

Watertown Budget Presentation

- **Town Council Recommended**



Agenda-Putting the Pieces Together

- Introductions-Overview
- Crossroads
- Grant – Infrastructure Improv.
- Revenue - Expenditures
- Highlights
- Effects of Revaluation
- Putting the Pieces Together/Conclusion



Town Council Budget Presentation

Watertown Town Council

Mary Ann Rosa, Chairwoman

Ken Demirs, Vice-Chairman

Jonathan Ramsay

Robert Retallick

Robert (Herm) Desena

Gary J. Lafferty

Anthony DiBona

Rachel A. Ryan

Carina J. Noyd

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Department Leadership

Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager	
Town Clerk	Lisa Dalton
Police Chief	Joshua Bernegger
Director of Parks & Recreation	Michael Ganem
Land Use Administrator	Mark Massoud
Finance Director/Assistant Town Manager	Susan Zappone
Fire Chief	David Bromley
Director of Public Works/WSA	Gerald (Jerry) Lukowski
Water and Sewer Asst. - Superintendent	David McMahan
Fire Marshal	Kim Calabrese

Watertown - Crossroads

1. Informed Decisions.

2. Proper Stewards of Town Infrastructure.

3. Balancing the Impact of today's decisions.

4. Linking Service Levels to Budget Requests: Critical for Resident Services.

5. Budget decisions directly shape service quality and amenities.

6. Stakeholders must consider the trade-offs, particularly in infrastructure maintenance.



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Change...



Taxpayers desire to avoid tax increases.



However, maintaining the status quo leads to negative growth in the operational budget.



Negative growth of the budget occurs when increases do not meet rising expenses, salaries, and infrastructure needs.



Decision-making process involves:

Informing residents on the importance of investment.

Facilitating tough discussions to make difficult decisions.



Watertown must prioritize self-investment for long-term prosperity.



Town Council Recommended

Infrastructure Improvements: Grants



**Starbucks-St. John
Sidewalk & Woodruff Light
Head:**

Funding: \$128K/128K
**Source: STEAP Grant
State/Town**



**Heminway Park Rd
Enhancement:**

Funding: \$250k/60K
**Source: STEAP Grant
State/Town**



**School Safety
Enhancement:**

Funding: \$250K/60K
**Source: STEAP Grant
State/Town**



**Highway Garage
Enhancement:**

**Funding:
\$500,000/100K**
**Source: STEAP Grant
State/Town**



**RSA Projects: WTN/OAK
Main Street**

Funding: \$3 million
**Source:
Congresswoman Hayes
Grant Funding**

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Infrastructure Improvements: Grants



**Guernseytown Road
/West Rd Project:**

Funding: \$4.3 million
Source: LOTCIP Grant



**Woolson Street Bridge
Improvement:**

**Funding:
\$1.45M/1.45M**
Source: State/Town



**Police Communication
System:**

Funding: \$3.6 million
**Source:
Congresswoman Hayes
Grant**



**Munson House
Bonding:**

Funding: \$500,000
**Source: State Bonding
Grant**



**ADA Sidewalk
Connectivity:**

Funding: \$2.75 million
**Source: State of CT
Connectivity Grant**

TOWN OF WATERTOWN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



**CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT
PLAN BOOKLET**



860.945.5240
www.watertownct.org

Capital Improvements

Town Council Recommended

Budget - Overview



Town Council Recommended Revenue

Fiscal Year	24 Adopted	24-25 Recommended Budget	%	Difference
Property Taxes	\$72,583,935	\$74,244,326	2.3%	\$1,660,391
State of CT to School	\$12,435,998	\$12,791,100	2.90%	\$311,428
State of CT to Town	\$1,867,290	\$2,547,688	36.4%	\$680,398
Board of Education	\$26,000	\$26,000	0%	\$0
Local Revenues	\$925,149	\$798,599	(13.7%)	(\$126,550)
Permits & Fees	\$452,500	\$555,400	22.7%	\$102,900
Police Revenue	\$1,016,000	\$966,350	(4.9%)	(\$49,650)
Other General Fund Revenue	\$474,008	\$762,332	60.8%	\$288,324
Total Revenue	\$89,780,880	\$92,691,795	3.24%	\$2,910,315

