

**ROSELLI, CLARK & ASSOCIATES**  
Certified Public Accountants

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

Report on Examination of the Basic Financial Statements and  
Additional Information

Year Ended June 30, 2024



# TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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	<u>Page</u>
<u>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT</u>	1-3
<u>MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS</u>	4-10
<u>BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:</u>	
<u>Government-Wide Financial Statements:</u>	
Statement of Net Position	11
Statement of Activities	12
<u>Fund Financial Statements</u>	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds	13
Reconciliation of the Governmental Funds Balance Sheet Total Fund Balances to the Statement of Net Position	14
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	15
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities	16
Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Funds	17
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position – Proprietary Funds	18
Statement of Cash Flows – Proprietary Funds	19
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Funds	20
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Funds	21
Notes to Basic Financial Statements	22-56
<u>REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:</u>	
Schedule of Town’s Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability	57
Schedule of Town’s Contributions to Pension Plan	57
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios - Town	58
Schedule of OPEB Contributions - Town	59
Schedule of Investment Returns – OPEB Plan - Town	59
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability and Related Ratios - GELD	60
Schedule of OPEB Contributions - GELD	61
Schedule of Investment Returns – OPEB Plan - GELD	61
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual – General Fund	62
Notes to Required Supplementary Information	63



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Honorable Select Board  
Town of Groton, Massachusetts

### **Opinions**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Groton, 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, except for the Groton Electric Light Department, (the "Light Department", "Electric Light Department" or "GELD") which is as of December 31, 2023 and is a Town department reported as an enterprise fund and part of the Town's business-type funds. We did not audit the financial statements of the Light Department which represented 42.5% and 80.8% of the assets and revenues of the combined enterprise funds within the Town's business-type activities. Those statements were audited by other auditors whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to those amounts included for this discretely presented component unit, is based solely on the report of the other auditors.

In our opinion the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town as of June 30, 2024, (except for the Light Department, which is as of December 31, 2023) and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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 taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance; therefore, it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town'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, and the schedules listed under the required supplementary information section in the accompanying table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, is the responsibility of management and, although not 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 a report dated February 6, 2025 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

*Roselli, Clark & Associates*

Roselli, Clark and Associates  
Certified Public Accountants  
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801  
February 6, 2025

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As the management of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts (the "Town"), we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 (December 31, 2023, for the Groton Electric Light Department). We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with their review of the basic financial statements, notes to the basic financial statements and required supplementary information found in this report.

### **Financial Highlights**

- The assets and deferred outflows of financial resources for the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by nearly \$93.7 million (*total net position*). This was an increase of over \$19.5 million over the prior year. This consisted of an increase in governmental activities of \$18.5 million and nearly \$1 million in business-type activities.
- At the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds balance sheet reported a combined ending fund balance of nearly \$2.6 million, which is approximately \$20.6 million less than the prior year. This was due primarily to the net activity in the capital projects fund as construction on a new school continues.
- Of the ending fund balance in the Town's governmental funds, the Town reports unassigned fund balance at year-end of nearly \$6.9 million in the General Fund.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was over 13.8% of the total General Fund expenditures and the total General Fund balance was approximately 16.6% of the total General Fund expenditures.
- The Town's total long-term debt in its governmental activities and business-type activities increased by nearly \$9.0 million in the fiscal year due to the issuance of new debt offset by regular scheduled maturities.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis are intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The Town's basic financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other 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 the Town's finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

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

The *statement of activities* presents information showing how the government'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 pay).

Both government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenue (*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 of the Town include general government, public safety, highways and streets, regionalized education, health and human services, culture and recreation, fringe benefits and debt service. The business-type activities of the Town include water, sewer, cable access, stormwater drainage and electric light enterprise funds.

**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. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds.

Accounting guidelines distinguish fund balance between amounts that are considered nonspendable, such as fund balance associated with inventories, and other amounts that are classified based on the relative strength of the constraints that control the purposes for which specific amounts can be spent. Beginning with the most binding constraints, fund balance amounts will be reported in the following classifications:

- Nonspendable – amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (i.e. inventory or prepaid items) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted – amounts constrained by external parties, constitutional provision, or enabling legislation.
- Committed – amounts constrained by a government using its highest level of decision-making authority.
- Assigned – amounts a government intends to use for a particular purpose.
- Unassigned – amounts that are not constrained at all will be reported in the General Fund or in other major funds if negative.

**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 a government'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 government's near-term financing decisions. Reconciliations are provided in the basic financial statements to help the reader understand the difference.

The Town maintains several individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the general fund, community preservation act fund, library trust funds, and capital projects funds. Data from the other governmental funds are combined into a single, aggregated presentation.

The Town adopts an annual appropriated budget for its General Fund. A budgetary comparison schedule has been provided for the General Fund to demonstrate compliance with this budget. This schedule has been prepared as required supplementary information and can be found along with the corresponding notes in this report.

**Proprietary Funds** – *Enterprise funds* are used to report the same functions presented as *business-type activities* in the government-wide financial statements. Proprietary funds provide the same type of information as the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. The proprietary fund financial statements provide separate information for the water, sewer, cable access, stormwater drainage and electric light activities.

**Fiduciary Funds** – Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. The Town includes the activities of the other postemployment trust benefits trust funds for both the Town and Electric Department and public assistance and scholarship funds. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

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

**Other Information** – In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the Town's progress in funding its obligation to provide pension and other postemployment benefits to its employees as well as the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual – General Fund.

### **Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

The following table present the condensed comparative statements of net position:

	<b>Governmental activities</b>		<b>Business-type activities</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	June 30,		June 30,		June 30,	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b><u>Assets</u></b>						
Current and other assets	\$ 41,323,550	\$ 60,245,043	\$ 10,234,700	\$ 13,513,777	\$ 51,558,250	\$ 73,758,820
Capital assets, net	132,987,612	96,197,403	42,918,326	38,768,242	175,905,938	134,965,645
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>174,311,162</b>	<b>156,442,446</b>	<b>53,153,026</b>	<b>52,282,019</b>	<b>227,464,188</b>	<b>208,724,465</b>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>	<b>3,719,432</b>	<b>5,400,026</b>	<b>2,001,455</b>	<b>1,933,159</b>	<b>5,720,887</b>	<b>7,333,185</b>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>						
Long-term liabilities	69,077,844	75,192,370	22,228,097	10,736,868	91,305,941	85,929,238
Other liabilities	36,465,025	35,780,944	3,202,102	14,590,701	39,667,127	50,371,645
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>105,542,869</b>	<b>110,973,314</b>	<b>25,430,199</b>	<b>25,327,569</b>	<b>130,973,068</b>	<b>136,300,883</b>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>	<b>4,863,864</b>	<b>1,802,654</b>	<b>3,658,517</b>	<b>3,770,323</b>	<b>8,522,381</b>	<b>5,572,977</b>
<b><u>Net Position</u></b>						
Net investment in capital assets	87,816,733	49,553,642	29,502,680	28,305,821	117,319,413	77,859,463
Restricted	13,226,979	9,792,072	-	-	13,226,979	9,792,072
Unrestricted	(33,419,851)	(10,279,210)	(3,436,915)	(3,188,535)	(36,856,766)	(13,467,745)
<b>Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 67,623,861</b>	<b>\$ 49,066,504</b>	<b>\$ 26,065,765</b>	<b>\$ 25,117,286</b>	<b>\$ 93,689,626</b>	<b>\$ 74,183,790</b>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The assets and deferred outflows of the Town exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at the close of the most recent fiscal year by nearly \$93.7 million (total net position).



By far the largest portion (approximately \$117.3 million) of the Town's overall net position reflects its investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, infrastructure, machinery, and equipment), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, 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.

An additional portion of the Town's total net position (over \$13.2 million) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining category represents *unrestricted net position*, which is currently in a deficit position of nearly \$36.9 million. This is primarily a result of the recognition of net other postemployment benefits and net pension liabilities. The Town expects the annual provision for this liability will continue to decrease unrestricted net position for the foreseeable future.

The following table presents the condensed comparative statement of activities in net position:

	<b>Governmental activities</b>		<b>Business-type activities</b>		<b>Total</b>	
	<b>June 30,</b>		<b>June 30,</b>		<b>June 30,</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 4,392,599	\$ 3,864,639	\$ 16,043,223	\$ 16,226,107	\$ 20,435,822	\$ 20,090,746
Operating grants and contributions	1,899,405	3,762,285	-	-	1,899,405	3,762,285
Capital grants and contributions	15,588,558	9,668,169	152,548	101	15,741,106	9,668,270
General revenues:						
Property taxes	42,542,827	40,335,041	-	-	42,542,827	40,335,041
Intergovernmental	1,057,888	1,059,197	-	-	1,057,888	1,059,197
Other	4,863,122	3,826,199	173,664	93,075	5,036,786	3,919,274
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>70,344,399</b>	<b>62,515,530</b>	<b>16,369,435</b>	<b>16,319,283</b>	<b>86,713,834</b>	<b>78,834,813</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>						
General government	6,312,743	5,061,196	-	-	6,312,743	5,061,196
Public safety	8,464,614	8,704,573	-	-	8,464,614	8,704,573
Education	27,794,307	26,247,251	-	-	27,794,307	26,247,251
Public works	3,314,002	3,736,061	-	-	3,314,002	3,736,061
Health and human services	879,026	835,095	-	-	879,026	835,095
Culture and recreation	2,804,469	3,240,889	-	-	2,804,469	3,240,889
Debt service	2,278,948	1,168,735	-	-	2,278,948	1,168,735
Water	-	-	2,396,793	1,654,661	2,396,793	1,654,661
Sewer	-	-	1,047,371	1,190,855	1,047,371	1,190,855
Cable access	-	-	238,656	222,659	238,656	222,659
Stormwater drainage	-	-	224,227	175,136	224,227	175,136
Electric Light Department	-	-	11,414,172	12,371,903	11,414,172	12,371,903
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>51,848,109</b>	<b>48,993,800</b>	<b>15,321,219</b>	<b>15,615,214</b>	<b>67,169,328</b>	<b>64,609,014</b>
Change in net assets before transfers	18,496,290	13,521,730	1,048,216	704,069	19,544,506	14,225,799
<b>Transfers</b>	<b>61,067</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(99,737)</b>	<b>(35,153)</b>	<b>(38,670)</b>	<b>(35,153)</b>
Change in net position	18,557,357	13,521,730	948,479	668,916	19,505,836	14,190,646
Net position, beginning of year	49,066,504	35,544,774	25,117,286	24,448,370	74,183,790	59,993,144
Net position, end of year	\$ 67,623,861	\$ 49,066,504	\$ 26,065,765	\$ 25,117,286	\$ 93,689,626	\$ 74,183,790

**Governmental Activities** – Total revenues in fiscal year 2024 in the Town's governmental activities increased over \$7.8 million from fiscal year 2023. The increase is primarily due to over \$2.2 million higher property tax revenue and over \$5.9 million in additional capital grants for the new school construction project.

The Town's largest revenue source is property taxes which represented 60.5% of total revenues. As discussed, the current amount represented a dollar increase of over \$2.2 million. This increase was expected as the Town is allowed to assess property taxes at 2 ½% over the prior year amount. In addition, amounts assessed greater than this that are attributed to debt exclusion and new growth are also legally permissible.

In addition, the Town is receiving reimbursement from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for construction costs related to the building of a new school. This caused capital grants to be \$5.9 million greater than the prior year.

Other revenue amounts were minor in amount or did not vary greatly from the prior year.

Major expenses were for education which continues to be an area that the Town devotes significant resources. Education expenses total approximately 53.6% of total annual expenditures in the current year; educational services are provided through two regional school districts. Public safety expenses represent about 16.3% of total expenses. Both of these functional expense categories increased modestly over the prior year, primarily due to cost-of-living increases.

All other expense categories were consistent with the prior year or less significant in amount.

**Business-type Activities** – User charges for water, sewer, cable access, stormwater drainage, and electric light services represent virtually all the reported fiscal year 2024 revenues in the Town's business-type activities. Operating results from these activities were fairly consistent when comparing revenues to expenses. In aggregate, they increased about \$50 thousand over the prior year resulting in a net position that was relatively flat in comparison as the Town continues to match user rates to output.

### **Government Funds Financial Analysis**

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

**Governmental Funds** – The focus of the Town's *governmental funds* is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of *spendable* resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Town's financing requirements.

The following describe activity in each of the major funds that make up the governmental funds:

**General Fund** – Unassigned fund balance in the General Fund is perhaps the most important number on the balance sheet it serves as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year and an amount that is commonly measured against its peers when assessing a bond rating.

