--	(1,967,500)	(62,500)	--	--
Pond Brook culvert repairs	500,000	--	(470,000)	(30,000)	--	--
185 North Main culvert design	500,000	--	(300,000)	--	(200,000)	--
Old Town Farm Road water tank	--	--	1,020,000	--	--	1,020,000
Oak Hill - Water	--	--	2,282,300	--	--	2,282,300
Oak Hill - Stormwater	--	--	1,967,500	--	--	1,967,500
Pond Brook culverts	--	--	300,000	--	--	300,000
185 North Main Street culvert	--	--	470,000	--	--	470,000
Pond Brook culverts	--	1,200,000	--	--	--	1,200,000
Francis Hill water tank	--	1,045,000	--	--	--	1,045,000
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>6,490,800</u>	<u>2,245,000</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(251,000)</u>	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>8,284,800</u>
	<u>\$10,648,900</u>	<u>\$ 9,645,000</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (476,000)</u>	<u>\$ (200,000)</u>	<u>\$19,617,900</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND LOANS

The Town issues general obligation bonds and direct borrowings to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities and equipment. General obligation bonds have been issued for both governmental and business-type activities. General obligation bonds and direct borrowings outstanding were as follows at June 30, 2024:

Governmental Activities	Original Issue	Serial Maturities Through	Interest Rate(s) %	Amount Outstanding as of 6/30/24
General obligation bonds				
School 2016	11/10/16	06/30/37	2.08%	\$ 1,300,000
Dispatch center 2016	11/10/16	06/30/37	2.07%	650,000
Senior center refunding 2018	01/01/18	06/30/30	2.50 - 5.00%	1,150,000
Fire station 2018	01/01/18	06/30/30	2.50 - 5.00%	8,100,000
Refunding 2019	10/03/18	02/01/30	3.00 - 5.00%	2,250,000
Lowell Road	03/06/19	02/01/39	3.00 - 5.00%	3,065,000
Fire station 2019	09/16/19	08/15/37	2.25 - 5.00%	620,000
School windows 2019	08/14/19	02/15/34	2.00 - 5.00%	285,000
Roads 2019	08/14/19	02/15/29	2.00 - 5.00%	375,000
Roudenbush building 2019	08/14/19	02/15/39	2.55 - 4.00%	5,760,000
Abbot roof	08/15/21	08/15/41	3.00 - 4.00%	1,120,000
Roads 2022	06/01/22	05/23/42	4.00 - 5.00%	360,000
Westford Academy amenities building 2022	06/01/22	05/23/42	4.00 - 5.00%	1,110,000
Fire truck 2022	06/01/22	05/23/42	4.00 - 5.00%	<u>560,000</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds				<u>\$26,705,000</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND LOANS (CONTINUED)

Business-Type Activities	Original Issue	Serial Maturities Through	Interest Rate(s) %	Outstanding as of 6/30/24
Water Fund general obligation bonds				
2013 Water Fund bond	06/03/13	06/01/33	2.36%	\$ 760,000
2013 Water Fund bond	06/03/13	06/01/33	2.36%	280,000
Water Graniteville 2016	11/10/16	06/30/37	2.08%	260,000
Water Pleasant 2016	11/10/16	06/30/37	2.08%	325,000
Vine Brook water distribution system	09/16/19	08/15/37	2.25 - 5.00%	630,000
Groton and Dunstable Road water main extension	08/14/19	02/15/34	2.00 - 5.00%	300,000
Water tank	08/15/21	08/15/41	3.00 - 4.00%	2,050,000
Kirsi Circle water mains	06/01/22	05/23/42	4.00 - 5.00%	<u>1,110,000</u>
Total Water Fund General Obligation Bonds				<u>5,715,000</u>
Water Fund loans payable (direct borrowings):				
MWPAT DW 08-16	05/30/14	07/15/30	2.00%	89,427
MWPAT DW 09-07	07/15/10	07/15/30	2.00%	<u>745,076</u>
Total Water Fund Loans Payable (Direct Borrowings)				<u>834,503</u>
Total Business-Type Activities				<u>\$ 6,549,503</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEBT SERVICE

The annual payments to retire all general obligation bonds and loans outstanding as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Governmental	Bonds		Total
	Principal	Interest	
2025	\$ 2,570,000	\$ 861,475	\$ 3,431,475
2026	2,560,000	760,925	3,320,925
2027	2,565,000	664,775	3,229,775
2028	2,560,000	575,850	3,135,850
2029	2,490,000	493,735	2,983,735
2030	2,130,000	416,615	2,546,615
2031	1,855,000	349,355	2,204,355
2032	1,870,000	292,505	2,162,505
2033	1,395,000	235,603	1,630,603
2034	1,195,000	195,353	1,390,353
2035 - 2039	5,155,000	476,571	5,631,571
2040 - 2042	360,000	19,800	379,800
	<u>\$ 26,705,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,342,562</u>	<u>\$ 32,047,562</u>

