Town of New Fairfield Board of Finance 4 Brush Hill Road New Fairfield, CT 06812

MINUTES (REVISED)

Board of Finance Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Town and Education Budgets Public Hearing Saturday, March 5, 2022 9:00 AM Via Zoom

Members present:
Wes Marsh, Chairman
Mark Bennison
Thora Perkins
Cheryl Reedy

Claudia Willard
Dave Coleman, Alternate
Chris D'Esposito, Alternate

Greg Williams, Alternate

Members not present via Zoom

Michael Cammarota

Other Town Officials Present- First Session

Dr. Pat Cosentino, Superintendent of Schools
Julie Luby, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman Lori Ann Beninson, Selectman

Khris Hall, Selectman

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer

Phil Ross, Director of Buildings and Grounds Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology Katherine Matz, Pupil Personnel Director Christine Baldelli, Middle School Principal Cheryl Milo, Middle School Assistant Principal

James Mandracchia, Meeting House Hill School Principal Allyson Story, Meeting House Hill School Assistant Principal

Rob Spino, Consolidated School Principal

Karen Gruetzner, Consolidated School Assistant Principal

Alyce Misuraca, BOE Director of Curriculum

Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman

Tim Blair, BOE member Greg Flanagan, BOE member Amy Johnson, BOE member

Kimberly LaTourette, BOE member

Ed Sbordone, BOE member Stephanie Strazza, BOE member

Other Town Officials Present- Second Session

Pat Del Monaco, First Selectman Lori Ann Beninson, Selectman

Khris Hall, Selectman

Olga Melnikov, Finance Director Kerrie Greening, Tax Collector Terry Friedman, Town Treasurer

Dr. Rich Sanzo, BOE Director of Business and Operations

Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology

Bruce Taylor, Fire Chief

Dominic Cipollone, BOE Chairman

Ed Sbordone, BOE member Stephanie Strazza, BOE member

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Attachments- BOE and BOS Budget presentations

<u>Call To Order</u> Chairman Wes Marsh called the meeting to order at 9:04am

Network Administrator Paul Gouveia gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Appointments- None

Presentation of the Board of Education Requested Budget 2022/2023

Wes Marsh explained the budget process and noted that the role of the Board of Finance is to balance the needs of the town with the taxpayers ability to pay. The BOF will meet every Wednesday in March to discuss the budget.

BOE Chairman Dominic Cipollone gave a Power Point presentation for the 2022-2023 proposed budget for the Board of Education. He thanked the teachers, administrators, school staff, teachers and students for their dedication to the education system in New Fairfield. He further thanked his fellow BOE members and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Pat Cosentino for their commitment and hard work.

The Power Point presentation included an Introduction, Points of Pride and Post-Pandemic needs, a spending plan for 2022-2023, Stewardship and Cost Containment, the impact of BOF Guidance and Next Steps. There was a description of the operating budget and especially contractual obligations that cannot be cut. Mr. Cipollone gave examples of three scenarios of cuts that would need to be made in order to reach a zero increase budget. He noted that all the scenarios would have significant negative impacts on the district and the overall future of the students.

The total requested BOE budget for 2022-2023 equals \$42,977,752 which is a \$1,460,438 increase from the 2021-2022 budget which represents a 3.52% increase. It was noted that a total of \$3.64 million was received in COVID relief funds. Of these emergency funds, \$2.54 million has been spent and \$1.1 million is projected to be available for the 2022-2023 school year. He thanked Dr. Pat Cosentino and Dr. Sanzo and their staff for their efforts and prudent spending which allowed some of this money to be carried over to this year.

Public Comment

Many members of the public including many district teachers spoke in support of the BOE budget as presented and encouraged the BOF not to make any cuts to the budget.

BOF-Minutes-Revised 03/05/22 Page 2 of 4 Attachments- BOE and BOS Budget presentations

Review of BOE Budget by Board of Finance members

Members of the Board of Finance asked questions of the BOE regarding the proposed budget. Specific questions included the amount of staffing positions paid for with ARPA funds and the net change in teachers' salaries and enrollment projections and class sizes. There was a discussion of the cost of Special Education including transportation costs.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Julie Luby spoke of test scores and the how they were affected by the pandemic.