As of the close of the fiscal year, the Town's General Fund unassigned fund balance was nearly \$6.9 million (about 13.8% of expenditures) while total fund balance reached over \$8.2 million (about 16.6% of expenditures). This represented an increase of about \$0.7 million over the prior year with current year revenues approximating expenditures.

**Community Preservation Act Fund** - The Community Preservation Fund increased nearly \$0.2 million; revenues of almost \$1.4 million were offset by expenditures and transfers. Fund balance resulted in a total of nearly \$1.7 million and was classified as restricted.

**Library Trust Funds** - The Library Trust Funds increased almost \$0.3 million with nonsignificant expenditures incurred during the year. These funds are being accumulated for the sole purpose of supporting the Town's local library operations and facilities. Fund balance totals nearly \$5.5 million and was classified as restricted.

**Capital Projects Funds** – This account was set up to report the activity related to the Town's various authorized capital projects. During fiscal 2024, the Town continued construction on a new school. The project is expected to exceed \$70 million and approximately 53% of eligible construction costs will be reimbursed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). Expenditures of about \$37.8 million exceeded reimbursements from the MSBA which had the impact of reducing the fund by approximately \$24.7 million. The Town also incurred activity in other minor projects such as Chapter 90 roadway construction. The Capital Projects Fund includes a deficit of approximately \$20.0 million as unassigned. This will be raised in future years through bond issuance. The remaining amount of \$1.2 million is classified as restricted.

**Combined Nonmajor Fund** – Revenue and expenditures in the combined nonmajor fund are expected to net over time and any increases or decreases are a product of timing of revenues and expenses. In the current year revenues exceeded operations, expenditures and transfers by approximately \$2.9 million. Any deficit fund balances would be classified as unassigned, a trivial amount represents corpus of endowments and is recorded as nonspendable, and the remainder as restricted.

***Proprietary Funds*** – The Town's proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. At the end of the year, net position of the water, sewer, cable access, stormwater drainage, and electric light department funds were approximately \$9.6 million, \$5.3 million, (\$0.4) million, \$0.3 million, and \$11.3 million respectively. The Town's stormwater drainage and electric light enterprise funds reported positive results from operations; the Town's water, sewer and cable access enterprise funds reported small losses from operations which is anticipated to be funded through existing, future revenue sources.

***Fiduciary Fund*** – The Town's fiduciary fund is comprised of the Private Purpose Trust Funds and Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Funds for the Town and Electric Light Department.

### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

Differences between the original operating budget and the final amended operating budget were not significant. A budget to actual schedule for the General Fund has been provided as required supplementary information.

### **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

**Capital Assets** –The Town's investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities as of June 30, 2024 amounts to nearly \$176 million, net of accumulated depreciation. This investment in capital assets includes land, buildings and system improvements, machinery and equipment and reflects a increase of approximately \$40.9 million. This increase was a result of current year additions exceeding current year depreciation. Additions were comprised primarily of construction in process related to the construction of the new school which was significant.

Additional information on the Town capital assets can be found in the notes to this report.

**Long-Term Debt** – The Town's total long-term debt in its governmental activities and business-type activities increased by nearly \$9.0 million in the fiscal year due to the issuance of debt exceeding regular scheduled maturities.

The Town also holds a proportionate share of debt of other governmental units that provide services within the Town's boundaries. Debt service from such arrangements is assessed annually to the Town. Additional information on the Town's debt can be found in the notes to this report.

The Town's debt is rated AAA by Standard and Poor. This is the top tier rating for debt issuers as the Town's debt continues to be attractive to investors of fixed income securities.

### **Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates**

- The Town's real estate tax base is made up predominantly of residential taxes, which in setting the tax rate is typically 94% of the entire levy. In addition, Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1980, more commonly referred to as Proposition 2 ½, limits the Town's ability to increase taxes in any one year by more than 2 ½% of the previous year's tax levy.
- Recent actions by the Federal Open Market Committee to manage the economy due to inflation have seen interest rates increased substantially over the last 2 years, with the recent trend now seeing them gradually being lowered as economic costs and trends stabilize. These fluctuations are outside the control of the Town and will require the Town to be prepared to adapt to the resulting impacts.
- The Town anticipates state aid for 2025 to remain relatively consistent with the prior year.

The above items were considered when the Town authorized its budget for fiscal year 2025 at the May 2024 Town Meeting. The Town's tax rate for fiscal 2025 was set in November 2024.

### **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town's finances for all those with an interest in the government's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or request for additional financial information should be addressed to the Office of the Town Accountant, Town Hall, 173 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024**

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 29,030,443	\$ 4,538,911	\$ 33,569,354
Investments	7,848,253	1,077,604	8,925,857
Receivables, net of allowance for uncollectibles:			
Property taxes	741,828	-	741,828
User fees	-	2,047,739	2,047,739
Departmental and other	638,392	258,206	896,598
Intergovernmental	3,019,044	124,330	3,143,374
Tax foreclosures	45,590	-	45,590
Inventory	-	874,290	874,290
Prepaid items	-	121,721	121,721
Purchased power working capital	-	1,191,899	1,191,899
Capital assets, not being depreciated	103,168,649	2,889,338	106,057,987
Capital assets, net of depreciation	29,818,963	40,028,988	69,847,951
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>174,311,162</b>	<b>53,153,026</b>	<b>227,464,188</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Related to net pension liability	2,059,756	1,149,440	3,209,196
Related to net other postemployment benefits liability	1,659,676	852,015	2,511,691
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>3,719,432</b>	<b>2,001,455</b>	<b>5,720,887</b>
Current liabilities:			
Warrants and accounts payable	2,760,585	1,333,817	4,094,402
Accrued expenses	-	274,112	274,112
Accrued payroll and withholdings	464,456	-	464,456
Retainage payable	2,876,452	-	2,876,452
Other liabilities	3,488	548,375	551,863
Unearned revenue	287,000	-	287,000
Due to other governments	982,785	-	982,785
Short-term notes payable	29,090,259	1,045,798	30,136,057
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Due in one year or less	2,505,920	1,022,936	3,528,856
Due in more than one year	66,571,924	21,205,161	87,777,085
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>105,542,869</b>	<b>25,430,199</b>	<b>130,973,068</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Related to net pension liability	1,413,577	493,896	1,907,473
Related to net other postemployment benefits liability	3,450,287	757,743	4,208,030
Other Light Department inflows	-	2,406,878	2,406,878
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>4,863,864</b>	<b>3,658,517</b>	<b>8,522,381</b>
Net investment in capital assets	87,816,733	29,502,680	117,319,413
Restricted for:			
Nonexpendable funds	45,243	-	45,243
Library trust funds	5,497,241	-	5,497,241
Community preservation	1,669,063	-	1,669,063
Other purposes	6,015,432	-	6,015,432
Unrestricted	(33,419,851)	(3,436,915)	(36,856,766)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 67,623,861</b>	<b>\$ 26,065,765</b>	<b>\$ 93,689,626</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>							
General government	\$ 6,312,743	\$ 1,846,568	\$ 963,134	\$ -	\$ (3,503,041)		\$ (3,503,041)
Public safety	8,464,614	1,303,098	352,465	-	(6,809,051)		(6,809,051)
Education	27,794,307	-	-	13,933,942	(13,860,365)		(13,860,365)
Public works	3,314,002	331,170	7,756	1,654,616	(1,320,460)		(1,320,460)
Health and human services	879,026	30,946	217,710	-	(630,370)		(630,370)
Culture and recreation	2,804,469	880,817	358,340	-	(1,565,312)		(1,565,312)
Debt service	2,278,948	-	-	-	(2,278,948)		(2,278,948)
Total Governmental Activities	51,848,109	4,392,599	1,899,405	15,588,558	(29,967,547)		(29,967,547)
<u>Business-Type Activities:</u>							
Water	2,396,793	1,752,956	-	152,548		\$ (491,289)	(491,289)
Sewer	1,047,371	924,125	-	-		(123,246)	(123,246)
Cable access	238,656	151,177	-	-		(87,479)	(87,479)
Stormwater drainage	224,227	254,591	-	-		30,364	30,364
Electric Light Department (December 31, 2020)	11,414,172	12,960,374	-	-		1,546,202	1,546,202
Total Primary Government	<u>\$ 67,169,328</u>	<u>\$ 20,435,822</u>	<u>\$ 1,899,405</u>	<u>\$ 15,741,106</u>	<u>(29,967,547)</u>	<u>874,552</u>	<u>(29,092,995)</u>
<u>General Revenues:</u>							
					42,542,827	-	42,542,827
					2,473,117	-	2,473,117
					1,057,888	-	1,057,888
					123,411	-	123,411
					2,266,594	173,664	2,440,258
					<u>61,067</u>	<u>(99,737)</u>	<u>(38,670)</u>
					<u>48,524,904</u>	<u>73,927</u>	<u>48,598,831</u>
					18,557,357	948,479	19,505,836
<u>Net Position</u>							
					<u>49,066,504</u>	<u>25,117,286</u>	<u>74,183,790</u>
					<u>\$ 67,623,861</u>	<u>\$ 26,065,765</u>	<u>\$ 93,689,626</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEET  
JUNE 30, 2024**

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Library Trust Funds	Capital Project Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,719,217	\$ 1,852,821	\$ -	\$ 13,324,411	\$ 4,133,994	\$ 29,030,443
Investments	266,785	-	5,497,241	-	2,084,227	7,848,253
Receivables, net of allowance						
Property taxes	729,364	12,464	-	-	-	741,828
Excise taxes	156,382	-	-	-	-	156,382
Departmental, tax liens and other	473,441	3,621	-	-	134,401	611,463
Intergovernmental	-	-	-	2,889,591	-	2,889,591
Tax foreclosures	45,590	-	-	-	-	45,590
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>11,390,779</b>	<b>1,868,906</b>	<b>5,497,241</b>	<b>16,214,002</b>	<b>6,352,622</b>	<b>41,323,550</b>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 11,390,779</b>	<b>\$ 1,868,906</b>	<b>\$ 5,497,241</b>	<b>\$ 16,214,002</b>	<b>\$ 6,352,622</b>	<b>\$ 41,323,550</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Warrants and accounts payable	\$ 409,856	\$ 183,758	\$ -	\$ 2,091,972	\$ 74,999	\$ 2,760,585
Accrued payroll and withholdings	464,456	-	-	-	-	464,456
Retained payable	-	-	-	2,876,452	-	2,876,452
Other liabilities	3,488	-	-	-	-	3,488
Unearned revenue	-	-	-	-	287,000	287,000
Planning and performance bonds	982,785	-	-	-	-	982,785
Short-term notes payable	-	-	-	29,090,259	-	29,090,259
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,860,585</b>	<b>183,758</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,058,683</b>	<b>361,999</b>	<b>36,465,025</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>						
Unearned revenue - property taxes	623,950	12,464	-	-	-	636,414
Unearned revenue - excise taxes	156,382	-	-	-	-	156,382
Unearned revenue - intergovernmental	-	-	-	963,157	-	963,157
Unearned revenue - departmental and other	519,031	3,621	-	-	4,948	527,600
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>1,299,363</b>	<b>16,085</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>963,157</b>	<b>4,948</b>	<b>2,283,553</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>						
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	45,243	45,243
Restricted	-	1,669,063	5,497,241	1,221,225	6,015,432	14,402,961
Committed	603,799	-	-	-	-	603,799
Assigned	750,603	-	-	-	-	750,603
Unassigned	6,876,429	-	-	(20,029,063)	(75,000)	(13,227,634)
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>8,230,831</b>	<b>1,669,063</b>	<b>5,497,241</b>	<b>(18,807,838)</b>	<b>5,985,675</b>	<b>2,574,972</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 11,390,779</b>	<b>\$ 1,868,906</b>	<b>\$ 5,497,241</b>	<b>\$ 16,214,002</b>	<b>\$ 6,352,622</b>	<b>\$ 41,323,550</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET  
TOTAL FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024**

<b>Total Governmental Fund Balances</b>		<b>\$ 2,574,972</b>
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.		132,987,612
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are reported as unavailable in the governmental funds.		2,283,553
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources to be recognized in future fiscal years are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:		
Deferred outflows related to net pension liability	2,059,756	
Deferred inflows related to net pension liability	(1,413,577)	
Deferred outflows related to net other postemployment benefits liability	1,659,676	
Deferred inflows related to net other postemployment benefits liability	(3,450,287)	
Net effect of reporting deferred outflows and inflows of resources		(1,144,432)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the government funds:		
Bonds and notes payable	(39,396,298)	
Unamortized bond premiums	(2,138,480)	
Landfill postclosure	(522,702)	
Compensated absences	(558,675)	
Net pension liability	(18,635,021)	
Net other postemployment benefits liability	(7,826,668)	
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities		(69,077,844)
<b>Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>		<b>\$ 67,623,861</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.



TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Library Trust Funds	Capital Project Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Real estate and personal property taxes, net	41,456,430	\$ 1,029,809	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,486,239
Intergovernmental	1,221,367	289,610	-	14,600,401	1,312,995	17,424,373
Motor vehicle and other excises	2,541,605	-	-	-	1,131	2,542,736
Departmental and other revenue	2,404,793	-	-	-	1,406,268	3,811,061
License and permits	527,284	-	-	-	-	527,284
Penalties and interest on taxes	123,411	-	-	-	-	123,411
Fines and forfeitures	2,765	-	-	-	-	2,765
Investment income (loss)	1,707,349	52,718	399,897	-	115,200	2,275,164
Contributions and donations	-	-	-	25,000	133,321	158,321
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>49,985,004</b>	<b>1,372,137</b>	<b>399,897</b>	<b>14,625,401</b>	<b>2,968,915</b>	<b>69,351,354</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Current:						
General government	3,106,377	376,296	-	-	1,325,524	4,808,197
Public safety	5,123,796	-	-	209,623	531,554	5,864,973
Education	27,718,372	-	-	37,819,738	19,460	65,557,570
Public works	1,582,040	-	-	401,705	112,085	2,095,830
Health and human services	391,009	58,632	-	-	91,010	540,651
Culture and recreation	1,982,228	5,793	81,556	-	98,805	2,168,382
Pensions and other fringes	5,123,170	-	-	-	-	5,123,170
State and county tax assessments	98,662	-	-	-	-	98,662
Debt service:						
Principal	2,048,371	-	-	-	-	2,048,371
Interest expense	2,513,805	-	-	-	-	2,513,805
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>49,687,830</b>	<b>440,721</b>	<b>81,556</b>	<b>38,431,066</b>	<b>2,178,438</b>	<b>90,819,611</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>297,174</b>	<b>931,416</b>	<b>318,341</b>	<b>(23,805,665)</b>	<b>790,477</b>	<b>(21,468,257)</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Proceeds from issuance of debt	-	-	-	737,000	-	737,000
Premium from issuance of bonds	-	-	-	63,000	-	63,000
Transfers in	533,536	-	-	465,830	2,810,756	3,810,122
Transfers out	(124,605)	(740,000)	-	(2,204,095)	(680,355)	(3,749,055)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>408,931</b>	<b>(740,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(938,265)</b>	<b>2,130,401</b>	<b>861,067</b>
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>706,105</b>	<b>191,416</b>	<b>318,341</b>	<b>(24,743,930)</b>	<b>2,920,878</b>	<b>(20,607,190)</b>
Fund Balances - Beginning	7,524,726	1,477,647	5,178,900	5,936,092	3,064,797	23,182,162
Fund Balances - Ending	<b>\$ 8,230,831</b>	<b>\$ 1,669,063</b>	<b>\$ 5,497,241</b>	<b>\$ (18,807,838)</b>	<b>\$ 5,985,675</b>	<b>\$ 2,574,972</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES  
IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Fund Balances** **\$ (20,607,190)**

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. This amount represents the net amount of depreciation expense in excess of capital outlay. The amounts are represented here as reconciling items:

Capital outlays	\$ 38,480,825	
Depreciation expense	(1,690,616)	
Net effect of reporting capital assets		36,790,209

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 has any effect on net position. Also governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts, and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are amortized in the Statement of Activities. The net amount presented here as a reconciling item represents the following differences:

Premium on bonds and notes	(71,571)	
Issuance of bonds, notes and direct capital financing	(737,000)	
Amortization of premium on bonds and notes	234,857	
Principal payments of debt	2,048,371	
Net effect of reporting long-term debt		1,474,657

Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenue in the funds	1,001,616
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Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:

Compensated absences, net	(4,226)	
Landfill postclosure	20,104	
Pension benefits	13,991	
Other postemployment benefits	(131,804)	
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities		(101,935)

<b>Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 18,557,357</b>
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See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Cable Access Fund	Stormwater Drainage Fund	Electric Light Department (December 31, 2023)	Totals
<b>Assets:</b>						
Current assets:						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,123,815	\$ 1,321,775	\$ 635	\$ 174,057	\$ 1,918,629	\$ 4,538,911
Investments	-	-	-	-	1,077,604	1,077,604
User fees, net of allowance	417,570	272,265	-	-	1,357,904	2,047,739
Other receivables	-	-	-	30,302	227,904	258,206
Intergovernmental receivables	124,330	-	-	-	-	124,330
Inventory	-	-	-	-	874,290	874,290
Purchased power working capital	-	-	-	-	1,191,899	1,191,899
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	121,721	121,721
Total current assets	1,665,715	1,594,040	635	204,359	6,769,951	10,234,700
Noncurrent assets:						
Capital assets, not being depreciated	730,597	-	-	-	2,158,741	2,889,338
Capital assets, net of depreciation	22,029,831	4,119,678	-	237,923	13,641,556	40,028,988
Total noncurrent assets	22,760,428	4,119,678	-	237,923	15,800,297	42,918,326
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>24,426,143</b>	<b>5,713,718</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>442,282</b>	<b>22,570,248</b>	<b>53,153,026</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>						
Related to net pension liability	95,441	22,071	37,462	-	994,466	1,149,440
Related to net other postemployment benefits liability	223,062	19,769	10,888	-	598,296	852,015
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>318,503</b>	<b>41,840</b>	<b>48,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,592,762</b>	<b>2,001,455</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Current liabilities:						
Warrants and accounts payable	17,250	43,641	635	19,563	1,252,728	1,333,817
Accrued expenses	159	-	-	-	273,953	274,112
Short-term notes payable	1,045,798	-	-	-	-	1,045,798
Bond and note indebtedness	573,244	25,000	-	48,830	108,013	755,087
Pooled financing loans	-	-	-	-	261,746	261,746
Compensated absences	4,207	205	1,030	661	-	6,103
Total current liabilities	1,640,658	68,846	1,665	69,054	1,896,440	3,676,663
Noncurrent liabilities:						
Bond and note indebtedness	10,989,846	25,000	-	102,946	1,113,875	12,231,667
Pooled financing loans - net of current portion	-	-	-	-	684,674	684,674
Compensated absences	37,867	1,840	9,271	5,945	-	54,923
Customer deposits and advances	-	-	-	-	401,258	401,258
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	147,117	147,117
Net other postemployment benefits	1,051,913	93,228	51,345	-	574,360	1,770,846
Net pension liability	863,472	199,682	338,922	-	5,060,975	6,463,051
Total noncurrent liabilities	12,943,098	319,750	399,538	108,891	7,982,259	21,753,536
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>14,583,756</b>	<b>388,596</b>	<b>401,203</b>	<b>177,945</b>	<b>9,878,699</b>	<b>25,430,199</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>						
Related to net pension liability	65,499	15,147	25,709	-	387,541	493,896
Related to net other postemployment benefits liability	463,723	41,098	22,635	-	230,287	757,743
Other light department inflows	-	-	-	-	2,406,878	2,406,878
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>529,222</b>	<b>56,245</b>	<b>48,344</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,024,706</b>	<b>3,658,517</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>						
Net investment in capital assets	11,576,155	4,069,678	-	86,147	13,770,700	29,502,680
Unrestricted	(1,944,487)	1,241,039	(400,562)	178,190	(2,511,095)	(3,436,915)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 9,631,668</b>	<b>\$ 5,310,717</b>	<b>\$ (400,562)</b>	<b>\$ 264,337</b>	<b>\$ 11,259,605</b>	<b>\$ 26,065,765</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**PROPRIETARY FUNDS**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION**

**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Cable Access Fund	Stormwater Drainage Fund	Electric Light Department (December 31, 2023)	Totals
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>						
Usage charges	\$ 1,752,956	\$ 924,125	\$ 151,177	\$ 254,591	\$ 12,381,963	\$ 15,464,812
Other fees	-	-	-	-	578,411	578,411
Total Operating Revenues	1,752,956	924,125	151,177	254,591	12,960,374	16,043,223
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>						
Operating costs	1,480,173	859,616	238,656	189,338	10,754,849	13,522,632
Depreciation	688,633	184,628	-	27,794	574,672	1,475,727
Total Operating Expenses	2,168,806	1,044,244	238,656	217,132	11,329,521	14,998,359
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	(415,850)	(120,119)	(87,479)	37,459	1,630,853	1,044,864
<b>Nonoperating Income (Expenses):</b>						
Intergovernmental	152,548	-	-	-	-	152,548
Interest income	47,439	50,719	3,609	6,087	65,810	173,664
Interest expense	(227,987)	(3,127)	-	(7,095)	(84,651)	(322,860)
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses), net</b>	(28,000)	47,592	3,609	(1,008)	(18,841)	3,352
<b>Income (Loss) Before Transfers and Capital Contributions</b>	(443,850)	(72,527)	(83,870)	36,451	1,612,012	1,048,216
Transfers out	(6,662)	-	(54,407)	-	(38,668)	(99,737)
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	(450,512)	(72,527)	(138,277)	36,451	1,573,344	948,479
<b>Net Position - Beginning of year</b>	10,082,180	5,383,244	(262,285)	227,886	9,686,261	25,117,286
<b>Net Position - Ending</b>	<u>\$ 9,631,668</u>	<u>\$ 5,310,717</u>	<u>\$ (400,562)</u>	<u>\$ 264,337</u>	<u>\$ 11,259,605</u>	<u>\$ 26,065,765</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

## TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**PROPRIETARY FUNDS**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Business-type Activities - Enterprise Funds					
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Cable Access Fund	Stormwater Drainage Fund	Electric Light Department (December 31, 2023)	Totals
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>						
Receipts from users	\$ 1,722,962	\$ 948,591	\$ 151,177	\$ 241,410	\$ 12,831,769	\$ 15,895,909
Payments to vendors	(1,265,626)	(730,244)	(106,153)	(91,521)	(8,457,083)	(10,650,627)
Payments to employees and benefits	(474,891)	(87,226)	(130,302)	(78,845)	(2,658,120)	(3,429,384)
Rents from Electric Property	-	-	-	-	247,319	247,319
Payment in lieu of taxes	-	-	-	-	(38,668)	(38,668)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	(17,555)	131,121	(85,278)	71,044	1,925,217	2,024,549
<b>Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:</b>						
Grant received from Commonwealth	64,826	404	-	-	-	65,230
Net transfers	-	-	-	-	(301,548)	(301,548)
Proceeds from issuance of short-term notes	1,045,798	-	-	-	-	1,045,798
Premiums from issuance of bonds	646,663	-	-	-	-	646,663
Proceeds from bonds, notes and direct capital financing	10,398,000	-	-	-	500,000	10,898,000
Customer advances for construction	-	-	-	-	189,423	189,423
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(4,212,539)	-	-	(33,491)	(1,423,989)	(5,670,019)
Principal payments on bonds and direct capital financing	(364,945)	(30,400)	-	(47,148)	(228,660)	(671,153)
Principal payments on short-term notes	(12,080,386)	-	-	-	-	(12,080,386)
Interest paid	(227,987)	(3,127)	-	-	(85,148)	(316,262)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Capital and Related Financing Activities	(4,730,570)	(33,123)	-	(80,639)	(1,349,922)	(6,194,254)
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>						
Investment income	47,439	50,719	3,609	6,087	2,771	110,625
Interest expense	-	-	-	(7,095)	-	(7,095)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Investing Activities	47,439	50,719	3,609	(1,008)	2,771	103,530
<b>Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	(4,707,348)	148,717	(136,076)	(10,603)	578,066	(4,127,244)
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>						
Beginning of year	<u>\$ 5,831,163</u>	<u>\$ 1,173,058</u>	<u>\$ 136,711</u>	<u>\$ 184,660</u>	<u>883,908</u>	<u>8,209,500</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 1,123,815</u>	<u>\$ 1,321,775</u>	<u>\$ 635</u>	<u>\$ 174,057</u>	<u>\$ 1,461,974</u>	<u>\$ 4,082,256</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash Provided</b>						
<b>By (Used For) Operating Activities:</b>						
Operating income (loss)	\$ (415,850)	\$ (120,119)	\$ (87,479)	\$ 37,459	\$ 1,630,853	\$ 1,044,864
Depreciation	688,633	184,628	-	27,794	574,672	1,475,727
Allowance for doubtful accounts	-	-	-	-	(1,262)	(1,262)
Indemnity reserve	-	-	-	-	7,510	7,510
Rate stabilization	-	-	-	-	143,551	143,551
Appropriation in lieu of taxes	-	-	-	-	(38,668)	(38,668)
Pension expense	-	-	-	-	493,200	493,200
OPEB expense (income)	-	-	-	-	159,890	159,890
Changes in assets and liabilities:						
Receivables (net)	(29,994)	24,466	-	(13,181)	(73,089)	(91,798)
Inventory	-	-	-	-	(47,552)	(47,552)
OPEB liability	-	-	-	-	(57,812)	(57,812)
Prepaid items	-	-	-	-	(186,998)	(186,998)
Deferred outflows of resources	152,933	19,028	20,655	-	(509,009)	(316,393)
Deferred inflows of resources	384,948	36,104	23,579	-	-	444,631
Liabilities (net)	(798,225)	(12,986)	(42,033)	18,972	(170,069)	(1,004,341)
<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities</b>	<u>\$ (17,555)</u>	<u>\$ 131,121</u>	<u>\$ (85,278)</u>	<u>\$ 71,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,925,217</u>	<u>\$ 2,024,549</u>
See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.						
Maintenance fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,186,212	\$ -
Customer deposits	-	-	-	-	275,762	-
See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.						