Business-Type	Bonds		Loans Payable (Direct Borrowings)		Total
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	
2025	\$ 415,000	\$ 176,791	\$ 112,203	\$ 15,568	\$ 719,562
2026	420,000	161,204	114,463	13,301	708,968
2027	415,000	146,429	116,769	10,989	689,187
2028	415,000	132,354	119,120	8,629	675,103
2029	420,000	117,677	121,519	6,223	665,419
2030	410,000	103,529	123,968	3,768	641,265
2031	410,000	89,527	126,462	1,264	627,253
2032	415,000	75,589	--	--	490,589
2033	420,000	62,239	--	--	482,239
2034	290,000	50,008	--	--	340,008
2035 - 2039	1,175,000	147,924	--	--	1,322,924
2040 - 2042	510,000	24,300	--	--	534,300
	<u>\$ 5,715,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,287,571</u>	<u>\$ 834,504</u>	<u>\$ 59,742</u>	<u>\$ 7,896,817</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

CHANGES IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities (in thousands):

	Beginning		Reductions	Ending		Less	Equals
	Balance	Additions		Balance	Current Portion	Long-Term Portion	
Governmental Activities							
Bonds payable	\$ 29,510	\$ --	\$ (2,805)	\$ 26,705	\$ (2,570)	\$ 24,135	
Unamortized premium	425	--	(30)	395	(30)	365	
	29,935	--	(2,835)	27,100	(2,600)	24,500	
Compensated absences liability	2,039	29	--	2,068	(103)	1,965	
Net pension liability	64,051	--	(2,130)	61,921	--	61,921	
Net OPEB liability	106,197	--	(4,037)	102,160	--	102,160	
	<u>\$ 202,222</u>	<u>\$ 29</u>	<u>\$ (9,002)</u>	<u>\$ 193,249</u>	<u>\$ (2,703)</u>	<u>\$ 190,546</u>	
Business-Type Activities							
Bonds payable	\$ 6,180	\$ --	\$ (465)	\$ 5,715	\$ (415)	\$ 5,300	
Loans payable (direct borrowings)	944	--	(109)	835	(112)	723	
Unamortized premium	291	--	(19)	272	(17)	255	
	7,415	--	(593)	6,822	(544)	6,278	
Compensated absences liability	222	--	(29)	193	(10)	183	
Net pension liability	1,110	--	(370)	740	--	740	
Net OPEB liability	850	--	(786)	64	--	64	
	<u>\$ 9,597</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (1,778)</u>	<u>\$ 7,819</u>	<u>\$ (554)</u>	<u>\$ 7,265</u>	

LONG-TERM DEBT SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES

Bonds and loans issued by the Town for various municipal projects are approved by Town Meeting and repaid with revenues recorded in the General Fund or Community Preservation Act Fund, and user fees recorded in the Water Fund. All other long-term debt is repaid from the funds that the cost relates to, primarily the General Fund and enterprise funds.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 11 - DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred inflows of resources represent the acquisition of net assets by the Town that apply to future reporting periods. Deferred inflows of resources have a negative effect on net position, similar to liabilities. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB, in accordance with GASB Statements No. 69 and 75, will be recognized as expense in future years and are more fully described in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes. Unavailable revenues are reported in the governmental funds Balance Sheet in connection with receivables for which revenues are not considered available to liquidate liabilities of the current year.

NOTE 12 - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - FUND BALANCES

The Town's fund balances at June 30, 2024 were comprised of the following:

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Federal Grants Fund	Town Capital Fund	School Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable							
Permanent funds	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 917,002	\$ 917,002
Total Nonspendable	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>917,002</u>	<u>917,002</u>
Restricted							
Community Preservation Act Fund	--	10,088,661	--	--	--	--	10,088,661
Capital project funds	--	--	--	1,009,100	808	912,875	1,922,783
Special revenue funds							
Town grants	--	--	150,701	--	--	345,676	496,377
School grants	--	--	--	--	--	63,776	63,776
Receipts reserved for appropriation	--	--	--	--	--	380,388	380,388
Town revolving funds	--	--	--	--	--	1,242,741	1,242,741
School revolving funds	--	--	--	--	--	2,215,003	2,215,003
School choice	--	--	--	--	--	1,287,975	1,287,975
Circuit breaker	--	--	--	--	--	2,427,520	2,427,520
School lunch	--	--	--	--	--	1,892,092	1,892,092
Town other	--	--	--	--	--	1,034,949	1,034,949
School other	--	--	--	--	--	759,692	759,692
Permanent funds	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2,425,014</u>	<u>2,425,014</u>
Total Restricted	<u>--</u>	<u>10,088,661</u>	<u>150,701</u>	<u>1,009,100</u>	<u>808</u>	<u>14,987,701</u>	<u>26,236,971</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 12 - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - FUND BALANCES (CONTINUED)