Town Council Recommended Expenditures

Fiscal Year	FY 24 Adopted	FY 24-25 Recommended Budget	%	Difference
Personnel Services	\$13,009,693	\$14,084,664	8.3%	\$1,074,971
Employee Benefits	\$8,132,167	\$8,515,917	4.7%	\$383,750
Purchased Services	\$3,932,640	\$4,058,381	3.2%	\$125,741
Supplies & Materials	\$1,536,005	\$1,450,425	(5.6%)	(\$85,580)
Equipment & Improvement	\$1,449,183	\$1,678,087	15.8%	\$228,904
Other Expenditures	\$6,648,935	\$6,428,230	(3.3%)	(\$220,705)
Fund Transfers	\$1,115,188	\$1,245,188	4.9%	\$55,000
BOE	\$53,957,069	\$56,105,902	2.5%	\$1,348,833
Total Expenditures	\$89,780,880	\$92,691,794	3.2%	\$2,910,914

Town Council Recommended

Reductions

Department	Description	Dept Requested	TM Recommended	TC Recommended	Reduction
Police	Law Enforcement Equipment	\$67,200	\$47,700	\$40,700	\$7,000
Buildings	Police Dept. Improvement	\$710,000	\$618,000	\$33,000	\$585,000
Public Works	Skid Steer, Training, Const. Equip Replacement	\$185,000	\$185,000	\$61,667	\$123,333
		\$8,000	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$2,000
		\$250,000	\$150,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
Fire Department	Trans/Vehicle Rep. Fund	\$200,000	\$175,000	\$150,000	\$25,000
Park & Recreation	Sr. Center Op, Utilities-Water	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$64,333	\$5,667
Planning and Zoning	Intern	\$16,330	\$10,000	\$9,000	\$1,000
Total		\$1,506,530	\$1,263,700	\$464,700	(800,000)

Town Council Recommended

Watertown Expansion:- Personnel

- **Supported:**
 - Building Department: Part-time inspector to full-time.
 - Park and Recreation: Reorganization over 6 months.
 - Finance – Succession
 - Police - Communications
 - Water and Sewer: Reorganization for office oversight. (FY 23/24)
 - New positions: Chief Maintainer, Business Analyst.
- **Not supported:**
 - Highway Department: 1 FTE declined for infrastructure priority. (Future endorsement FY25/26).
 - Assessor's Office: Reorganization for succession planning (2025/2026).
 - Police Department: Request for 2 FTE not supported for FY 24/25.

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Budget

Budget – FY 2024/2025

	FY 2023- 2024	FY 2024- 2025	\$ Difference	%
TOWN	\$35,823,811	\$37,385,892	\$1,562,081	4.4%
BOE	\$53,957,069	\$55,305,902	\$2,148,833	2.5%
TOTAL	\$89,780,880	\$92,691,794	\$2,910,914	3.2%

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Effects of Revaluation Capital Expansion



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Grand List Composition

➤ Real Estate	84.47%
➤ Residential	86.6%
➤ Commercial	4.9%
➤ Land	8.5%
➤ Motor Vehicle	10.01%
➤ Personal Property	5.52%

Fiscal Year	2022	2023	%	Difference
Motor Vehicle	\$270,965,901	\$260,164,451	(3.99)%	(\$10,801,450)
Personal Property	\$133,959,058	\$143,379,168	7.03%	\$9,420,110
Real Estate	\$1,557,856,035	\$2,597,760,773	66.8%	\$1,039,904,738
TOTAL	\$1,962,780,994	\$3,001,304,392	52.9%	\$1,038,523,398

Revaluation Impact Motor Vehicle Taxes



Due to a reduction in the mill rate and assessment values, most residents can expect a decrease in their motor vehicle taxes.

2022-Average Assessment

$$\$12,800 \times 32.46 = \$415$$

2023-Average Assessment

$$\$12,100 \times 28.35 = \$355$$

(mill rate est.)

Example : Vehicle with decrease assessment to this number?

Average Home Values / Assessments 2022 v 2023

Change...