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2024**

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Funds		Private Purpose Trust Funds
	Town Trust Fund	GELD Trust Fund	
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,753	\$ -	\$ -
Investments (at fair value):			
Fixed income	560,836	-	6,111,754
Equities	794,653	-	16,012,235
Pooled investment fund	-	1,651,702	-
Total Investments	<u>1,355,489</u>	<u>1,651,702</u>	<u>22,123,989</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>1,362,242</u>	<u>1,651,702</u>	<u>22,123,989</u>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Position:</b>			
Restricted for other postemployment benefits	1,362,242	1,651,702	-
Held in trust for private purposes	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,123,989</u>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,362,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,651,702</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 22,123,989</u></u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**FIDUCIARY FUNDS**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET POSITION**  
**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Other Postemployment Benefit Trust Funds		
	Town Trust Fund	GELD Trust Fund	Private Purpose Trust Funds
<b>Additions:</b>			
Contributions:			
Employer	\$ 1,063,261	\$ -	\$ -
Other contributions and donations	-	-	91,122
Total contributions	<u>1,063,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,122</u>
Investment income:			
Investment income (loss)	<u>152,971</u>	<u>181,509</u>	<u>1,619,162</u>
Net investment earnings	<u>152,971</u>	<u>181,509</u>	<u>1,619,162</u>
<b>Total Additions</b>	<u>1,216,232</u>	<u>181,509</u>	<u>1,710,284</u>
<b>Deductions:</b>			
Scholarships	-	-	135,615
Public assistance	-	-	163,709
Benefit payments to retirees and beneficiaries	<u>878,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<u>878,261</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>299,324</u>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<u>337,971</u>	<u>181,509</u>	<u>1,410,960</u>
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	<u>1,024,271</u>	<u>1,470,193</u>	<u>20,713,029</u>
<b>Net Position - Ending of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,362,242</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,651,702</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 22,123,989</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

# TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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### **I. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The accompanying basic financial statements of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts (the “Town”) have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) as applied to state and local governments. GAAP is prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (“GASB”), which is the primary standard-setting body for state and local government entities. The following is a summary of the more significant policies and practices used by the Town:

#### **A. Reporting Entity**

The Town, which was incorporated in 1655, is located in northwestern Middlesex County, approximately thirty miles northwest of the City of Boston. The governing structure utilizes an open town meeting with an elected five-member Select Board and an appointed Town Manager, who performs and oversees the Town’s daily executive and administrative duties. Select Board serve staggered three-year terms.

The Town provides governmental services for the territory within its boundaries, including public safety, education through a regional school district, public works, health and human services, culture and recreation, general governmental services, water, sewer, stormwater drainage, and electricity. The water, sewer, stormwater drainage and electricity services are funded through user charges and treated as business enterprises.

Component units, while separate entities, are in substance part of the governmental operations if the significance of their operations and/or financial relationship with the Town meet certain criteria. Pursuant to these criteria there are no component units required to be included in the financial statements.

*Joint Venture* – The Town has entered into a joint venture with the Town of Dunstable, Massachusetts to pool resources and share the costs, risks and rewards of providing education services through the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District (GDRSD). This joint venture assesses each community its share of operational and debt service costs based on student population and other factors. In fiscal year 2024, the Town’s share of the operating, debt service, and capital outlay expenses was \$26,945,769. There is no equity interest reported in these financial statements. Stand-alone financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024, are available at the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, PO Box 729, 145 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450.

In addition, the Town is a member community of the Nashoba Valley Technical High School. This joint venture assesses each of the nine-member communities its share of the operational and debt service costs based on student population and other factors. In fiscal year 2024, the Town’s share of operating and debt service expenses was \$762,656. Complete audited financial statements can be obtained directly from the Nashoba Valley Technical High School’s administrative office located at 100 Littleton Road, Westford, MA 01886.

The Town does not have any equity interest in either of the joint ventures.



## B. Government-Wide and Fund 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 non-fiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. *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.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds, even though the fiduciary funds are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual government funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

Major Fund Criteria – Major funds must be reported if both of the following criteria are met:

- 1) The total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least ten percent of the corresponding element for all funds of that category or type, and
- 2) The total assets and deferred outflows of financial resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of financial resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund are at least five percent of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

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

## C. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting* as are proprietary funds. Under this method, 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 fiscal year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is 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*. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. 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. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due, certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

The Town applies the susceptible to accrual criteria to intergovernmental revenues. In applying the susceptible to accrual concept, there are two types of revenues. In one, money must be expended for a specific purpose or project before any amounts are paid to the Town; therefore, revenues are recognized as expenditures are incurred. In the other, money is virtually unrestricted and are usually revocable only for failure to comply with prescribed requirements. These resources are reflected as revenues when cash is received, or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria are met. State aid is accrued as revenue in the year that the funds are appropriated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the "Commonwealth").

The Town considers property tax revenues to be available if they are collected within sixty days after the end of the fiscal year and are material. Investment income associated with the current fiscal period is susceptible to accrual and has been recognized as revenue of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when the cash is received and are recognized as revenue at that time.

The government reports the following major Governmental Funds:

*General Fund* – is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

*Community Preservation Act Fund* – is used to account for funds received in accordance with the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act. Funds are used to acquire or develop open space and recreational facilities, preservation of historic resources and affordable housing.

*Library Trust Funds* – is used to account for the balances and activities of trust money bequeathed to the Town's Library.

*Capital Projects Funds* – is used to account for financial resources that are restricted, committed or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays.

*Nonmajor Governmental Funds* – consist of other special revenue and permanent funds that are aggregated and presented in the nonmajor governmental funds column on the Governmental Funds financial statements. The following describes the general use of these fund types:

*Special Revenue Funds* - are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

*Permanent Funds* - are used to account for financial resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, may be used for purposes that support the governmental programs.

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 the liabilities are incurred.

Proprietary funds distinguish *operating* revenues and expenses from *non-operating* 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 are user charges and fees, while operating expenses consist of salaries, ordinary maintenance, assessments, indirect costs and depreciation. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

The Town reports the following major proprietary funds:

*Water Enterprise Fund* – accounts for user charges collected to finance costs associated with maintaining the related infrastructure within the Town boundaries by which the water activities are processed.

*Sewer Enterprise Fund* – accounts for user charges collected to finance costs associated with maintaining the related infrastructure within the Town boundaries by which the sewer activities are processed.

*Cable Access Enterprise Fund* – accounts for cable television licensing and access revenue initially collected by cable service providers on-behalf of the Town, to finance costs associated with oversight of the providers and maintaining the related supporting infrastructure.

*Stormwater Drainage Enterprise Fund* – accounts for user charges collected to finance costs associated with maintaining the related infrastructure within the Town boundaries by which the stormwater drainage management activities are processed.

*Groton Electric Light Department (GELD)* – is used to account for user charges collected to finance costs associated with the Town's electrical power distribution activities to residences and businesses.

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

The Town reports the following fiduciary funds:

*Town Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund* – is used to account for funds accumulated by the Town to assist it in its future payments of other postemployment benefits for retirees such as health and life insurance.

*GELD Other Postemployment Benefits Trust Fund* – is used to account for funds accumulated by the Electric Light Department to assist it in its future payments of other postemployment benefits for retirees such as health and life insurance.

*Private Purpose Trust Funds* – is used to account for trust arrangements under which principal and income benefit individuals, private organizations, or other governments. This fund is used primarily for public assistance.

#### **D. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Equity**

*Deposits and Investments* – The Town’s cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments of the Town are recorded at fair value in accordance with GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*. Accordingly, the change in fair value of investments is recognized as an increase or decrease to investment assets and investment income.

*Receivables* – Real estate and personal property taxes are assessed on January 1 every year. Bills are sent quarterly and are due on August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1, or thirty days subsequent to the mailing date. Interest accrues on delinquent taxes at the rate of 14% per annum. The Town is allowed to take delinquent tax accounts into tax title fourteen days subsequent to the mailing of demand of delinquent taxes. Property taxes levied are recorded as receivables in the fiscal year of the levy.

Real estate taxes, sewer, water and user fees are secured through a lien process after the due date and are considered 100% collectible. Accordingly, an allowance for uncollectible balances for these receivables is not reported. All personal property tax, excise tax and other departmental receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible balances comprised of those outstanding amounts greater than five years old. Departmental receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible balances based on historical trends and specific account analysis.

*Inventories and Prepaid Items* – In the case of the Town, inventories, which are not material to the basic financial statements, are considered to be expenditures at the time of purchase. With respect to the GELD, materials and supplies are inventories of parts and accessories purchased for use in GELD’s operations. Materials and supplies inventory are stated at the lower of cost or market with cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and may be recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

*Capital Assets* – Capital assets, which include land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment, vehicles, and infrastructure (e.g. roads, sidewalks, water and sewer mains, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements.

Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

All purchases and construction costs in excess of \$10,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction, respectively, with expected lives of greater than two years. 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.

Capital assets (excluding land and construction-in-process) are depreciated by the Town and the GELD on a straight-line-basis.

The estimated useful lives of capital assets being depreciated are as follows:

Land improvements	20 - 40 years
Buildings and improvements	20 - 50 years
Vehicles, machinery and equipment	5 - 15 years
Infrastructure	40 - 50 years

*Interfund Balances* – Activity between funds that are representative of lending arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either *due to/from other funds* or *advances to/from other funds*. All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as due to/from other funds.

Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as *internal balances*.

*Interfund Transfers* – During the course of its operations, resources are permanently reallocated between and within funds. These transactions are reported as transfers in and transfers out in the individual fund statements. Transfers between and within governmental and fiduciary funds are eliminated from the governmental activities in the statement of activities. Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and the business-type activities are reported in the statement of activities as *transfers, net*.

*Investment Income* – Excluding the permanent funds, investment income derived from major and nonmajor governmental funds is legally assigned to the General Fund unless otherwise directed by state law. Investment income of the proprietary and permanent funds is retained in the funds.

*Compensated Absences* – It is the Town's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. Compensated absence liabilities related to both governmental and business-type activities are normally paid from the funds reporting payroll and related expenditures. Amounts related to these benefits are accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured.

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

In the governmental fund financial statements, the face amount of long-term debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on a debt issuance are reported as other financing sources while discounts are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs are exclusively reported as general government expenditures regardless of whether they are withheld from the actual proceeds.

*Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources* – In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then.

The Town has two types of items that are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. These relate to outflows from changes in the net pension and net other postemployment benefits liability. The deferred pensions will be recognized in pension expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection A. The deferred other postemployment benefits will be recognized in employee benefits expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection B.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Town has four types of items which qualify for reporting in this category. The first arises under a modified accrual basis of accounting, which qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item unavailable revenue is reported only in the governmental funds balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from three sources: property taxes, excise taxes, and other. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available. The other items are reported on the government-wide statement of net position and relate to inflows from changes in the net pension, net other postemployment benefit liabilities and unavailable Light Department revenues. The deferred pensions will be recognized in pension expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection A. The deferred other postemployment benefits will be recognized in employee benefits expense in future years as more fully described in Note III, subsection B.

*Net Position* – In the government-wide financial statements, net position reported as “net investment in capital assets” includes capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, less the principal balance of outstanding debt used to acquire capital assets. Unspent proceeds of capital related debt are not considered to be capital related debt.