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Federal Grants Fund	Town Capital Fund	Town Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Committed							
Reserved for continuing appropriations							
Nab fire renovation	253,964	--	--	--	--	--	253,964
Boston Road engineering	319,685	--	--	--	--	--	319,685
Town Hall parking lot	550,000	--	--	--	--	--	550,000
Dump truck	260,000	--	--	--	--	--	260,000
Stony wastewater treatment plant	672,000	--	--	--	--	--	672,000
Other	2,448,660	--	--	--	--	--	2,448,660
Capital stabilization	550,900	--	--	--	--	--	550,900
Fire training tower capital stabilization	83,814	--	--	--	--	--	83,814
Total Committed	<u>5,139,023</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>5,139,023</u>
Assigned							
General government	98,865	--	--	--	--	--	98,865
Public safety	206,056	--	--	--	--	--	206,056
Education	435,155	--	--	--	--	--	435,155
Public works	197,145	--	--	--	--	--	197,145
Health and human services	2,409	--	--	--	--	--	2,409
Culture and recreation	63,196	--	--	--	--	--	63,196
Employee benefits	72,215	--	--	--	--	--	72,215
Reserved for petty cash	5,500	--	--	--	--	--	5,500
Reserved for expenditures	100,000	--	--	--	--	--	100,000
Total Assigned	<u>1,180,541</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,180,541</u>
Unassigned							
General Fund	6,598,212	--	--	--	--	--	6,598,212
General stabilization fund	5,939,046	--	--	--	--	--	5,939,046
Special revenue funds deficits	--	--	(11,082)	--	--	(478,696)	(489,778)
Capital project funds deficits	--	--	--	(3,360,108)	(1,142,268)	--	(4,502,376)
Total Unassigned	<u>12,537,258</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(11,082)</u>	<u>(3,360,108)</u>	<u>(1,142,268)</u>	<u>(478,696)</u>	<u>7,545,104</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$18,856,822</u>	<u>\$10,088,661</u>	<u>\$ 139,619</u>	<u>\$(2,351,008)</u>	<u>\$(1,141,460)</u>	<u>\$15,426,007</u>	<u>\$41,018,641</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 13 - INTERFUND TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS

The Town reports interfund transfers between various funds. Most transfers result from budgetary or statutory actions, whereby funds are moved to accomplish various expenditure purposes. The following is a schedule of major interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024:

Governmental Funds	Transfers In	Transfers Out
General Fund	\$ 53,894	\$ 2,106,996
CPA Fund	--	190,000
Town Capital Fund	1,699,920	--
School Capital	110,000	--
Nonmajor Governmental Funds:		
Special Revenue Funds	353,019	1,669,424
Trust Funds	190,000	--
Subtotal Nonmajor Governmental Funds	543,019	1,669,424
Subtotal Governmental Funds	2,296,833	3,966,420
Business-Type Funds		
Water Fund	60,278	--
Stormwater Fund	600,000	--
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	868,698	--
Internal Service Fund	30,611	--
Subtotal Business-Type Funds	1,559,587	--
	\$ 3,966,420	\$ 3,966,420

Of the transfers out of the General Fund, \$1,468,698 was transferred to the enterprise funds to subsidize the operating budgets.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Town follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, with respect to employees' retirement funds.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

Substantially all employees of the Town (except teachers and administrators under contract employed by the School Department) are members of the Middlesex County Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, public employee retirement system (PERS). With the exception of teachers and certain administrators, all employees of the School Department are members. Eligible employees must participate in the System. The pension plan provides pension benefits, deferred allowances, and death and disability benefits. Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws establishes the authority of the System, contribution percentages and benefits paid. The System Retirement Board does not have the authority to amend benefit provisions. Additional information is disclosed in the System's annual financial reports publicly available from the System located at 25 Linnell Circle, P.O. Box 160, Billerica, Massachusetts 01865.

Participant Contributions

Participants contribute a set percentage of their gross regular compensation annually. Employee contribution percentages are specified in Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws. The employee's individual contribution percentage is determined by their date of entry into the System. In addition, all employees hired on or after January 1, 1979 contribute an additional 2% on all gross regular compensation over the rate of \$30,000 per year. The percentages are as follows:

Before January 1, 1975	5%
January 1, 1975 - December 31, 1983	7%
January 1, 1984 - June 30, 1996	8%
Beginning July 1, 1996	9%

For those members entering the System on or after April 2, 2012 in Group 1, the contribution rate will be reduced to 6% when at least 30 years of creditable service has been attained.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Participant Retirement Benefits

A retirement allowance consists of two parts: an annuity and a pension. A member's accumulated total deductions and a portion of the interest they generate constitute the annuity. The difference between the total retirement allowance and the annuity is the pension. The average retirement benefit is approximately 80-85% pension and 15-20% annuity.

The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those hired prior to April 2, 2012 and the highest 5-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those first becoming members of the System on or after that date. However, per Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011, for members who retire on or after April 2, 2012, if in the 5 years of creditable service immediately preceding retirement, the difference in the annual rate of regular compensation between any 2 consecutive years exceeds 100%, the normal yearly amount of the retirement allowance shall be based on the average annual rate of regular compensation received by the member during the period of 5 consecutive years preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation, and group classification.

There are four classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the Massachusetts State Police. The other three classes are as follows:

- Group 1 - General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical, and all other employees not otherwise classified.
- Group 2 - Certain specified hazardous duty positions.
- Group 4 - Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

A retirement allowance may be received at any age, upon attaining 20 years of service. The plan also provides for retirement at age 55 if the participant was a member prior to January 1, 1978, with no minimum vesting requirements. If the participant was a member on or after January 1, 1978 and a member of Groups 1 or 2, then a retirement allowance may be received if the participant (1) has at least 10 years of creditable service, (2) is age 55, (3) voluntarily left Town employment on or after that date, and (4) left accumulated annuity deductions in the fund. Members of Group 4 have no minimum vesting requirements, however, must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Participant Retirement Benefits (Continued)

A participant who became a member on or after April 2, 2012 is eligible for a retirement allowance upon 10 years' creditable service and reaching ages 60 or 55 for Groups 1 and 2, respectively. Participants in Group 4 must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

Methods of Payment

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of three forms of payment as follows:

- Option A - Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.
- Option B - A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member—provided, however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree's beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.
- Option C - A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member's designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or "pops up" to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable "pops up" to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Participant Refunds

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with at least 10 years of service or involuntarily withdrawing, receive 100% of the regular interest that has accrued on those accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with less than 10 years of service get credited interest each year at a rate of 3%.