Dr Rich Sanzo spoke of capital projects for the Middle School and noted that a plan has been developed for the next ten years. He suggested putting together a committee to determine the best way to fund these projects.

Recess

The board went into recess at 10:21 am.

The board came back from recess at 10:45 am.

Presentation of Board of Selectmen's Requested Budget 2022/2023

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco presented the BOS budget for 2022/2023 and noted that the BOS has kept their budget as low as possible for the past two years due to the increase in debt service for the school project. She noted that there are external and internal pressures that are unavoidable but the BOS tried to keep the budget increase to less than 1% from last year. She spoke of reductions in both the operating budget and the capital and nonrecurring budget and the use of ARPA funds. She spoke of addressing the current year's needs as well as a five or ten year plan for capital needs.

First Selectman Del Monaco gave a brief description of the budget components that include: Operating (payroll and non-payroll), Medical Insurance Fund, Capital and Nonrecurring Fund, Debt Service, Taxpayer revenue, Non-taxpayer revenue Grand List and Adjustment to property taxes. She spoke of the process for putting the budget together.

The total requested municipal budget for 2022-2023 is \$13,265,589 which represents an increase of \$404,907 or 3.15% over the 2021-2022 budget.

Public Comment- Board of Selectmen's Budget

Resident Aline Fogel spoke in support of the proposed BOS budget as presented.

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Public Hearing (con't)

Fire Chief Bruce Taylor spoke in support of the budget and noted that any more cuts to the Fire Department budget would be difficult and encouraged the BOF to approve the budget as presented.

First Selectman Pat Del Monaco noted that the Fire Department has deferred \$50,000 to their apparatus fund.

Review of Budget by Board of Finance members

Cheryl Reedy thanked the BOS for honoring their commitment to using ARPA funds in the amount of approximately \$1.75 million to offset projects in the capital and nonrecurring fund.

There was a discussion of the importance of maintaining the five-year capital plan and road repair schedule. Other questions referred to the possibility of doing personal property assessments and the funding of future Ball Pond studies.

There was a discussion of equipment for the Police Department and the possibility of grant money for this.

Future Meetings

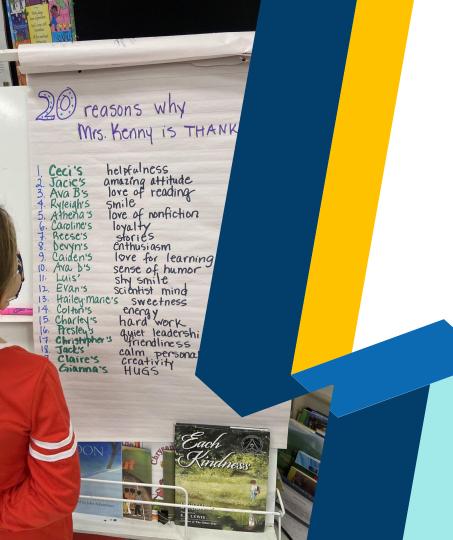
The Board of Finance will have budget meetings every Wednesday in the month of March at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Wes Marsh asked Town Treasurer Terry Friedman to provide a list of options for bonding for the March 9th meeting. Medical Insurance will be discussed at an upcoming meeting in March.

Adjournment

Thora Perkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:46am. Mark Beninson seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Received by email on 03/10/2022 @ 1:28 p.m. by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield





Board of Education's Recommended 2022-2023 Spending Plan

Presented by Dominic Cipollone, Chairman Saturday, March 5, 2022

Outline

- Introduction
- Points of Pride &Post-Pandemic Needs
- BOE FY23 Spending Plan
- Stewardship & Cost Containment
- Impact of BOF Guidance
- Next Steps



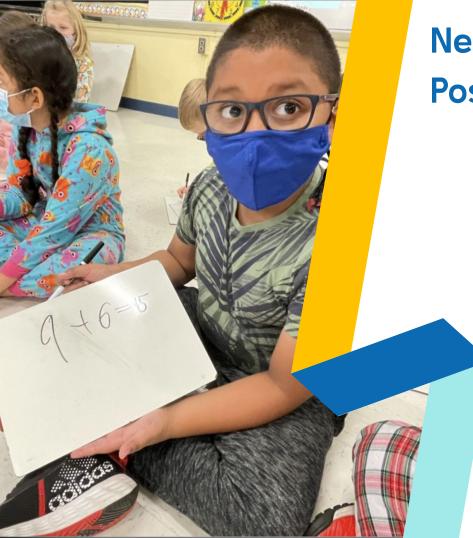




Points of Pride



- Continued to educate students throughout the pandemic
- Devoted professional development, instructional coaching, and intervention to improve mathematics performance
- Introduction of Project Lead the Way (Engineering) and STEAM programming (K-5)
- Development of STRIDES 18-22 program
- Articulated Vision of the Graduate
- Both building projects on-time and on-budget