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific use. Net position has been *restricted for* the following:

*Nonexpendable permanent funds* represent the endowment portion of donor restricted trusts that support governmental programs.

*Library trust funds* represent assets that have restrictions placed on them from benefactors and may only be used for support of the Town library’s financial needs.

*Community preservation act funds* represent assets that are restricted by state law for the purposes of acquiring or developing open space and recreational facilities, historic resources and affordable housing associated with the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act.

*Other purposes* represent assets that are restricted by Federal and State laws for specific governmental programs and uses.

*Fund Equity* – In the fund financial statements, fund balance for governmental funds is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent in which the Town is required to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent.

Fund balance is reported in five components – non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned as described below:

*Nonspendable* represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form (i.e. inventory or prepaid) or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact such as the corpus of an endowment.

*Restricted* represents amounts that have constraints placed either externally by third parties (creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments) or by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Enabling legislation authorizes the Town to assess, levy, charge or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement (compelled by external parties) that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation.

*Committed* represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to formal action of the Town's highest level of decision-making authority, which is the Town Meeting action, and can be modified or rescinded through these actions.

*Assigned* represents amounts that are constrained by the Town's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed.

*Unassigned* represents amounts that have not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the General Fund. The General Fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. Other governmental funds besides the General Fund can only report a *negative* unassigned fund balance amount.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) are available for use it is the Town's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned as they are needed.

The Town has established financial policies with respect to maintaining minimum fund balance amounts for its stabilization accounts which are part of the unassigned fund balance.

*Stabilization Fund* – The Town maintains a general stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any municipal purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a balance of \$2,579,368, which is reported as unassigned in the General Fund. The minimum fund balance requirement is 5% of the line-item budget.

The Town maintains a capital stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any capital purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a balance of \$771,583, which is reported as unassigned in the General Fund. The minimum fund balance requirement is 1.5% of the line-item budget.

The Town maintains a regional school district capital stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any special education purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a balance of \$316,983, which is reported as unassigned in the General Fund.

The Town maintains a opioid settlement stabilization fund, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 5B, which may be used for any special education purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a balance of \$11,025, which is reported as unassigned in the General Fund.

**Encumbrances** – The Town’s encumbrance policy regarding the General Fund is to (1) classify encumbrances that arise from the issuance of purchases made or to be made resulting from normal purchasing activity approved by the Town Accountant as assigned, and (2) classify encumbrances that result from an action of the Town Meeting as committed. Encumbrances of funds already restricted or committed are included within the classification of those fund balances and not reported separately. The Town reports \$38,788 of encumbrances from normal purchasing activity in the General Fund as assigned and \$603,799 of encumbrances from Town Meeting votes in the General Fund as committed. There are no encumbrances reported in any other fund.

The following table reflects the Town’s fund equity categorizations:

	General Fund	Community Preservation Act Fund	Library Trust Funds	Capital Projects Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Nonspendable:						
Perpetual permanent funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,243	\$ 45,243
Restricted:						
General government	-	668,680	-	-	4,133,528	4,802,208
Public safety	-	-	-	-	823,879	823,879
Education	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public works	-	-	-	-	63,327	63,327
Health and human services	-	575,937	-	-	563,561	1,139,498
Culture and recreation	-	424,446	5,497,241	-	431,137	6,352,824
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Capital outlay	-	-	-	1,221,225	-	1,221,225
Committed:						
General government	240,642	-	-	-	-	240,642
Public safety	218,734	-	-	-	-	218,734
Public works	47,722	-	-	-	-	47,722
Culture and recreation	96,701	-	-	-	-	96,701
Assigned:						
General government	8,780	-	-	-	-	8,780
Public safety	3,210	-	-	-	-	3,210
Public works	20,770	-	-	-	-	20,770
Health and human services	1,141	-	-	-	-	1,141
Culture and recreation	2,175	-	-	-	-	2,175
Personnel and fringe benefits	2,712	-	-	-	-	2,712
Subsequent year's budget	711,815	-	-	-	-	711,815
Unassigned	6,876,429	-	-	(20,029,063)	(75,000)	(13,227,634)
Totals	\$ 8,230,831	\$ 1,669,063	\$ 5,497,241	\$ (18,807,838)	\$ 5,985,675	\$ 2,574,972

#### **E. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations and Deficits**

The Town incurred individual fund deficits of \$75,000 in the Nonmajor governmental funds at year end. These deficits will be funded through bond proceeds and grants in future fiscal years.

#### **F. 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 the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.



## **II. Detailed Notes to All Funds**

### **A. Deposits and Investments**

A cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents". The deposits and investments of trust funds are held separately from those of other funds. State laws and regulations require the Town to invest funds only in pre-approved investment instruments which include but are not necessarily limited to bank deposits, money markets, certificates of deposit, U.S. obligations, repurchase agreements, and State Treasurer's investment pool (the "Pool") which is administered by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth.

In addition, the statutes impose various limitations on the amount and length of investments and deposits. Repurchase agreements cannot be for a period of over ninety days, and the underlying security must be a United States obligation. During the fiscal year, the Town did not enter into any repurchase agreements.

*Custodial Credit Risk: Deposits* - In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Town does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk relative to cash holdings.

At year-end, the carrying amount of all the Town's deposits (excluding the Light Department) was \$31,657,499 and bank balance was \$9,071,133. Of the bank balance, all was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Depositors' Insurance Fund (DIF) or collateralization agreements.

At December 31, 2023, the Light Department had an approximate bank balance that was approximately \$469,000 that was subject to custodial credit risk.

*Custodial Credit Risk: Investments* – In the case of investments, this is the risk that in the event of the invested party not being able to provide required payments to investors, ceasing to exist, or filing of bankruptcy, the Town may not be able to recover the full amount of its principal investment and/or investment earnings. The Town's investments in United States governmental obligations are exposed to custodial credit risk because the related securities are uninsured, unregistered and are held by the counterparty. The Town does not have a formal investment policy related to custodial credit risk.

*Fair Value Measurements: Investments* – The Town reports its investments at fair value. When actively quoted observable prices are not available, the Town generally uses either implied pricing from similar investments or valuation models based on net present values of estimated future cash flows (adjusted as appropriate for liquidity, credit, market and/or other risk factors). The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GAAP. This hierarchy is based on valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability. The three levels of the hierarchy are as follows:

- *Level 1* – Inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical investments at the measurement date.

- *Level 2* – Inputs (other than quoted prices included in Level 1) are either directly or indirectly observable for the investment through correlation with market data at the measurement date and for the duration of the instrument’s anticipated life.
- *Level 3* – Inputs reflect the Town’s best estimate of what market participants would use in pricing the investment at the measurement date.

The following table presents the Town’s investments carried at fair value on a recurring basis in the statement of net position at June 30, 2024:

	6/30/24	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<u>Investments by fair value level</u>				
<u>Debt securities:</u>				
U.S. government obligations	\$ 7,156,954	\$ 3,538,112	\$ 3,618,842	\$ -
Corporate fixed income securities	1,944,922	-	1,944,922	-
Fixed income mutual funds	3,764,806	-	3,764,806	-
Negotiable certificates of deposit	49,305	-	49,305	-
Total debt securities	12,915,987	3,538,112	9,377,875	-
<u>Equity securities:</u>				
Common stock	16,498,963	16,498,963	-	-
Equity mutual funds	1,912,781	1,912,781	-	-
Total equity securities	18,411,744	18,411,744	-	-
Total investments by fair value level	31,327,731	\$ 21,949,856	\$ 9,377,875	\$ -
<u>Investments measured at amortized cost</u>				
State Treasurer investment pool (MMDT)	21,561,972			
Money market mutual funds	556,426			
Total investments measured at fair value	\$ 53,446,129			

The following table presents the Light Department’s investments carried at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2023:

	12/31/23	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<u>Investments by fair value level</u>				
<u>Debt securities:</u>				
U.S. government obligations	\$ 714,890	\$ 61,935	\$ 652,955	\$ -
Municipal bonds	139,478	-	139,478	-
Total debt securities	854,368	61,935	792,433	-
<u>Equity securities:</u>				
Common stock	8,256	8,256	-	-
Total equity securities	8,256	8,256	-	-
Total investments by fair value level	862,624	\$ 70,191	\$ 792,433	\$ -
<u>Investments measured at amortized cost</u>				
External investment pool (MMWEC)	2,721,050			
Total investments measured at fair value	\$ 3,583,674			

The Town had the following investments with maturities at June 30, 2024:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Time Until Maturity (Years)			
		Less Than 1	1-5	6-10	> 10
U.S. government obligations	\$ 7,156,954	\$ 1,565,586	\$ 2,349,900	\$ 2,355,227	\$ 886,241
Corporate fixed income securities	1,944,922	497,430	1,157,374	290,118	-
State Treasurer investment pool (MMDT)	21,561,972	21,561,972	-	-	-
Certificates of deposit	49,305	-	49,305	-	-
Total Town investments with maturities	30,713,153	\$ 23,624,988	\$ 3,556,579	\$ 2,645,345	\$ 886,241
<u>Other investments:</u>					
Equities common stock	16,498,963				
Equities mutual fund	1,912,781				
Fixed income mutual funds	3,764,806				
Money market mutual funds	556,426				
Total Town investments without maturities	22,732,976				
Total Investments	<u>\$ 53,446,129</u>				

**Interest Rate Risk: Deposits**– This is the risk that fair value losses may arise due to increasing interest rates. The Town does not have formal investment policies that limit investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

**Interest Rate Risk: Investments** – Debt securities are subject to interest rate risk. Debt securities may be adversely affected by changes in interest rates, which may negatively affect the fair value of individual debt instruments. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investments maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

**Concentration of Credit Risk** – The Town does not place a limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

**Credit Risk: Investments** – Credit risk is the risk of loss due to the failure of the security issuer or backer. The Town has not adopted a formal policy related to credit risk but does manage credit risk for deposits and investments through its careful selection of depository institutions and investment instruments. The Town also follows the prudent investor standard and invests only in financial instruments that are allowable under Massachusetts General Laws. The Town's investment in negotiable certificates of deposit and MMDT is unrated; other securities with maturities have their published credit ratings disclosed below.

The Town investments had the following credit quality ratings at June 30, 2024:

Quality Ratings (S&P)	Corporate Fixed Income	U.S. Government Agencies & Treasuries	Certificates of Deposit	State Treasurer Investment Pool	Totals
AAA	\$ 126,070	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 126,070
AA+	-	7,156,954	-	-	7,156,954
A+	364,072	-	-	-	364,072
A	271,286	-	-	-	271,286
A-	508,068	-	-	-	508,068
BBB+	531,442	-	-	-	531,442
BBB	143,984	-	-	-	143,984
Not rated	-	-	49,305	21,561,972	21,611,277
Totals - All	<u>\$ 1,944,922</u>	<u>\$ 7,156,954</u>	<u>\$ 49,305</u>	<u>\$ 21,561,972</u>	<u>\$ 30,713,153</u>

The following table presents the GELD's investments' credit quality ratings at December 31, 2023:

Quality Ratings (S&P)	Municipal Bonds	U.S. Government Agencies & Treasuries	Totals
AAA	\$ 22,218	\$ -	\$ 22,218
AA+	-	714,890	714,890
AA	44,794	-	44,794
AA-	54,883	-	54,883
A+	13,170	-	13,170
Not rated	4,413	-	4,413
Totals - All	<u>\$ 139,478</u>	<u>\$ 714,890</u>	<u>\$ 854,368</u>

## B. Receivables

Receivables as of year-end for the Town's individual major governmental funds and nonmajor funds in the aggregate, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
Receivables:			
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 743,323	\$ -	\$ 743,323
Tax titles and deferrals	312,657	-	312,657
Vehicle excise taxes	156,382	-	156,382
Ambulance	224,584	(59,684)	164,900
Other	2,958	-	2,958
Intergovernmental grants	3,019,044	-	3,019,044
Total	<u>\$ 4,458,948</u>	<u>\$ (59,684)</u>	<u>\$ 4,399,264</u>

*Intergovernmental Receivables* – The Town annually receives a significant amount of operating and capital funding from federal and state agencies relative to aid, grants, reimbursements, and subsidies. Some of these funds may be earned or awarded as entitlements but not received at year end and therefore have been recognized as receivables.

*School Building Assistance Reimbursement* – As of June 30, 2024, the Town expects to receive as the balance of a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under School Construction reimbursement regulations, \$1,926,434 applicable to the new elementary school construction project. Such costs are reimbursed to the Town within 30 days of being incurred and requested at the reimbursement rate of 53.39%.