Employer Contributions

Employers are required to contribute at actuarially determined rates as accepted by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC).

The Town's contribution to the System for the year ended June 30, 2024 was \$6,522,668, which was equal to its annual required contribution.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the 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 benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

PENSION LIABILITIES, PENSION EXPENSE, AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO PENSION

At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a liability of \$62,660,156 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2024. 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 employers, actuarially determined. At December 31, 2023, the Town's proportion was 3.71%, which was a decrease of (0.13)% from its proportionate share measured as of December 31, 2023.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PENSION LIABILITIES, PENSION EXPENSE, AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO PENSION (CONTINUED)

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town recognized pension expense of \$7,307,380. In addition, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,802,825	\$ --
Changes of assumptions	402,647	--
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	3,212,364	--
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	4,615,398	2,983,703
	\$ 10,033,234	\$ 2,983,703

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

Year Ended June 30	Amount
2025	\$ 1,367,012
2026	1,971,655
2027	4,075,969
2028	(365,105)
	\$ 7,049,531

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation date	1-Jan-24
COLA	5.0% of the first \$16,000 of retirement income
Salary increases	Varies by length of service with ultimate rates of 4.00% for Group 1, 4.25% for Group 2 and 4.50% for Group 4

Mortality rates for pre-retirement were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employee Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021. Mortality rates for healthy retiree were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale MP-2021. Mortality rates for disabled retiree were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward one year and projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was selected from a best estimate range determined using the building block approach. Under this method, an expected future real return range (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) is calculated separately for each asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return net of investment expenses by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding reflected inflation.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

TARGET ALLOCATIONS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major class are summarized in the following table.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global equity	37.00%	4.90%
Core fixed income	15.00%	1.90%
Private equity	16.00%	7.40%
Portfolio completion strategies	10.00%	3.80%
Real estate	10.00%	3.00%
Value added fixed income	8.00%	5.10%
Timber/natural resources	4.00%	4.30%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that the plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current active and inactive 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.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 14 - MIDDLESEX COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.15%, as well as what the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current rate:

1% Decrease (6.15%)	Current Discount Rate (7.15%)	1% Increase (8.15%)
\$ 78,446,044	\$ 62,660,156	\$ 49,375,801

PENSION PLAN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the System’s separately issued financial report.

NOTE 15 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS)

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System (MTRS) is a public employee retirement system (PERS) that administers a cost-sharing, multi-employer, defined benefit plan, as defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is responsible for all contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. The MTRS covers certified teachers in cities (except Boston), towns, regional school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives, and Quincy College. The MTRS is part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ reporting entity and does not issue a stand-alone audited financial report.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 15 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Management of MTRS is vested in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board (MTRB), which consists of seven members—two elected by the MTRS members, one who is chosen by the six other MTRB members, the State Treasurer (or their designee), the State Auditor (or their designee), a member appointed by the Governor, and the Commissioner of Education (or their designee), who serves ex-officio as the Chairman of the MTRB.

BENEFITS PROVIDED

MTRS provides retirement, disability, survivor, and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last 5 years or any 5 consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after 10 years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with 10 years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MTRS' funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MTRS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 15 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions for MTRS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Membership Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975	5% of regular compensation
1975 to 1983	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present	9% of regular compensation
7/1/2001 to present	11% of regular compensation (for teachers hired after 7/1/01 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

In addition, members who join MTRS on or after April 2, 2012 will have their withholding rates reduced to 8% for those participating in retirement, otherwise the withholdings are reduced to 6% plus 2% on earnings over \$30,000 a year after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The net pension liability for the June 30, 2023 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2023 rolled forward to June 30, 2023. This valuation used the following assumptions:

- (a) 2.5% inflation rate; (b) 7.00% investment rate of return, (c) 3.50% interest rate credited to the annuity savings fund and (d) 3.00% cost of living increase on the first \$13,000 per year.
- Salary increases are based on analyses of past experience but range from 4.00% to 7.50% depending on length of service.
- Experience study is dated July 21, 2014 and encompasses the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, updated to reflect actual experience from 2012 through 2020 for post-retirement mortality.
- Mortality rates were as follows:
 - Pre-retirement – reflects RP-2010 Teachers Employees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 (gender district).
 - Post-retirement – reflects RP-2010 Teachers Employees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 (gender distinct).

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 15 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (CONTINUED)

- Disability – assumed to be in accordance with the Pub-2010 Teachers Retirees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2021 (gender distinct).