- **2022 - Average Assessment**

- Home Value \$241,610

- Home Assessment 169,127 x 36.86 mill rate = \$6,234

- **2023 Revaluation - Average Assessment**

- Home Value \$346,571

- Home Assessment 242,600 x 28.35 mill rate = \$6,878

- \$644/12 = \$53.65 month

TOWN OF WATERTOWN

SCAN ME

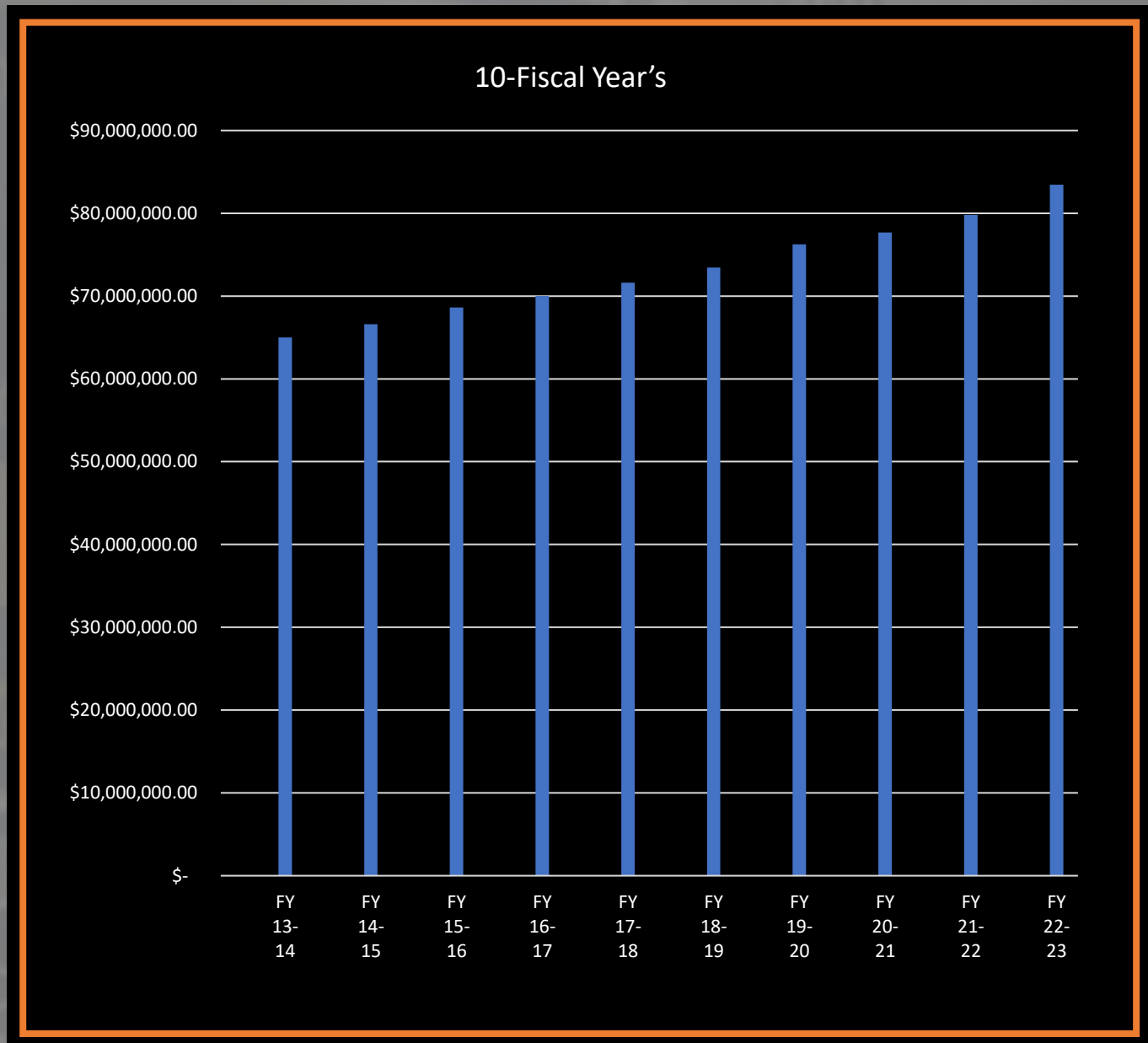


REAL ESTATE Tax Calculator



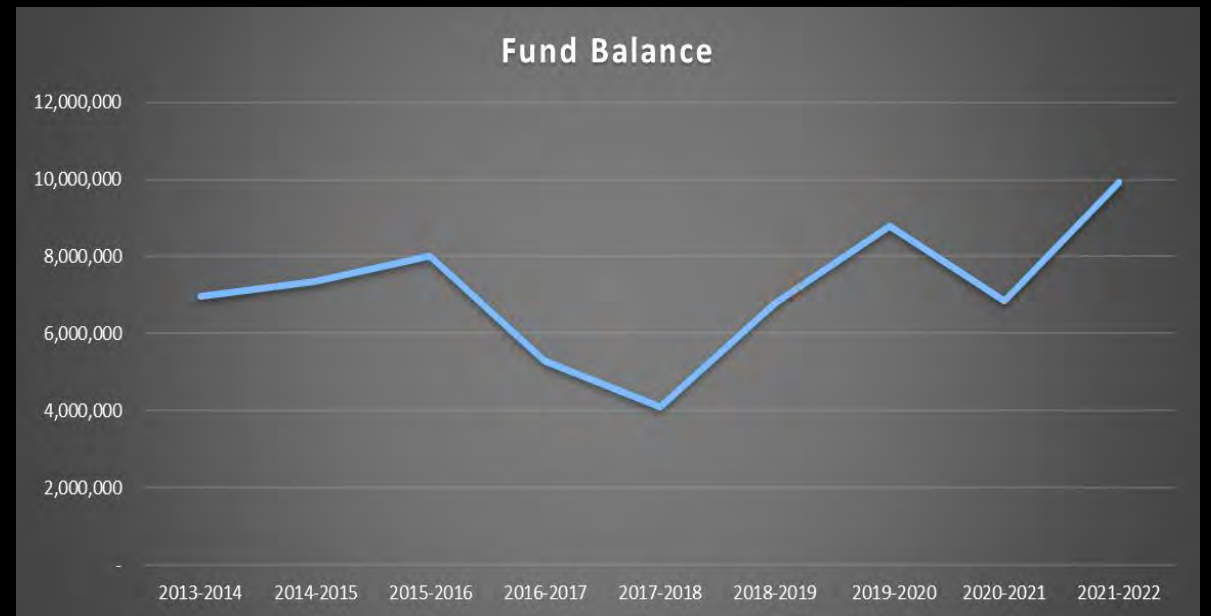
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10 Year Lookback



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FUND BALANCE



A black and white photograph of a basketball court floor. The floor is dark with white painted lines and numbers. The number '0' is visible in the center-right area. The lines form a grid pattern, typical of a basketball court. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights.

Department – Presentations

Police

Fire

Public Works

Park & Recreation

Water & Sewer

Town Council

Budget Strategy Impact:

- ✓ Historically focused on flat budgets.
 - ✓ Result: Infrastructure maintenance compromised.
 - ✓ Presentation emphasizes need for tough decisions to address urgent infrastructure issues.
 - ✓ Budgeting – Software-Procedures and mitigation of falling below MV Cap in FY 25/26 .
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Town Council-

Budgetary SILO's:

- ✓ Neglecting upkeep jeopardizes safety and passes on costs.
 - ✓ Ensure long-term viability.
 - ✓ Direct increases for urgent needs.
 - ✓ Substantial road investments not included.
 - ✓ Discussion needed: Consider increasing debt services.
 - ✓ Vital projects: Road repairs, police department, community center, highway garage.
-



Economic Development - Sustainability

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Economic Development:

- ✓ Grand list growth vs. true economic development distinction.
 - ✓ True economic development: initiatives for overall economic vitality.
 - ✓ Emphasize sustainable strategies for long-term prosperity. Shared Service approach.
 - ✓ Proactive approach essential for attracting development to remaining land.
 - ✓ Enables responsible development with stakeholder consensus.
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Town Council

Water & Sewer Department (WSA) Overview:



- Operates independently as an Enterprise Fund.
- Conducted rate study and has been setting funds aside for pending litigation.
- Aggressive infrastructure improvement efforts underway.
- Focus on positioning customers to offset future costs.

Town Council-

Engaging Stakeholders for Future Success:
Putting The Pieces Together



- ✓ Vital to continue to discuss budget priorities and infrastructure investment.
- ✓ Continue to work to stabilize budget.
- ✓ Informed decisions crucial for long-term community prosperity.
- ✓ Together, we ensure continued well-being.

✓ Thank you for your attention!