Receivables as of year-end for the Town's proprietary funds (the GELD's activity is for the year ended December 31, 2023) are as follows:

	Gross Amount	Allowance for Uncollectibles	Net Amount
Receivables:			
Water user charges	\$ 417,570	\$ -	\$ 417,570
Sewer user charges	272,265	-	272,265
Stormwater drainage user charges	30,302	-	30,302
Electric light user charges	1,359,012	(1,108)	1,357,904
Electric light other receivables	227,904	-	227,904
Intergovernmental	124,330	-	124,330
Total	<u>\$ 2,431,383</u>	<u>\$ (1,108)</u>	<u>\$ 2,430,275</u>

*Massachusetts Clean Water Trust* – The Town has entered into multiple loan agreements with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (MCWT). It is expected that the Town will be subsidized by MCWT on a periodic basis for principal in the amount of \$20,830 and interest in the amount of \$0 until the maturity of these agreements. GAAP requires the recognition of gross debt relative to these agreements; therefore, receivables totaling \$20,830 and \$0 has been reported in the Water Enterprise Fund and Sewer Enterprise Fund, respectively.

Governmental funds report unavailable revenues in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. The following table identifies the components of unavailable revenues in the governmental funds:

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Net Amount
Receivables and other asset type:			
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 623,950	\$ 12,464	\$ 636,414
Tax titles and deferrals	308,541	8,569	317,110
Excise	156,382	-	156,382
Ambulance fees	164,900	-	164,900
Intergovernmental	-	963,157	963,157
Tax foreclosures	45,590	-	45,590
Total	<u>\$ 1,299,363</u>	<u>\$ 984,190</u>	<u>\$ 2,283,553</u>

### C. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

The composition of interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024, is as follows:

Transfers Out	Transfers In			Total
	General Fund	Capital Projects Funds	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 124,605	\$ -	\$ 124,605 (1)
Community Preservation Fund	-	140,000	600,000	740,000 (2)
Capital Projects Funds	-	-	2,204,095	2,204,095 (3)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	479,130	201,225	-	680,355 (2)
Water Enterprise Fund	-	-	6,662	6,662 (2)
Cable Enterprise Fund	54,407	-	-	54,407 (2)
Total	<u>\$ 533,537</u>	<u>\$ 465,830</u>	<u>\$ 2,810,757</u>	<u>\$3,810,124</u>

(1) Transfers to the Capital Projects Fund for BAN paydowns and project funding.

(2) Transfers to the General Fund for operations, Capital Projects for communication towers and fire engine, and Nonmajor Fund for conservation projects.

(3) Transfers to the Nonmajor Fund for Capital Projects.

## D. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 (the GELD's activity is for the year ended December 31, 2023) is as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u><i>Governmental Activities:</i></u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 30,796,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,796,250
Construction in process	34,556,520	37,815,879	-	72,372,399
Total capital assets not being depreciated	65,352,770	37,815,879	-	103,168,649
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	27,543,289	-	-	27,543,289
Land improvements	1,057,686	-	-	1,057,686
Infrastructure	22,297,970	18,200	-	22,316,170
Machinery and equipment	4,750,284	355,000	-	5,105,284
Vehicles	7,306,560	291,746	-	7,598,306
Total capital assets being depreciated	62,955,789	664,946	-	63,620,735
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(10,256,235)	(688,413)	-	(10,944,648)
Land improvements	(880,006)	(33,409)	-	(913,415)
Infrastructure	(13,228,471)	(326,084)	-	(13,554,555)
Machinery and equipment	(2,792,139)	(209,676)	-	(3,001,815)
Vehicles	(4,954,305)	(433,034)	-	(5,387,339)
Total accumulated depreciation	(32,111,156)	(1,690,616)	-	(33,801,772)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	30,844,633	(1,025,670)	-	29,818,963
Total governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 96,197,403</u>	<u>\$ 36,790,209</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 132,987,612</u>
<u><i>Business-type Activities - All:</i></u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 1,948,599	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,948,599
Construction in process	7,821,147	703,564	(7,583,972)	940,739
Total capital assets not being depreciated	9,769,746	703,564	(7,583,972)	2,889,338
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	2,623,388	-	-	2,623,388
Infrastructure	46,459,430	12,516,936	(224,737)	58,751,629
Machinery and equipment	646,169	-	-	646,169
Vehicles	365,642	33,491	-	399,133
Total capital assets being depreciated	50,094,629	12,550,427	(224,737)	62,420,319
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(941,382)	(52,815)	-	(994,197)
Infrastructure	(19,384,246)	(1,433,273)	224,737	(20,592,782)
Machinery and equipment	(646,169)	-	-	(646,169)
Vehicles	(124,336)	(33,847)	-	(158,183)
Total accumulated depreciation	(21,096,133)	(1,519,935)	224,737	(22,391,331)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	28,998,496	11,030,492	-	40,028,988
Total business-type activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 38,768,242</u>	<u>\$ 11,734,056</u>	<u>\$ (7,583,972)</u>	<u>\$ 42,918,326</u>

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u><i>Business-type Activities: Water</i></u>				
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 730,597	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 730,597
Construction in process	7,558,595	-	(7,558,595)	-
Total capital assets not being depreciated	8,289,192	-	(7,558,595)	730,597
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	2,623,388	-	-	2,623,388
Infrastructure	17,454,389	11,771,134	-	29,225,523
Machinery and equipment	540,741	-	-	540,741
Vehicles	121,194	-	-	121,194
Total capital assets being depreciated	20,739,712	11,771,134	-	32,510,846
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(941,382)	(52,815)	-	(994,197)
Infrastructure	(8,198,145)	(629,765)	-	(8,827,910)
Machinery and equipment	(540,741)	-	-	(540,741)
Vehicles	(112,114)	(6,053)	-	(118,167)
Total accumulated depreciation	(9,792,382)	(688,633)	-	(10,481,015)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	10,947,330	11,082,501	-	22,029,831
Total Water capital assets, net	<u>\$ 19,236,522</u>	<u>\$ 11,082,501</u>	<u>\$ (7,558,595)</u>	<u>\$ 22,760,428</u>
<u><i>Business-type Activities: Sewer</i></u>				
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Infrastructure	\$ 8,375,701	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,375,701
Total capital assets being depreciated	8,375,701	-	-	8,375,701
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	(4,071,395)	(184,628)	-	(4,256,023)
Total accumulated depreciation	(4,071,395)	(184,628)	-	(4,256,023)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	4,304,306	(184,628)	-	4,119,678
Total Sewer capital assets, net	<u>\$ 4,304,306</u>	<u>\$ (184,628)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,119,678</u>
<u><i>Business-type Activities: Cable</i></u>				
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Machinery and equipment	\$ 105,428	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,428
Total capital assets being depreciated	105,428	-	-	105,428
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Machinery and equipment	(105,428)	-	-	(105,428)
Total accumulated depreciation	(105,428)	-	-	(105,428)
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	-	-	-	-
Total Cable capital assets, net	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>



Business-type Activities: Stormwater Drainage

Capital assets being depreciated:

Vehicles	244,448	33,491	-	277,939
Total capital assets being depreciated	244,448	33,491	-	277,939

Less accumulated depreciation for:

Vehicles	(12,222)	(27,794)	-	(40,016)
Total accumulated depreciation	(12,222)	(27,794)	-	(40,016)

Total capital assets being depreciated, net	232,226	5,697	-	237,923
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Total Stormwater Drainage capital assets, net	\$ 232,226	\$ 5,697	\$ -	\$ 237,923
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Business-type Activities: Electric Light

Capital assets not being depreciated:

Land	\$ 1,218,002	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,218,002
Construction in process	262,552	703,564	(25,377)	940,739
Total capital assets not being depreciated	1,480,554	703,564	(25,377)	2,158,741

Capital assets being depreciated:

Infrastructure	20,629,340	745,802	(224,737)	21,150,405
Total capital assets being depreciated	20,629,340	745,802	(224,737)	21,150,405

Less accumulated depreciation for:

Infrastructure	(7,114,706)	(618,880)	224,737	(7,508,849)
Total accumulated depreciation	(7,114,706)	(618,880)	224,737	(7,508,849)

Total capital assets being depreciated, net	13,514,634	126,922	-	13,641,556
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Total Electric Light capital assets, net	\$ 14,995,188	\$ 830,486	\$ (25,377)	\$ 15,800,297
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Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs as follows:

Governmental Activities:

General government	\$ 149,616
Public safety	759,818
Education	45,530
Public works	415,525
Health and human services	179,582
Culture and recreation	140,545
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 1,690,616

Business-type Activities:

Water	\$ 688,633
Sewer	184,628
Cable accesss	-
Stormwater drainage	27,794
Electric light	618,880
Total Business-type Activities	\$ 1,519,935

**E. Purchased Power Working Capital**

The GELD is a member and participant of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company ("MMWEC"). The purchased power working capital is an amount held by MMWEC as an escrow. The purchased power working capital fund is replenished as needed from the GELD's monthly invoice payments. The income earned from the purchased power working capital fund applicable to the GELD's deposit is applied as a credit to MMWEC's power sales billings. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2023 is \$1,191,899.

## F. Temporary Debt

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

Current Operating Costs – Prior to collection of revenues, expenditures may be financed through the issuance of revenue (“RANS”) or tax anticipation notes (“TANS”).

Capital Projects and Other Approved Costs – Projects may be temporarily funded through the issuance of bond anticipation notes (“BANS”) or grant anticipation notes (“GANS”). In certain cases, prior to the issuance of these temporary notes, the governing body must take the necessary legal steps to authorize the issuance of the general obligation bonds. Temporary notes may not exceed the aggregate amount of bonds authorized or the grant award amount.

Temporary notes are general obligations of the Town and generally carry maturity dates of less than one year and are interest bearing and will be paid through future issuance of general obligation bonds.

The Town’s temporary borrowing activity for fiscal year 2024 was as follows:

Type	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental Activities</u>						
BAN	2.60%	Matured	\$ 1,573,964	\$ -	\$ (1,573,964)	\$ -
BAN	3.55%	Matured	27,318,000	-	(27,318,000)	-
BAN	4.25%	02/14/25	-	1,488,790	-	1,488,790
BAN	4.50%	06/20/25	-	27,601,469	-	27,601,469
<i>Total Governmental Notes</i>			<u>28,891,964</u>	<u>29,090,259</u>	<u>(28,891,964)</u>	<u>29,090,259</u>
<u>Business-type Activities - Water</u>						
BAN	2.60%	Matured	6,058,086	-	(6,058,086)	-
BAN	2.70%	Matured	5,000,000	-	(5,000,000)	-
BAN	3.55%	Matured	1,022,300	-	(1,022,300)	-
BAN	4.25%	02/14/25	-	86,794	-	86,794
BAN	4.50%	06/20/25	-	959,004	-	959,004
<i>Total Business-Type Notes - Water</i>			<u>12,080,386</u>	<u>1,045,798</u>	<u>(12,080,386)</u>	<u>1,045,798</u>
Total Short Term Notes Payable			<u>\$ 40,972,350</u>	<u>\$ 30,136,057</u>	<u>\$(40,972,350)</u>	<u>\$ 30,136,057</u>

Governmental activities BAN’s outstanding at year-end were issued for: Police radios (\$83,416), Highway dump truck (\$108,569), Middle school track (\$1,405,374), elementary school (\$27,050,000), and ambulance (\$442,900). Business-type activities – Water project BAN’s were issued for: Whitney Pond Well (\$349,294) and Water Treatment Facility (\$696,504).

## G. Long-Term Obligations

The Town issues general obligation bonds and notes to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds and notes have been issued for various governmental and business-type activities. Additionally, the Town incurs various other long-term obligations relative to associated personnel costs. State law permits the Town, under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 10, to authorize indebtedness up to a limit of 5.0 percent of its equalized valuation. Debt issued in accordance with this section of the law is designated as being “inside the debt limit.” In addition, the Town may authorize debt in excess of that limit for specific purposes. Such debt, when issued, is designated as being “outside the debt limit”.

The governmental activities liabilities will be liquidated by the General Fund. The business-type liabilities will be liquidated by the water, sewer, cable access, and GELD enterprise funds.