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

Investment assets of the MTRS are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. 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 rates of return 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 rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global equity	37.00%	4.90%
Core fixed income	15.00%	1.90%
Private equity	16.00%	7.40%
Portfolio completion strategies	10.00%	3.80%
Real estate	10.00%	3.00%
Value added fixed income	8.00%	5.10%
Timber/natural resources	4.00%	4.30%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

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 that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the 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.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 15 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The following illustrates the sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. In particular, the table presents the MTRS collective net pension liability assuming it was calculated using a single discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate (amounts in thousands):

1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
\$ 33,378,000	\$ 26,290,271	\$ 20,292,000

SPECIAL FUNDING SITUATION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarial determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers. Therefore, these employers are considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* (GASB 68) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a non-employer contributing entity in MTRS. Since the employers do not contribute directly to MTRS, the Town did not recognize a pension liability.

TOWN PROPORTIONS

In fiscal year 2023 (the most recent measurement period), the Town's proportionate share of the MTRS' collective net pension liability was \$131,445,668 based on a proportionate share of 0.499978%. As required by GASB 68, the Town has recognized its portion of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' contribution of \$10,742,915 as both a revenue and expenditure on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, and its portion of the collective pension expense of \$12,273,100 as both a revenue and expense on the Statement of Activities.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)*, replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This applies if a trust fund has been established to fund future OPEB costs. In fiscal year 2012, the Town established a single-employer defined benefit OPEB Trust Fund to provide funding post-employment healthcare and life insurance benefits. The OPEB Trust Fund does not issue a stand-alone financial report.

GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. This statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. This statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discounted projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service.

All the following OPEB disclosures are based on a measurement date of June 30, 2024.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEB PLAN

Plan Description

The Town provides post-employment healthcare and life insurance benefits for retired employees through the Town's plan. The Town provides health insurance coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield of New England. The benefits, benefit levels, employee contributions, and employer contributions are governed by Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws.

Benefits Provided

The Town provides medical and prescription drug insurance to retirees and their covered dependents. All active employees who retire from the Town and meet the eligibility criteria will receive these benefits.

Funding Policy

The Town's funding policy includes financing the implicit subsidy on a pay-as-you-go basis, as required by statute. Additional contributions are based on annual budget limitations/authorizations.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEB PLAN (CONTINUED)

Plan Membership

At June 30, 2024, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	677
Active employees	<u>1,003</u>
	<u><u>1,680</u></u>

INVESTMENTS

The OPEB Trust Fund's assets as of June 30, 2024 consisted of corporate equities and fixed income mutual funds.

Rate of Return

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 11.24%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND OTHER INPUTS

The net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.50% per year
Salary increases	3.00% per year
Investment rate of return	6.21%
Municipal bond rate	4.21%
Discount rate	5.98% (previously 5.42%)
Healthcare cost trend rates	5.00% in fiscal year 2024 and an ultimate trend rate of 3.63% in fiscal year 2060
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	40% for premiums for the PPO & Medicare Integrated Plans and 35% for others as well as 50% of premiums for life insurance. Participants pay 100% of premiums for dental insurance
Participation rate	80% of employees eligible to receive both medical and life insurance

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND OTHER INPUTS (CONTINUED)

Mortality rates for pre-retirement were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females. Mortality rates for post-retirement were based on 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. Mortality rates for disabled were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year.

The actuarial assumptions used to calculate the actuarial accrued liability and the service cost primarily reflect the latest experience studies of the Massachusetts PERAC issued in 2014 and their most recent analysis of retiree mortality during 2015 and 2016.

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

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 are developed for each major asset class.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2024 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity - Large Cap	47.75%	4.91%
Domestic Equity - Small/Mid Cap	3.25%	5.29%
International Equity - Developed Market	4.75%	5.32%
International Equity - Emerging Market	1.75%	6.13%
Domestic Fixed Income	33.25%	2.30%
International Fixed Income	1.75%	2.02%
Alternatives	4.50%	6.35%
Real Estate	0.00%	6.25%
Cash	3.00%	0.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to the implicit subsidy contribution, the Town's policy to contribute amounts provided annually by the budget.

DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the net OPEB liability was 5.98%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rate.

Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan fiduciary net position was projected to be insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. As a result, a blended discount rate was used based on the combination of the investment rate of return of 6.21% through fiscal year 2074 and municipal bond rate of 4.21% thereafter.

NET OPEB LIABILITY

The components of the net OPEB liability, measured as of June 30, 2024, were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 117,806,481
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>15,581,831</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 102,224,650</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	13.23%

The fiduciary net position has been determined on the same basis used by the OPEB plan. For this purpose, the plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY

The following summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the past year:

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB	Plan	Net OPEB
	Liability	Fiduciary	Liability
	(a)	Net Position	(a) - (b)
	(b)	(a) - (b)	
Balances, beginning of year	\$ 120,063,845	\$ 13,017,229	\$ 107,046,616
Changes for the year			
Service cost	3,379,261	--	3,379,261
Interest	6,584,392	--	6,584,392
Contributions - employer	--	4,970,690	(4,970,690)
Net investment income	--	1,566,055	(1,566,055)
Differences between expected and actual experience	603,714	--	603,714
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(8,852,588)	--	(8,852,588)
Benefit payments	(3,972,143)	(3,972,143)	--
Net Changes	(2,257,364)	2,564,602	(4,821,966)
Balances, end of year	\$ 117,806,481	\$ 15,581,831	\$ 102,224,650

Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 5.42% in 2023 to 5.98% in 2024.