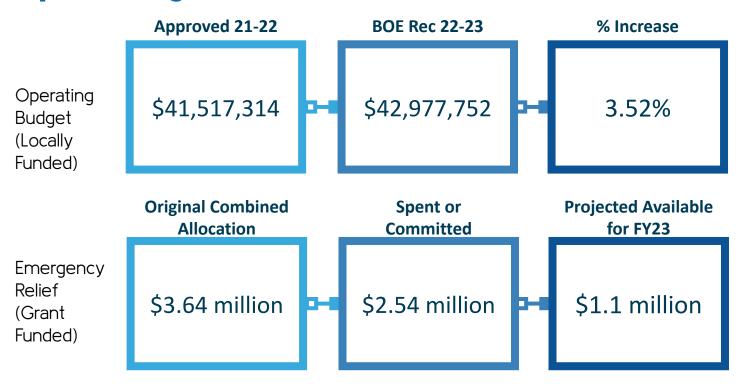


Needs of Students in a Post-Pandemic Community

- Social-emotional and mental health impact on students, families, and staff
- Increase in behavioral concerns requiring supportive measures
- Interrupted instruction has created learning gaps that requires more targeted instruction and intervention
 - Increasing number of special education students

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Spending Plan







Non-Discretionary

- Contractual Wages
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Outplacements
- SPED Evaluations
- Service Contracts
- Cyber Insurance
- STRIDES Facility

Superintendent/BOE's Reductions

- K-2 SPED Teacher
- K-2 Reading Interventionist
- MS STEM Coach
- ► High School & K-5 Teachers
- District Carpenter
- Enrichment Teacher
 (Move to ESSER Grant)
- Other Non-Payroll & Payroll Efficiencies

Increased Fees

- ELC Tuition
- Pay to Participate
- Building Use Fees

\$2,188,710 5.27% \$648,272 1.56%



\$80,000 0.19%





Stewardship & Cost Containment



- Effective contract negotiations resulting in \$219,000 savings to medical insurance
- Development of STRIDES 18-22 transition-only program
- Negotiated transition of new hires to a defined contribution plan
- Reduction in utility usage from Fall 2022 opening of CELA
- Utilize incentives from Eversource to implement energy efficiency measures (\$200,000+ incentive for MS HVAC)
- Annually fully fund actuarially-defined pension contributions
- Adjust staffing each year to match enrollment projections and student needs

Managing Staff Costs

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Staff Decreases

- 1.0 Consolidated Glade 2 Teach
- 1.0 Consolidated SpEd Teacher
- 1.0 Consolidated Reading
- 2.0 MHHS Grade 4 Teachers
- 1.0 MHHS PE Teacher
- 1.0 MHHS Grade 5 Teacher
- 0.4 MHHS Writing Intervention
- 1.0 MS STEM Coach
- 0.6 MS World Language

1.0 Consolidated Grade 2 Teacher 0.6 HS Teacher

- 0.8 HS Counselor
- 0.5 HS Cafeteria Aide
- 1.4 Paraprofessionals
- 1.0 District Social Worker
- 1.0 Special Education Coach
- 2.0 Engagement Coordinators
- 6.0 Guest Teachers
- 1.0 Carpenter
- 23.3 Total FTE

Staff Increases

- 1.0 BCBA
- 1.0 MS STEAM
- 0.5 MS Strings
- 1.0 MS Special Education
- 0.2 Reclassify Athletic Dir
- 0.8 Reclassify Security Guard
- + 4.5 Total FTE

Net Change from FY22 Spending Plan = - 18.8 FTE

Total Salary and Benefits **DECREASE** by \$93,242 from 2021-2022







Implementing a responsible budget to meet the increasing needs of all students

-or-

Implementing significant cuts to staff and programs to meet BOF 0% guidance

Impact of BOF 0% Request

Scenario #1

20 Teachers \$1,500,000

Increase Elementary
Class Sizes
Eliminate MS Team
Model
Reduction of HS
Course Offerings

