



WATERTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: FROM MAIN STREET TO DAVIS STREET

Presentation to Town Council
February 22, 2022

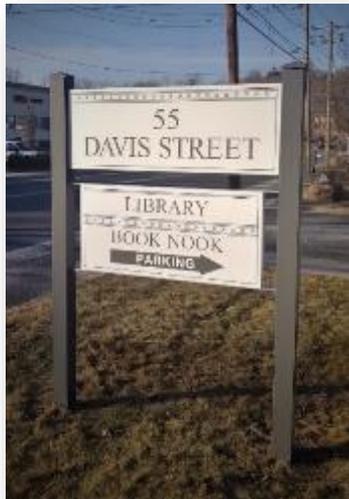
BOOKS BUILD MINDS, PEOPLE BUILD LIBRARIES

In recent years, we have devoted about 2,000 new and repurposed meeting, event and other space for the people of Watertown and Oakville

From Main Street to Davis Street



The Woodward Atrium is our \$700,000 expansion that will enhance our ability to meet community needs for gatherings, meetings and exhibitions.



In Oakville, we invested \$60,000 to transform the ground floor of the Oakville Branch Library into the new home for **The Book Nook**, our town's only bookstore, run by The Friends of the Watertown Library.

PERFORMANCE

Adapting and serving through an ongoing pandemic

- ▶ We served 10,777 registered borrowers in 2021, a drop of roughly 12% from 2020 due to the COVID-19 restrictions, which eased in May. Thanks to adding curbside service, individualized “Grab and Go” bags for children and expanding our electronic collections and virtual programs, we were able to reach more of our town’s population and vary the items in circulation.
- ▶ 46% of Oakville and Watertown residents have a library card

[State average: 37%]

[45% is considered excellent]

PERFORMANCE

A VERY careful steward of public resources

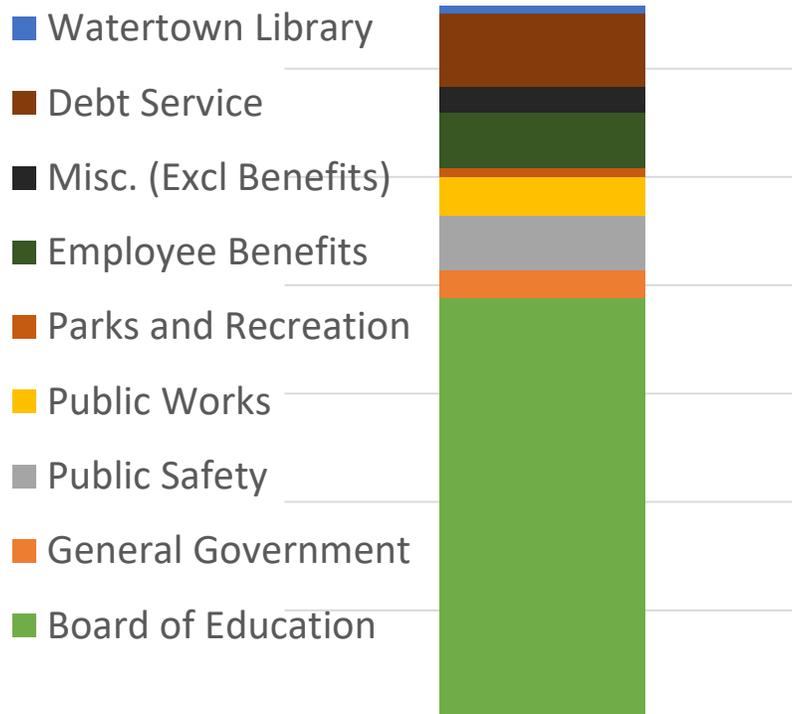
On a per-capita basis, support for the Library is very much in line with area communities

FY 2022 Library Appropriations Per Capita		% of Town Revenue
Thomaston	\$68.35	1.74
Woodbury	\$65.52	1.88
Statewide Average (2021)	\$56.66	1.15
Middlebury	\$51.58	1.16
Bethlehem	\$38.68	1.17
Southbury	\$37.60	1.09
Watertown	\$35.55	0.93
Terryville	\$35.15	0.96

PARTNERSHIP

A **VERY** careful steward of public resources

FY 2021-2022
TOWN OF WATERTOWN BUDGET



The Library:

Responsible for ALL capital projects, aided by local foundations and The Friends of the Watertown Library