SENSITIVITY OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

1%	Current	1%
Decrease	Discount	Increase
(4.98%)	Rate	(6.98%)
(5.98%)	(5.98%)	(6.98%)
\$ 119,266,173	\$ 102,224,650	\$ 88,444,789

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE HEALTHCARE COST TREND RATES

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	Current Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (5.00%)	1% Increase (6.00%)
1% Decrease (4.00%)	\$ 102,224,650	\$ 121,571,831
\$ 86,742,853		

OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Town recognized an OPEB expense of \$12,411,431. At June 30, 2024, the Town reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,543,906	\$ 1,788,220
Change in assumptions	16,030,320	9,300,967
Net difference between projected and actual OPEB investment earnings	--	706,359
	\$ 17,574,226	\$ 11,795,546

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB (CONTINUED)

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

<u>Year Ended June 30</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 1,920,607
2026	2,258,746
2027	2,329,821
2028	1,003,953
2029	(1,194,799)
Thereafter	<u>(539,648)</u>
	<u>\$ 5,778,680</u>

NOTE 17 - SELF-INSURANCE

The Town self-insures against claims for most employee health coverage. Annual estimated requirements for claims are provided in the Town's annual operating budget.

HEALTH INSURANCE

The Town contracts with an insurance carrier for excess liability coverage and an insurance consultant for claims processing. Under the terms of its insurance coverage, the Town is liable for claims up to \$125,000 per individual. The claims liability represents an estimate of claims incurred but unpaid at year-end, based on past historical costs and claims paid subsequent to year-end. The claims liability does not include unknown loss events that are expected to become claims or expected future development on claims already reported because the town does not have a reasonable estimate of these amounts.

Changes in the aggregate liability for claims for the past two fiscal years were as follows:

Claims liability, beginning of year	\$ 1,599,166
Claims incurred/recognized in fiscal year 2024	16,960,243
Claims paid in fiscal year 2024	<u>(16,756,132)</u>
Claims liability, end of year	<u>\$ 1,803,277</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 18 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

OUTSTANDING LEGAL ISSUES

On an ongoing basis, there are typically pending legal issues in which the Town is involved. The Town's management is of the opinion that the potential future settlement of these issues would not materially affect its financial statements taken as a whole.

GRANTS

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the Town expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

ENCUMBRANCES

At year-end the Town's General Fund had \$1,075,041 in encumbrances that will be honored in the next fiscal year.

NOTE 19 - BEGINNING FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENTS

The School Capital Fund has been reclassified as a major fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This reclassification is based on the fund's financial activity, which meets the quantitative thresholds established for major fund reporting. The effects of this reclassification are reflected in the accompanying financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*. The reclassification did not impact the total fund balance, net position or change in fund balance or net position of the Town.

	Reporting Units Affected by Adjustment to Beginning Fund Balances	
	School Capital Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023, as previously reported	\$ --	\$ 14,745,281
Adjustment - change from nonmajor to major fund	<u>(281,856)</u>	<u>281,856</u>
June 30, 2023, as adjusted	<u>\$ (281,856)</u>	<u>\$ 15,027,137</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 20 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through March 10, 2025, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) – BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
	Original Budget	Final Budget		Positive (Negative)
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 92,225,729	\$ 92,225,729	\$ 91,774,512	\$ (451,217)
Excises	5,161,000	5,161,000	5,669,096	508,096
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	220,000	220,000	230,883	10,883
Payments in lieu of taxes	71,955	71,955	66,146	(5,809)
Betterments	4,963	4,963	9,590	4,627
Charges for services	290,687	290,687	291,775	1,088
Intergovernmental	20,630,633	20,630,633	20,857,564	226,931
Licenses and permits	1,010,000	1,010,000	1,350,522	340,522
Fines and forfeitures	60,000	60,000	84,192	24,192
Investment income	450,000	450,000	847,270	397,270
Other	104,793	104,793	233,924	129,131
Total Revenues	<u>120,229,760</u>	<u>120,229,760</u>	<u>121,415,474</u>	<u>1,185,714</u>
Expenditures				
General government	5,996,944	6,774,036	6,365,301	408,735
Public safety	13,092,738	13,232,430	12,657,741	574,689
Education	68,171,965	68,296,965	68,082,337	214,628
Public works	8,223,385	9,769,317	8,981,819	787,498
Health and human services	1,203,093	1,228,155	1,148,194	79,961
Culture and recreation	2,531,082	2,625,252	2,503,814	121,438
Employee benefits	22,673,786	22,673,330	22,647,013	26,317
Debt service	3,406,175	3,360,675	3,220,449	140,226
Intergovernmental	599,598	599,598	675,985	(76,387)
Total Expenditures	<u>125,898,766</u>	<u>128,559,758</u>	<u>126,282,653</u>	<u>2,277,105</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>(5,669,006)</u>	<u>(8,329,998)</u>	<u>(4,867,179)</u>	<u>3,462,819</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers in	1,635,835	1,635,835	1,686,729	50,894
Transfers out	(2,468,698)	(2,469,154)	(2,669,154)	(200,000)
Use of free cash:				
Capital	315,000	2,465,472	2,465,472	--
Operating	1,072,566	1,583,542	1,583,542	--
Use of restricted fund balance	625	625	625	--
Use of prior year fund balance (carryforwards)	5,113,678	5,113,678	5,113,678	--
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>5,669,006</u>	<u>8,329,998</u>	<u>8,180,892</u>	<u>(149,106)</u>
Overall Budgetary Excess	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 3,313,713</u>	<u>\$ 3,313,713</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

**NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

BUDGETARY BASIS

The General Fund final appropriation appearing on the previous page represents the final amended budget after all reserve fund transfers and supplemental appropriations.