Scenario #2

2 Administrators \$300,00

Eliminate Athletic Director and Curriculum Director

> 16 Teachers \$1,200,000

Scenario #3

2 Administrators

+ 12 Teachers

\$1,200,000

+

Enrichment Program \$150,000

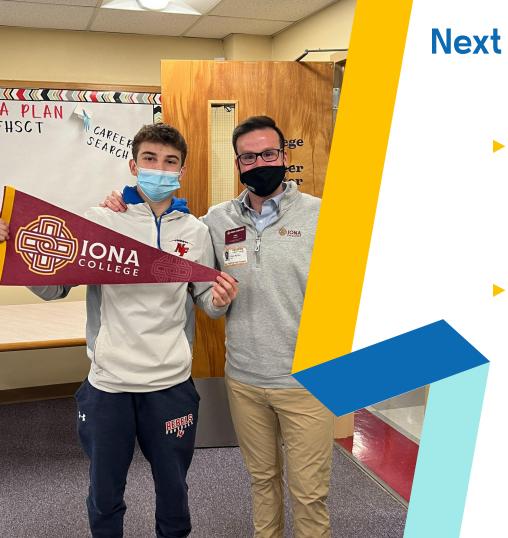
+

Strings Program \$50,000

+

Freshman Athletics \$100,000





Next Steps

Put the BOE operating budget out to the voters as presented

Let the voters decide at referendum

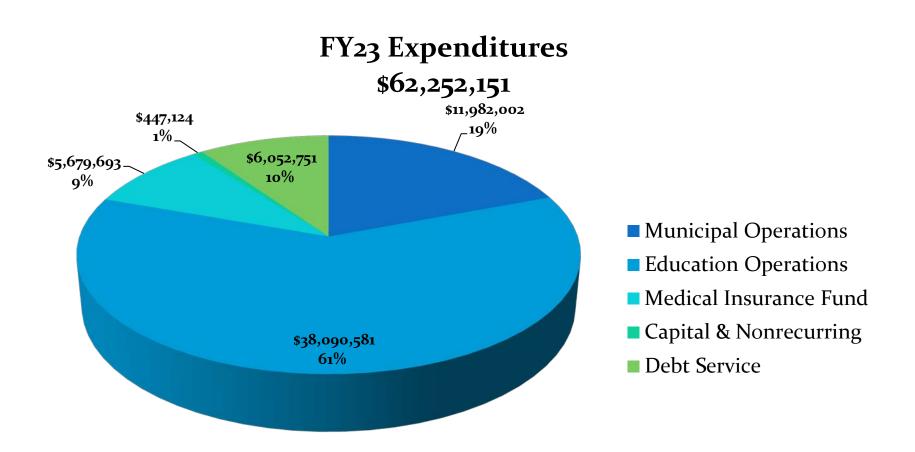
Thank you!

TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD



2022/2023 BOARD OF SELECTMEN REQUESTED BUDGET

MUNICIPAL BUDGET



BUDGET COMPONENTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

- OPERATING
 - Payroll and Non Payroll
- MEDICAL INSURANCE FUND
- Capital and Non-Recurring Fund
- DEBT SERVICE
- TAXPAYER REVENUE
- Non-Taxpayer Revenue
- GRAND LIST
- ADJUSTMENTS TO PROPERTY TAXES

WHAT DOES THE TOWN BUDGET PAY FOR?

- Public Safety
 - Police
 - FIRE
 - EMS
 - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- Public Works
 - PLOWING
 - ROAD REPAIR
 - BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
 - BRIDGE AND DRAINAGE REPAIR
- PUBLIC HEALTH
 - VACCINATIONS
 - COVID TESTING
 - SEPTIC MONITORING AND REPAIR
 - WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- LIBRARY
- SENIOR CENTER
- Parks and Recreation
- Social Services

TOWN BUDGET PROCESS

- DEPARTMENT REQUESTS
 - SERIES OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
 - DEPARTMENT HEADS PRESENT
 - NEEDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR
 - PROJECTIONS FOR FUTURE YEARS
- BOS APPROVES THE BUDGET
- BOS PRESENTS THE BUDGET TO THE BOF