The following reflects the activity in the long-term liability accounts for the year ended June 30, 2024 (the GELD’s activity is for the year ended December 31, 2023):

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance	Due within one year
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General obligation bonds	\$ 40,620,000	\$ 737,000	\$ (2,010,000)	\$ 39,347,000	\$ 2,185,000
Unamortized bond premiums	2,301,766	71,571	(234,857)	2,138,480	220,597
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	87,669	-	(38,371)	49,298	24,351
Landfill post-closure	542,806	-	(20,104)	522,702	20,104
Compensated absences	554,449	59,671	(55,445)	558,675	55,868
Net pension liability	19,777,982	3,208,195	(4,351,156)	18,635,021	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	11,307,698	-	(3,481,030)	7,826,668	-
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 75,192,370</u>	<u>\$ 4,076,437</u>	<u>\$ (10,190,963)</u>	<u>\$ 69,077,844</u>	<u>\$ 2,505,920</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Water:</i>					
General obligation bonds	\$ -	\$ 10,398,000	\$ -	\$ 10,398,000	\$ 160,000
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	883,372	-	(364,945)	518,427	371,358
Unamortized bond premiums	-	646,663	-	646,663	41,886
Compensated absences	39,832	6,225	(3,983)	42,074	4,207
Net pension liability	916,432	148,655	(201,615)	863,472	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	1,519,768	-	(467,855)	1,051,913	-
Total Water	<u>3,359,404</u>	<u>11,199,543</u>	<u>(1,038,398)</u>	<u>13,520,549</u>	<u>577,451</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Sewer:</i>					
General obligation bonds	75,000	-	(25,000)	50,000	25,000
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	5,400	-	(5,400)	-	-
Compensated absences	3,029	-	(984)	2,045	205
Net pension liability	211,930	34,377	(46,625)	199,682	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	134,693	-	(41,465)	93,228	-
Total Sewer	<u>430,052</u>	<u>34,377</u>	<u>(119,474)</u>	<u>344,955</u>	<u>25,205</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Cable Access:</i>					
Compensated absences	9,134	2,080	(913)	10,301	1,030
Net pension liability	359,710	58,348	(79,136)	338,922	-
Net other postemployment benefits liability	74,182	-	(22,837)	51,345	-
Total Cable Access	<u>443,026</u>	<u>60,428</u>	<u>(102,886)</u>	<u>400,568</u>	<u>1,030</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Stormwater Drainage:</i>					
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	198,924	-	(47,148)	151,776	48,830
Compensated absences	6,118	1,100	(612)	6,606	661
Total Stormwater Drainage	<u>205,042</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>(47,760)</u>	<u>158,382</u>	<u>49,491</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Electric Light:</i>					
General obligation bonds	1,290,000	-	(100,000)	1,190,000	105,000
Unamortized bond premiums	34,901	-	(3,013)	31,888	3,013
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	503,413	571,667	(128,660)	946,420	261,746
Net pension liability	3,869,601	2,158,774	(967,400)	5,060,975	-
Other postemployment benefits	601,429	105,245	(132,314)	574,360	-
Total Electric Light	<u>6,299,344</u>	<u>2,835,686</u>	<u>(1,331,387)</u>	<u>7,803,643</u>	<u>369,759</u>
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 10,736,868</u>	<u>\$ 14,131,134</u>	<u>\$ (2,639,905)</u>	<u>\$ 22,228,097</u>	<u>\$ 1,022,936</u>

### Bond, Note and Lease Purchase Indebtedness

The following is a summary of outstanding long-term debt related obligations as of June 30, 2024 (the GELD's activity is for the year ended December 31, 2023):

Description of Issue	Interest Rate	Beginning Balance	Additions	Maturities	Ending Balance
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General Obligation Bonds	2.00 - 5.00%	\$ 40,620,000	\$ 737,000	\$ (2,010,000)	\$ 39,347,000
Total General Obligation Bonds		40,620,000	737,000	(2,010,000)	39,347,000
Unamortized bond premiums		2,301,766	71,571	(234,857)	2,138,480
Total General Obligation Bonds, net		42,921,766	808,571	(2,244,857)	41,485,480
Massachusetts Clean Water Trust	2.00%	14,600	-	(14,600)	-
Lease Purchase Agreements	2.28 - 2.94%	73,069	-	(23,771)	49,298
Total notes from direct borrowings and placements		87,669	-	(38,371)	49,298
Total Governmental Activities Debt		\$ 43,009,435	\$ 808,571	\$ (2,283,228)	\$ 41,534,778
<i>Business-Type Activities - Water</i>					
General Obligation Bonds		\$ -	\$ 10,398,000	\$ -	\$ 10,398,000
Total General Obligation Bonds		-	10,398,000	-	10,398,000
Unamortized bond premiums		-	646,663	-	646,663
Total General Obligation Bonds, net		-	11,044,663	-	11,044,663
Massachusetts Clean Water Trust	2.00%	\$ 883,372	\$ -	\$ (364,945)	\$ 518,427
Total notes from direct borrowings and placements		883,372	-	(364,945)	518,427
Total Water Debt		883,372	11,044,663	(364,945)	11,563,090
<i>Business-Type Activities - Sewer</i>					
General Obligation Bonds	4.00 - 5.00%	75,000	-	(25,000)	50,000
Total General Obligation Bonds		75,000	-	(25,000)	50,000
Massachusetts Clean Water Trust	2.00%	5,400	-	(5,400)	-
Total notes from direct borrowings and placements		5,400	-	(5,400)	-
Total Sewer Debt		80,400	-	(30,400)	50,000
<i>Business-Type Activities - Stormwater Drainage</i>					
Lease Purchase Agreement	2.19%	198,924	-	(47,148)	151,776
Total notes from direct borrowings and placements		198,924	-	(47,148)	151,776
Total Stormwater Drainage Debt		198,924	-	(47,148)	151,776
<i>Business-Type Activities - Electric Light</i>					
General Obligation Bonds	2.00 - 3.25%	1,290,000	-	(100,000)	1,190,000
Total General Obligation Bonds		1,290,000	-	(100,000)	1,190,000
Unamortized bond premiums		34,901	-	(3,013)	31,888
Total General Obligation Bonds, net		1,324,901	-	(103,013)	1,221,888
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Co.	2.75%	503,413	571,667	(128,660)	946,420
Total notes from direct borrowings and placements		503,413	571,667	(128,660)	946,420
Total Electric Light Debt		1,828,314	571,667	(231,673)	2,168,308
Total Business-type Activities Debt		\$ 2,792,086	\$ 11,616,330	\$ (627,018)	\$ 13,781,398

MCWT Loan Subsidies – As previously noted in Note I. B., the Town has entered into loan agreements with the MCWT. It is expected that the Town will be subsidized by MCWT on a periodic basis for principal in the amount of \$20,830 and interest in the amount of \$0 until the maturity of these agreements.

Payments on outstanding general obligation bonds and notes payable due in future years consist of the following:

<i>Governmental Activities</i>				
Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 2,185,000	\$ 1,447,225	\$ 24,351	\$ 1,203
2026	2,210,000	1,355,670	24,947	608
2027	2,345,000	1,254,046	-	-
2028	2,370,000	1,148,208	-	-
2029	2,245,000	1,046,707	-	-
2030-2034	10,985,000	3,949,639	-	-
2035-2039	9,165,000	2,214,442	-	-
2040-2044	5,607,000	971,180	-	-
2045-2047	2,235,000	178,800	-	-
Totals	<u>\$39,347,000</u>	<u>\$13,565,917</u>	<u>\$ 49,298</u>	<u>\$ 1,811</u>

<i>Business-Type Activities - Water</i>				
Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 160,000	\$ 472,170	\$ 371,358	\$ 3,655
2026	205,000	429,010	72,799	2,214
2027	215,000	418,720	74,270	743
2028	225,000	407,970	-	-
2029	235,000	396,720	-	-
2030-2034	1,365,000	1,795,350	-	-
2035-2039	1,695,000	1,468,200	-	-
2040-2044	2,048,000	1,101,600	-	-
2045-2049	2,495,000	658,400	-	-
2050-2054	1,755,000	142,400	-	-
Totals	<u>\$10,398,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,290,540</u>	<u>\$ 518,427</u>	<u>\$ 6,612</u>

<i>Business-Type Activities - Sewer</i>				
Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,640	\$ -	\$ -
2026	25,000	547	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,187</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

<i>Business-Type Activities - Stormwater Drainage</i>				
Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,830	\$ 5,413
2026	-	-	50,571	3,672
2027	-	-	52,375	1,868
Totals	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 151,776</u>	<u>\$ 10,953</u>

<i>Business-Type Activities - Electric Light</i>				
Year Ending December 31,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 105,000	\$ 37,000	\$ -	\$ -
2025	105,000	33,850	-	-
2026	110,000	30,700	-	-
2027	115,000	27,400	-	-
2028	115,000	23,950	-	-
2029-2033	640,000	63,238	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 1,190,000</u>	<u>\$ 216,138</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Authorized and Unissued Debt - At June 30, 2024, the Town had authorized and unissued debt for the following:

Description	Authorized & Unissued
<i>Governmental:</i>	
Senior Center Construction	\$ 86,000
Dump Truck	285,000
Fire Engine #5 Replacement	63,000
Elem. School New Const. - Flo-Ro	33,136,243
<i>Business-Type Activities - Water:</i>	
Whitney Pond Well #3	42,000
Whitney Well Water Treatment	438,000
500 Main Street Water Main	1,225,000
Water Main - High School PFAS	16,780,000
Total Authorized and Unissued	<u>\$ 52,055,243</u>

### III. Other Information

#### A. Retirement System

Plan Description – The Town and GELD contribute to the Middlesex County Regional Retirement System (the System), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established under Chapter 32 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) and administered by the Middlesex Regional Retirement Board. Stand-alone audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, were issued and may be obtained by writing to the Middlesex County Regional Retirement System, 25 Linnell Circle, Billerica, Massachusetts 01865.

Membership – Membership in the System as of December 31, 2023, was as follows:

Retired employee members and beneficiaries	
currently receiving benefits	6,607
Inactive members entitled to a return on their contributions	4,227
Inactive members with a vested right to a deferred or immediate benefit	470
Active employee members	9,603
Total	<u>20,907</u>

Benefit Terms – The System provides retirement, disability and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Chapter 32 of the MGL assigns authority to establish and amend benefit provisions of the plan. Cost-of-living adjustments granted between 1981 and 1997 and any increase in other benefits imposed by the Commonwealth's state law during those years are borne by the Commonwealth and are deposited into the pension fund directly. Cost-of-living adjustments granted after 1997 must be approved by the Board and are borne by the System.

Membership in the System is mandatory for all full-time employees and non-seasonal, part-time employees who, in general, regularly work more than twenty hours per week. Members of the System do not participate in the Federal Social Security retirement system.

Massachusetts contributory retirement system benefits are uniform from retirement system to retirement system. The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a participant's highest three-year or five-year average annual rate of regular compensation, depending on the participant's date of hire. Benefit payments are based upon a participant's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation and job classification.

Contributions Requirements – The System has elected provisions of Chapter 32, Section 22D (as amended) of Massachusetts General Laws, which require that a funding schedule be established to fully fund the pension plan by June 30, 2040. Under provisions of this law, participating employers are assessed their share of the total retirement cost based on the entry age, normal actuarial cost method.

The Town contributed \$2,494,280 to the System in fiscal year 2024, which was the actuarially determined contribution requirement for the fiscal year. The Town's contributions as a percentage of covered payroll was approximately 27.1%. GELD amounts are included in the above amounts but are as of December 31, 2023 therefore totals may not agree in all situations.

Net Pension Liability – At June 30, 2024, the Town reported a liability of \$20,037,097 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability and GELD reported a liability of \$5,060,975 which

was as of December 31, 2023. 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. These figures were updated by the independent actuary as of December 31, 2023. There were no material changes made in this update to the actuarial assumptions (see below) nor were there any material changes to the System's benefit terms since the actuarial valuation.

The Town's proportion of the net pension liability is based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to the System relative to the projected contributions of all employers. The Town's proportion was approximately 1.4% at December 31, 2023.

Pension Expense – The Town recognized \$2,276,489 in pension expense in the statement of activities in fiscal year 2024 and GELD recognized \$493,200 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources – At June 30, 2024 for the Town, and December 31, 2023 for GELD deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources were recorded:

	Town		GELD	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 576,496	\$ -	\$ 37,187	\$ -
Changes of assumptions	128,756	-	87,386	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings	1,027,231	-	406,884	-
Changes in proportion differences	482,246	1,519,933	209,454	387,541
Contributions made subsequent to the measurement date	-	-	253,555	-
	<u>\$ 2,214,730</u>	<u>\$ 1,519,933</u>	<u>\$ 994,466</u>	<u>\$ 387,541</u>

The deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are expected to be recognized in the Town's pension expense as follows:

Town		GELD	
June 30		December 31	
2025	\$ (86,583)	2024	\$ 333,432
2026	73,136	2025	79,745
2027	897,124	2026	79,747
2028	<u>(188,880)</u>	2027	<u>114,001</u>
Total	<u>\$ 694,797</u>	Total	<u>\$ 606,925</u>

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15% for both the Town and GELD. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions were made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.