BUDGET/GAAP RECONCILIATION

The budgetary data for the General Fund is based upon accounting principles that differ from GAAP. Therefore, in addition to the GAAP basis financial statements, the results of operations of the General Fund is presented in accordance with budgetary basis of accounting to provide a meaningful comparison to budgetary data.

The following is a summary of adjustments made to the actual revenues, expenditures, and other financing sources (uses), to conform to the budgetary basis of accounting.

General Fund	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources (Uses)
GAAP Basis	\$ 132,499,930	\$ 130,375,540	\$ (2,053,102)
To reverse unbudgeted GASB 24 Massachusetts Teacher Retirement System Contributions	(10,742,915)	(10,742,915)	--
To record use of prior year carryforwards	--	--	5,113,678
Current year carryforwards and continuing appropriations	--	5,579,351	--
To record use of free cash	--	--	4,049,014
To record use of restricted fund balance	--	--	625
Reclassification of budgeted transfers	--	1,070,677	1,070,677
Other adjustments	3,578	--	--
Reverse the effects of combining the General Fund and stabilization funds (GASB 54)	(345,119)	--	--
Budgetary Basis	<u>\$ 121,415,474</u>	<u>\$ 126,282,653</u>	<u>\$ 8,180,892</u>

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY JUNE 30, 2024 (Unaudited)

Middlesex Regional Retirement System									
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll		Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability		
June 30, 2024	December 31, 2023	3.710000%	\$ 62,660,156	\$ 29,308,551	213.79%				55.21%
June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022	3.839687%	65,161,824	27,779,314	234.57%				52.61%
June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	3.344767%	44,844,218	26,671,296	168.14%				61.14%
June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020	3.663938%	56,098,309	27,016,988	207.64%				53.42%
June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019	3.717985%	59,489,841	25,881,068	229.86%				49.45%
June 30, 2019	December 31, 2018	3.807483%	59,376,424	25,307,496	234.62%				46.40%
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	3.642858%	51,698,881	24,255,608	213.14%				49.27%
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	3.733888%	52,904,581	24,100,833	219.51%				45.49%
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	3.671119%	47,358,134	22,663,136	208.97%				46.13%
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	3.579206%	42,997,563	21,791,477	197.31%				47.65%
Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System									
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Total Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Town	Total Net Pension Liability Associated with the Town	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll		Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	0.499978%	\$ --	\$ 131,445,668	\$ 131,445,668	\$ 43,686,866	--	%	58.48%
June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	0.523773%	--	135,595,004	135,595,004	49,850,396	--		57.75%
June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	0.535797%	--	121,622,648	121,622,648	41,721,478	--		62.03%
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	0.546525%	--	156,004,753	156,004,753	41,414,717	--		50.67%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	0.557575%	--	140,587,139	140,587,139	40,581,820	--		53.95%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	0.554299%	--	131,431,351	131,431,351	38,914,182	--		54.84%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	0.543505%	--	124,383,239	124,383,239	36,988,876	--		54.25%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	0.545467%	--	121,955,066	121,955,066	34,522,546	--		52.73%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	0.544034%	--	111,470,624	111,470,624	35,851,099	--		55.38%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	0.530452%	--	84,322,583	84,322,583	32,524,633	--		61.64%

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 30, 2024

(Unaudited)

Middlesex Regional Retirement System							
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	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, 2024	December 31, 2023	\$ 6,522,668	\$ 6,522,668	\$ --	\$ 30,040,169	21.71%	
June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022	6,263,082	6,263,082	--	28,731,016	21.80%	
June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	5,950,276	5,950,276	--	27,564,717	21.59%	
June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020	5,473,719	5,473,719	--	26,165,009	20.92%	
June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019	5,152,765	5,152,765	--	26,526,702	19.42%	
June 30, 2019	December 31, 2018	4,902,690	4,902,690	--	25,332,458	19.35%	
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	4,619,903	4,619,903	--	24,859,402	18.58%	
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	4,238,879	4,238,879	--	24,563,761	17.26%	
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	3,993,806	3,993,806	--	23,192,937	17.22%	
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	3,808,963	3,808,963	--	23,244,988	16.39%	
Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System							
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Actuarially Determined Contribution Provided by Commonwealth	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	
June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023	\$ 10,742,915	\$ 10,742,915	\$ --	\$ 43,686,866	24.59%	
June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	11,023,342	11,023,342	--	49,850,396	22.11%	
June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	9,638,311	9,638,311	--	43,150,964	22.34%	
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	8,489,902	8,489,902	--	41,721,478	20.35%	
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	8,049,770	8,049,770	--	41,414,717	19.44%	
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	7,287,824	7,287,824	--	40,581,820	17.96%	
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	6,715,086	6,715,086	--	38,914,182	17.26%	
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	6,134,226	6,134,226	--	36,988,876	16.58%	
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	5,559,647	5,559,647	--	34,522,546	16.10%	
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	4,972,350	4,972,350	--	35,851,099	13.87%	