- Last 10 years: Over \$1 million
 - The Woodward Atrium
 - The new Book Nook in Oakville
 - Water drainage improvements
 - Updated Wi-Fi service
 - New HVAC and energy efficient lighting and carpeting at the Main Library
 - Renovated entranceway, stairs and restrooms at Main Library
 - New circulation desk

The Town:

Annual appropriation funds ongoing services and operations:

- Books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs
- Access to online information, e-books, audiobooks, and video streaming
- Staff wages and benefits

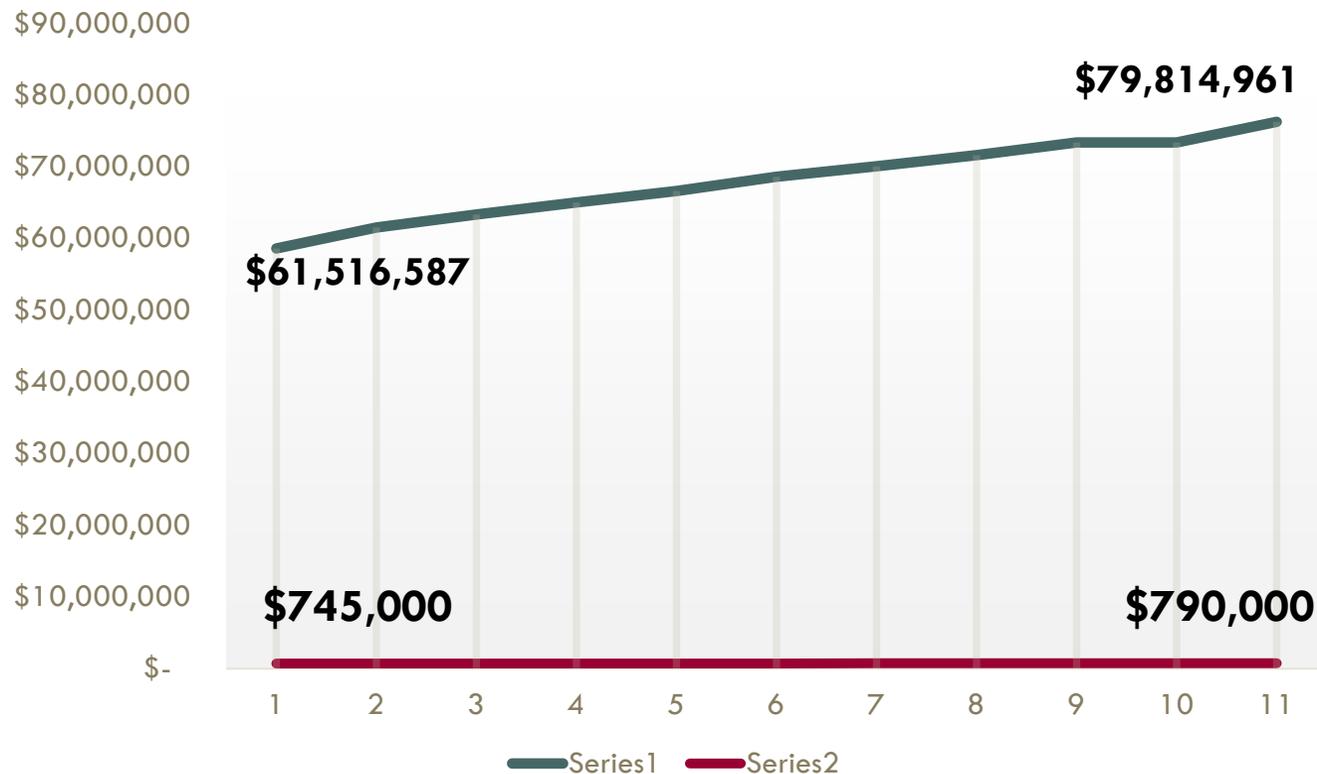
BY THE NUMBERS

A VERY careful steward of public resources

We have been frugal with the Town appropriation—which has only grown 6% over the past 10 years.

Our FY '23 request is 2.5% over last year, representing a 10-year average of less than one percent per year.

2012-2022: Town v. Library Budgets



FY 2013-2022		AVG
Town Budget Growth	26%	2.6%
Library Budget Growth	6%	0.6%

2023 Request		AVG
\$813,450	2.5%	0.92%

PROGRESS

“It’s time to renew our library.”

We begin 2022 anxious to fully emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver to the people of Watertown and Oakville increased and enhanced space from Main Street to Davis Street.

Thank you for your support—and the resources—to help us fulfill our role for all generations.



THANK YOU.