BUDGET PRIORITIES

- MAINTAINING SERVICES
- Maintaining Infrastructure

- SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Long Term Capital Planning
- New School Project

	Approved Budget 2021/2022	Dept. Request 2022/2023	BOS Recommended 2022/2023
Total Municipal Operations Municipal Debt Service	11,523,034 141,380	12,103,014 137,826	12,047,155 137,826
Contribution to Cap &Non Municipal Medical Insurance	370,213 826,055	784,839 792,522	304,239 792,522
Total Municipal Budget	12,860,682	13,818,201	13,265,589
Year to Year Increase		957,519	404,907
Year to Year Increase %		7.45%	3.15%

	2021/2022 Approved Budget	Department Request	Increase/Decrease	
Board of Selectman	200,227	205,717	5,490	
Town Clerk	183,766	188,119	4,353	
Probate	9,721	10,000	279	
Registrars of Voters	60,801	77,121	16,320	
Finance	301,593	312,829	11,236	
Board of Finance	79,137	84,353	5,216	
Treasurer	8,170	8,333	163	
Assessor	179,284	184,422	5,138	
Tax Collector	199,463	212,727	13,264	
BAA	1,423	1,486	63	
Unclassified PR& Ben	1,281,632	1,302,711	21,079	
Professional Services	132,500	132,500	-	
Intergov Agencies	278,297	268,557	(9,740)	
General Insurance	180,000	190,000	10,000	
Business Machines	354,532	369,847	15,315	
Human Resources	32,000	33,000	1,000	
Planning Commission	6,087	23,248	17,161	
Zoning Commission	83,103	91,413	8,310	
Zoning Board of Appeals	11,885	12,032	147	
Economic Development	6,557	6,568	11	
Utilities	334,269	442,518	108,249	
PBC	3,948	4,024	76	
General Land Use	16,297	16,667	370	
Historical Properties	250	250	-	
Commission of the Youth	1,000	1,000	- ·	
Police	2,558,392	2,610,075	51,683	
Communications Center	325,307	335,387	10,080	
Fire Companies	206,750	249,355	42,605	
Ambulance / Paramedic	753,933	768,968	15,035	
Fire Marshal	78,270	79,619	1,349	
Building Inspector	152,740	157,742	5,002	
Office of Emergency Management	57,685	74,561	16,876	
Animal Control	55,268	56,230	962	
Public Works	2,211,700	2,382,452	170,752	
Health	285,161	298,300	13,139	
Inland/Wetlands	5,848	5,905	57	
WPCA	1,515	1,528	13	
Social Services	95,021	102,701	7,680	
Senior Services	184,466	192,647	8,181	
Ball Pond Advisory	7,673	18,893	11,220	
Commission on Aging	4,375	4,436	61	
Recreation	73,721	77,525	3,804	
Library	519,267	507,248	(12,019)	

REDUCTIONS IN OPERATIONS

Probate	-353
Unclass Payroll & Benefits	-2,139
Communication Center	
Salaries	4,939
Sub Building Inspector	1,900
BPAC Salaries	200
Workers Comp	-3,000
Ball Pond Study	-10,000
SRO Overtime	-35,000
ZEO Phone	-1,400
Planning Lighting Study	-3,000
POCD	-17,000
Utilities	-16,459
Zoning Regulations	-4,500
Fire Department	-21,200
PW Contracted Services	-4,000
Technology	-5,000
Animal Control M & S	-5,000
Total Operations Reductions	\$121,012

TOWN PROPERTIES CAPITAL

Building Repair Reserve	35,864.95	
PD Conference Room	1,600	
CoA Water Fountain	650	
PW Carpet	4,224	
Repair TH Chimney	10,000	
TH Tank and Furnace	35,000	
Ball Pond Fire Oil Tank	58	
	51,532	
Building Repair Reserve	87,397	
	PD Carpet	3,500
	Library Furnace	35,000
	Annex Bathroom	10,000
	Proposed Reduction Town Propert	ties 48,500
Building Repair Reserve Balance	38,897	40,500

BRIDGE AND DRAINAGE AND PW TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT

Harman wisted Con and Non	47.246.22	
Unappropriated Cap and Non	47,216.32	
Bridge and Drainage	42.024.00	
Columbia Dr. Bridge	42,821.09	
Yale/Hudson Spillway	15,396.47	
Warwick Road Bridge	9,655.49	
Total Bridge and Drainage Transfers	67,873.05	
Total Unappropriated Cap and Non	115,089.37	
	Health Dept. Ford Ranger	25,000
	PD e-Ticket	8,500
	Ductless Mini Split Ball Pond	8,500
Unappropriated Cap and Non Balance	73,089.37	42,000
PW Trucks Equipment		
Wheeled Excavator	9,304.20	
Replace NF 17	4,244.72	
Walk Behind Mower	172	
Refurbish Conveyor Spinners	1,651.12	
Total PW Trucks Transfers	15,372.04	
Total Unappropriated Cap and Non	88,461.41	
	PD Active Shooter Kit	8,100
	PD New Firearms	10,000
Total Unappropriated Cap and Non	70,361.41	18,100

LONG TERM CAPITAL PLAN BRIDGE AND DRAINAGE

Project	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	ARPA
Town Wide Drainage	12,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	
Bridges Under 20 Feet	20,000	0	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
Pedestrian Safety	6,000	62,250	55,000	60,000	60,000	0	0	
Columbia Drive Bridge	25,000	(8,000)	0	0	0	0	0	
Bigelow Rd. Realignment	22,000	(75,000)	75,000	75,000	75,000	50,000	0	
Warwick Road Bridge	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bear Mtn Bridge	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Yale Dr. Spillway	9,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Streetscape Maintenance	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Sr. Center Dam and Pond	0	(50,000)	50,000	50,000	50,000	100,000	100,000	
Ball Pond Watershed				50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	
Y 26 11 A								470.000
Lower Merlin Ave.	25,000	75,000	75,000	0	0	0	0	150,000
Sewer Study	0	320,000	320,000	320,000	320,000	320,000	0	1,600,000
Total	139,500	592,250	660,000	640,000	640,000	605,000	285,000	
ARPA		395,000	395,000	320,000	320,000	320,000	0	1,750,000
Total After ARPA		122,250	265,000	320,000	320,000	285,000	285,000	

REDUCTIONS IN CAP AND NON

PD Carpet	-3,500
PD e-Ticket	-8500
PD Active Shooter Kits	-8100
PD New Firearms	-10,000
Animal Control Roof	-16,500
Library Furnace	-40,000
Annex Bathroom	-10,000
Ford Ranger	-25,000
Ductless Mini-Split for Ball Pond Fire	-8,500
Fire Department	-56,000
Columbia Dr. Bridge	-8,000
Bigelow Road Realignment	-75,000
Senior Center Dam	-50,000
Radio NF-17	-2,500
Outside Lighting	-25,000
POCD	10,000