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY (Unaudited)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB Liability								
Service cost	\$ 3,379,261	\$ 3,216,021	\$ 2,417,074	\$ 2,216,467	\$ 2,144,399	\$ 2,874,731	\$ 2,695,924	\$ 3,379,477
Interest	6,584,392	6,284,840	5,422,209	5,194,612	4,712,132	4,487,338	4,871,606	3,932,112
Changes of benefit terms	--	--	--	--	(3,050,640)	--	--	--
Differences between expected and actual experience	603,714	--	(3,246,007)	--	3,713,568	--	--	(2,545,735)
Changes of assumptions	(8,852,588)	884,814	26,031,127	2,530,554	(6,561,176)	--	(12,065,335)	--
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,972,143)	(3,538,142)	(3,440,619)	(3,169,596)	(2,965,571)	(2,485,694)	(2,245,506)	(2,042,259)
Net change in total OPEB liability	(2,257,364)	6,847,533	27,183,784	6,772,037	(2,007,288)	4,876,375	(6,743,311)	2,723,595
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	120,063,845	113,216,312	86,032,528	79,260,491	81,267,779	76,391,404	83,134,715	80,411,120
Total OPEB Liability - Ending (a)	117,806,481	120,063,845	113,216,312	86,032,528	79,260,491	81,267,779	76,391,404	83,134,715
Plan Fiduciary Net Position								
Contributions - employer	4,970,690	4,809,887	4,389,065	2,030,100	4,038,212	3,558,335	3,245,991	3,162,513
Net investment income (loss)	1,566,055	1,162,350	(749,724)	4,396,871	69,344	357,859	(4,960)	152,263
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	(3,972,143)	(3,538,142)	(3,440,619)	(3,169,596)	(2,965,571)	(2,485,694)	(2,245,506)	(2,042,259)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	2,564,602	2,434,095	198,722	3,257,375	1,141,985	1,430,500	995,525	1,272,517
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	13,017,229	10,583,134	10,384,412	7,127,037	5,985,052	4,554,552	3,559,027	2,286,510
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	15,581,831	13,017,229	10,583,134	10,384,412	7,127,037	5,985,052	4,554,552	3,559,027
Net OPEB Liability (Asset) - Ending (a-b)	\$ 102,224,650	\$ 107,046,616	\$ 102,633,178	\$ 75,648,116	\$ 72,133,454	\$ 75,282,727	\$ 71,836,852	\$ 79,575,688

Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND INVESTMENT RETURNS (Unaudited)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Schedule of Net OPEB Liability								
Total OPEB liability	\$ 117,806,481	\$ 120,063,845	\$ 113,216,312	\$ 86,032,528	\$ 79,260,491	\$ 81,267,779	\$ 76,391,404	\$ 83,134,715
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>15,581,831</u>	<u>13,017,229</u>	<u>10,583,134</u>	<u>10,384,412</u>	<u>7,127,037</u>	<u>5,985,052</u>	<u>4,554,552</u>	<u>3,559,027</u>
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	<u>\$ 102,224,650</u>	<u>\$ 107,046,616</u>	<u>\$ 102,633,178</u>	<u>\$ 75,648,116</u>	<u>\$ 72,133,454</u>	<u>\$ 75,282,727</u>	<u>\$ 71,836,852</u>	<u>\$ 79,575,688</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	13.23%	10.84%	9.35%	12.07%	8.99%	7.36%	5.96%	4.28%
Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 70,953,690	\$ 69,309,760	\$ 67,291,029	\$ 66,756,835	\$ 64,812,462	\$ 60,760,942	\$ 57,273,016	\$ 57,373,661
Net OPEB Liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll	144.07%	154.45%	152.52%	113.32%	111.30%	123.90%	125.43%	138.70%
Schedule of Contributions								
Actuarially determined contribution (1)	\$ 8,378,315	\$ 8,113,326	\$ 7,146,651	\$ 6,033,439	\$ 7,331,061	\$ 7,908,973	\$ 8,017,242	\$ 3,162,513
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>4,970,690</u>	<u>4,809,887</u>	<u>4,389,065</u>	<u>4,396,871</u>	<u>4,038,212</u>	<u>3,558,335</u>	<u>3,245,991</u>	<u>3,162,513</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ 3,407,625</u>	<u>\$ 3,303,439</u>	<u>\$ 2,757,586</u>	<u>\$ 1,636,568</u>	<u>\$ 3,292,849</u>	<u>\$ 4,350,638</u>	<u>\$ 4,771,251</u>	<u>\$ --</u>
Covered Employee Payroll	\$ 70,953,690	\$ 69,309,760	\$ 67,291,029	\$ 66,756,835	\$ 64,812,462	\$ 60,760,942	\$ 58,991,206	\$ 57,373,661
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Employee Payroll	7.01%	6.94%	6.52%	6.59%	6.23%	5.86%	5.50%	5.51%
Schedule of Investment Returns								
Annual money weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	11.24%	10.18%	-6.75%	24.63%	1.16%	6.63%	-0.12%	14.69%

(1) Based on a 30-year funding schedule.

Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

**Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and
on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

To the Honorable Select Board
Town of Westford, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAS") and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States ("*Government Auditing Standards*"), the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Westford, Massachusetts (the "Town"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 10, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Boston, MA
March 10, 2025