Total Capital Reductions

\$431,600

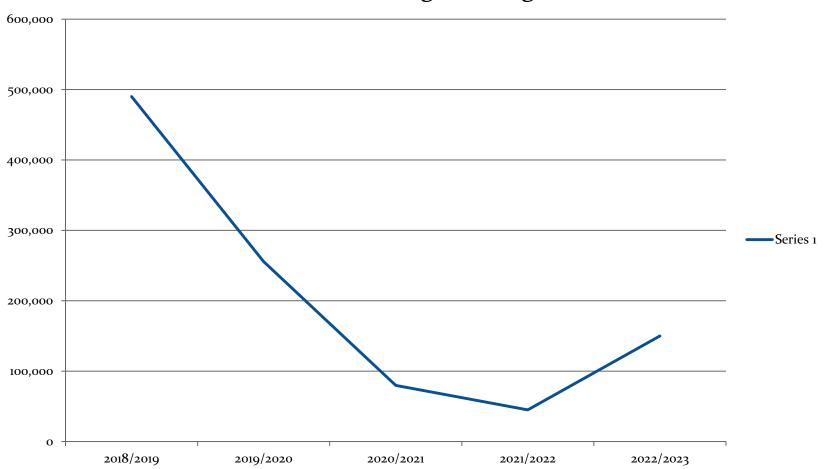
TOWN PROPERTIES CAPITAL LONG RANGE PLAN

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2022/23 Update Outside Lighting - All Buildings Building Repair Reserve	Total	25,000 20,000 45,000 75,000
2023/24		
Replace Furnace Co. A Firehouse Replace Siding at Library Replace French Doors at Senior Center Building Repair Reserve	Total	40,000 30,000 30,000 20,000 120,000
<u>2024/25</u>		
Interior Painting Town Hall Interior Painting Senior Center Repair/Replace Gazebo Memorial Field Parking Lot Lighting Memorial Field Building Repair Reserve	Total	25,000 25,000 30,000 20,000 20,000 120,000
<u>2024/25</u>		
Replace PWD Garage Furnaces Vinyl Siding Police Department Building Repair Reserve	Total	45,000 55,000 20,000 120,000
2026/27		
Generator at Town Hall Generator at Library Building Repair Reserve	Total	50,000 50,000 20,000 120,000

2022	/22
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2022/23	
Vehicles & Equipment Replacement	
Replace International (NF-17)	235,000
New Equipment for Existing Vehicles	0
New Small Equipment & Vehicles	(70,000)
	235,000
<u>2023/24</u>	
Vehicles & Equipment Replacement	
Replace 2008 International (NF-14)	240,000
Replace Ford NF-24	75,000
New Equipment for Existing Vehicles	
Replace Two-Way Radios NF-14 & NF-24	5,000
	320,000
<u>2024/25</u>	
Vehicles & Equipment Replacement	
Replace 2008 International (NF-22)	240,000
Replace Street Sweeper	250,000
New Equipment for Existing Vehicles	
Replace Two-Way Radios NF-22 and Sweeper	5,000
	495,000
<u>2025/26</u>	
<u>Vehicles & Equipment Replacement</u>	
Replace 1997 L90C Loader	400,000
New Equipment for Existing Vehicles	0
	400,000
2026/27	
<u>Vehicles & Equipment Replacement</u>	
Replace NF-27	240,000
Replace NF-248	80,000
New Equipment for Existing Vehicles	
Replace Two-Way Radios NF-27 and NF-48	2,500
New Small Equipment & Vehicles	
Forks for Skid Steer	2,000
	324,500

Road Paving Funding



	TOTAL
Option 1:	
Mill keys at limits; Furnish and install tack coat; Furnish and install	
1.5" bituminous overlay	
Does NOT include any driveway aprons	\$ 314,950.00
	. ,
Furnish and install catch basin grate risers	\$ 15,000.00
Furnish and install manhole risers	\$ 555.00
Furnish and install 1.5" bituminous driveway overlays	\$ 24,042.50
TOTAL	\$ 354,547.50
Option 2:	
Mill existing pavement - approx. 2"	
Furnish and install tack coat	
Furnish and install 2" bituminous overlay	\$ 515,000.00
Furnish and install catch basin grate risers	\$ 15,000.00
Furnish and install manhole risers	\$ 555.00
Furnish and install 1.5" bituminous driveway overlays	\$ 24,042.50
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 554,597.50
Option 3:	
Remove existing curbing	
Saw cut and remove existing driveway aprons	
Reclaim & fine grade	
Replace catch basin tops	
Furnish and install manhole risers	
Furnish and install 3" bituminous concrete	
Furnish and install 6" standard bituminous curbing	
Furnish and install 2" bituminous driveway aprons	
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 892,500.00

YEAR TO YEAR INCREASE

Contractual Salary Increases	\$156,262
FY 22/23 Prior Year Unsettled Contracts	\$88,575 \$61,028
Registrar of Voters Salaries	\$11,000
Road Repair	\$105,000
Public Works Contracted Services	\$29,229
Total	\$393, 281

TOTAL REDUCTIONS

Operating Reductions	\$121,012
Capital and Non-Recurring Reductions	\$431,600
Total Reductions	\$552,612
Total Year to Year Increase	\$404,907
Year to Year % Increase BOS Budget	3.15
Total	
#Mills Municipal Operations FY 21/22	6.96
#Mills Municipal Operations FY 22/23	7.04
Increase	0.27%
#Mills Capital & Non Recurring	0.26
Decrease	(0.05%)

SUMMARY

- BUDGET PROVIDES FUNDING TO
 - Maintain Town services
 - Maintain town Equipment, Buildings and Infrastructure
 - MEET CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS
 - PRESERVE CAPITAL FUNDING LEVELS