Actuarial Valuation – The measurement of the System’s total pension liability is developed by an independent actuary. The latest actuarial valuation was performed as of January 1, 2024. The significant actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2024 actuarial valuation included:

Investment rate of return	7.15%
Discount rate	7.15%
Inflation	3.25%
Salary increases	4.00% - 4.50%
Pre-retirement mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar healthy annuitants projected generationally using Scale MP-2021;
Post-retirement mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar healthy annuitants projected generationally using Scale MP-2021;
Disabled mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar healthy annuitants projected generationally using Scale MP-2021;
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal - Level percentage of payroll

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocations and best estimates of arithmetic real returns for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Town	
	Target Allocation	Expected Investment Rate of Return
Domestic equity - large cap	22.00%	6.29%
International equity - developed market	9.50%	6.39%
International equity - emerging market	4.50%	7.63%
Core fixed income	15.00%	1.72%
High yield fixed income	9.00%	3.43%
Real estate	10.00%	3.24%
Timber	4.00%	3.72%
Hedge funds, GTAA, risk parity	10.00%	2.87%
Private equity	16.00%	9.43%
Cash and equivalents	0.00%	0.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

Sensitivity Analysis – The following presents the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current discount rate as well as the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current rate:

	Discount Rate (GELD as of December 31, 2023)			
	Current Rate	1% Decrease	Current Discount	1% Increase
Net Pension Liability - Town	7.15%	\$ 25,085,015	\$ 20,037,097	\$ 15,789,103
Net Pension Liability - GELD	7.15%	6,264,792	5,060,975	4,047,461

## B. Other Postemployment Benefits

In addition to the pension benefits previously described, the Town and GELD provide health and life insurance benefits (other postemployment benefits, or OPEB) to current and future retirees, their dependents and beneficiaries in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (“MGL”) Chapter 32B Section 20 (hereinafter referred to as the “OPEB Plans”).

The Town and GELD operate OPEB Plans, while all benefits are provided through the Town’s insurance program. Specific benefit provisions and contribution rates are established by collective bargaining agreements, state law and Town ordinance. Neither OPEB Plans issue standalone financial reports since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purpose of paying benefits under the OPEB Plans.

OPEB Plan disclosures that impact the net OPEB liability using a measurement date of June 30, 2024 for the Town and December 31, 2023, for GELD, are summarized as follows:

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms – The following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

	Town	GELD
Retired employee members and beneficiaries		
currently receiving benefits	57	9
Active employee members	91	12
Total	148	21

Contributions – The contribution requirements of OPEB Plan members and the Town are established and may be amended by the Town. Retirees contribute 35% of premiums for medical plans and 50% of the group term life insurance plan. The remainder of the cost is funded by general revenues of the Town. The Town currently contributes enough money to the Plan to satisfy current obligations on a pay-as-you-go basis and annually anticipates contributing additional funding above that amount into the OPEB Trust Fund. The costs of administering the OPEB Plan are paid by the Town. The Town’s average contribution rate was approximately 7.6% of covered payroll and GELD’s average contribution rate of covered payroll was unavailable.

Net OPEB Liability – The Town’s net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, using an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2023, and GELD’s was measured as of December 31, 2023 using

an actuarial valuation of January 1, 2022. The components of the net OPEB liability (asset) are as follows:

	Town	GELD
Total OPEB Liability	\$ 10,385,397	\$ 2,226,062
Plan fiduciary net position	(1,362,242)	(1,651,702)
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 9,023,155</u>	<u>\$ 574,360</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	13.12%	74.20%

The total OPEB liability in the most recent actuarial valuations was determined using the following key actuarial assumptions applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Investment rate of return	6.79%, Town - 4.92%, GELD
Municipal bond rate	4.21%, Town - 4.00%, GELD
Discount rate	6.79%, Town - 4.92%, GELD
Inflation	2.50%
Health care trend rate	9.0% to 3.6%, Town - 6.50%, GELD
Salary increases	3.00%
Pre-retirement mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar Employee Mortality Table projected generationally using Scale MP-2016; set forward 1 year for females
Post-retirement mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar healthy annuitants projected generationally using Scale MP-2016; set forward 1 year for females
Disabled mortality	General: RP-2014 Blue Collar healthy annuitants projected generationally using Scale MP-2016; set forward 1 year
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal - Level percentage of payroll

There were no significant assumption changes in the current year.

**Discount Rate** – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 6.79% for Town and 4.92% for GELD which represented a blend of the yield or index rate of 4.21% at June 30, 2024 (3.85% at December 31, 2023 for GELD) for twenty-year, tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher used for unfunded periods and the long-term expected rate of return of 6.79% for Town and 4.92% for GELD.

**Long Term Expected Rate of Return** – The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB Plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of OPEB Plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class.

These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return were as reflected in the following table:

Asset Class	Town		GELD	
	Target Allocation	Expected Investment Rate of Return	Target Allocation	Expected Investment Rate of Return
Domestic equity - large cap	34.75%	4.91%	29.00%	4.10%
Domestic equity - small/mid cap	10.25%	5.29%	12.75%	4.55%
International equity - developed market	13.00%	5.32%	4.75%	4.64%
International equity - emerging market	6.75%	6.13%	4.75%	5.45%
Domestic fixed income	21.25%	2.30%	40.25%	1.05%
International fixed income	3.75%	2.02%	0.00%	0.96%
Alternatives	7.50%	6.35%	0.00%	5.95%
Real estate	2.25%	6.25%	0.00%	6.25%
Cash and equivalents	0.50%	0.00%	8.50%	0.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>		<u>100.00%</u>	

**Sensitivity Analyses** – The following presents the Town’s net OPEB liability as well as what the Town’s net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower or 1% higher than the current discount rate as well as if the healthcare cost trend rates are 1% lower or higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	Discount Rate (GELD as of December 31, 2023)			
	Current			
	Rate	1% Decrease	Current Discount	1% Increase
Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Town	6.79%	\$ 10,412,241	\$ 9,023,155	\$ 7,878,967
Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - GELD	4.92%	994,472	574,360	246,550
	Healthcare Trend Rate (GELD as of Decmber 31, 2023)			
	Current			
	Rate	1% Decrease	Current Trend	1% Increase
Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Town	9.00% > 3.60%	\$ 7,754,135	\$ 9,023,155	\$ 10,580,273
Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - GELD	6.50%	202,698	574,360	1,065,363

*Changes in the Net OPEB Liability* – The following table summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability:

	Town			GELD (as of December 31, 2023)		
	Total OPEB Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability	Total OPEB Liability	Plan Fiduciary Net Position	Net OPEB Liability/(asset)
	(a)	(b)	(a) - (b)	(a)	(b)	(a) - (b)
Balances at July 1, 2023	\$ 14,060,612	\$ 1,024,271	\$ 13,036,341	\$ 2,071,622	\$ 1,470,193	\$ 601,429
Changes for the year:						
Service cost	379,529	-	379,529	71,454	-	71,454
Interest	861,748	-	861,748	106,149	-	106,149
Difference between expected and actual experience	(3,498,380)	-	(3,498,380)	-	-	-
Changes of assumptions	(876,804)	-	(876,804)	34,649	-	34,649
Net investment income	-	152,971	(152,971)	-	181,509	(181,509)
Employer contributions	-	726,308	(726,308)	-	57,812	(57,812)
Benefit payments withdrawn from trust	-	(541,308)	541,308	-	(57,812)	57,812
Benefit payments	(541,308)	-	(541,308)	(57,812)	-	(57,812)
Net changes	(3,675,215)	337,971	(4,013,186)	154,440	181,509	(27,069)
Balances at June 30, 2024	\$ 10,385,397	\$ 1,362,242	\$ 9,023,155	\$ 2,226,062	\$ 1,651,702	\$ 574,360

*OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB* –The Town recognized OPEB expense of \$878,261 while GELD recognized \$159,890. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB were reported as follows:

	Town		GELD	
	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 207,256	\$ 2,925,814	\$ 201,736	\$ 153,809
Changes of assumptions	1,706,140	1,016,772	334,828	29,139
Net difference between projected and actual earnings	-	35,157	61,732	47,339
Totals	\$ 1,913,396	\$ 3,977,743	\$ 598,296	\$ 230,287

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

Town		GELD	
June 30		December 31	
2025	\$ (311,550)	2024	\$ 83,596
2026	(220,048)	2025	109,182
2027	(247,265)	2026	153,883
2028	(489,549)	2027	18,659
2029	(717,165)	2028	2,689
Thereafter	(78,770)	Thereafter	-
Total	<u>\$ (2,064,347)</u>	Total	<u>\$ 368,009</u>

*Investment Custody* – In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Treasurer is the custodian of the OPEB Plan and since the Town has not designated a Board of Trustees, the Town Treasurer is also the Trustee and as such is responsible for the general supervision of the management, investment and reinvestment of the OPEB Plan assets. OPEB Plan assets may be invested and reinvested by the custodian consistent with the prudent investor rule established in Chapter 203C and may, with the approval of the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees, be invested in the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund established in Section 24 of Chapter 32A. OPEB Plan assets must be segregated from other funds and not be subject to the claims of any general creditor of the Town.

*Investment Policy* – The OPEB Plan follows the same investment policies that apply to all other Town Trust funds. Notably it can be invested in accordance with State Statutes that govern Trust investments including PRIM which is an external investment pool managed by the State. GELD invests its plan assets in a pooled fund MMWEC.

*Investment Rate of Return* – The annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 14.93% for the Town and for GELD was unavailable. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

### C. Risk Financing

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts: theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters for which the Town carries commercial insurance. The amount of claim settlements has not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the previous three years.

The Town is a member of the Minuteman-Nashoba Health Group, which is a health insurance risk-pool consisting of 16 governmental units. The Group offers a variety of premium based plans to its members with each participating governmental unit charged a premium for coverage based on rates established by the Group. The Town is obligated to pay the Group its required premiums and, in the event the group is terminated, it proportionate share of a deficit, should one exist.

### D. Commitments and Contingencies

*General* – During its day-to-day operations, the Town is party to certain legal claims, which are subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigation matters in these situations cannot be reasonably estimated. Although the amount of liability, if any, in these situations at

June 30, 2024, cannot be determined, management believes that the resulting liability, if any, should not materially affect the basic financial statements of the Town at June 30, 2024.

*Grant Compliance* – Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal and state governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time although the Town expects such amounts, if any, would not have a material effect on its financial condition.

*Arbitrage* – The Town is subject to certain Federal arbitrage laws in accordance with long-term borrowing agreements. Failure to comply with the rules could result in the payment of penalties. The Town does not believe it has failed to comply with any of these agreements.

*MMWEC Participation* – The GELD is a participant in certain projects of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC). MMWEC is a public corporation and a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, created as a means to develop a bulk power supply for its members and other utilities. MMWEC is authorized to construct, own or purchase ownership interests in, and to issue revenue bonds to finance, electric facilities (“Projects”). MMWEC has acquired ownership interests in electric facilities operated by other entities and also owns and operates its own electric facilities.

MMWEC operates the Stony Brook Intermediate Project and Stony Brook Peaking Project, both fossil-fueled power plants. MMWEC has the Nuclear Mix One project, Nuclear Project Three, Nuclear Project Four, Nuclear Project Five and Project Six, which comprise an 11.6% ownership interest in the Seabrook Station nuclear generating unit operated by NextEra Energy Seabrook, LLC and a 4.8% ownership interest in the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear unit operated by Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc. The operating license for Seabrook Station extends to March 15, 2050. The operating license for Millstone Unit 3 extends to November 25, 2045.

MMWEC sells all of the capability (Project Capability) of each of its Projects to its Members and other utilities (Project Participants) under Power Sales Agreements (PSAs). The GELD has entered into PSAs with MMWEC. Under the PSAs, the GELD is required to make certain payments to MMWEC solely from GELD revenues. Among other things, PSAs require each Project Participant to pay its pro rata share of MMWEC’s costs related to the Project. In addition, should a Project Participant fail to make any payment when due, other Project Participants may be required to increase (step-up) their payments and correspondingly their Participant’s share of Project Capability. Project Participants have covenanted to fix, revise, and collect rates at least sufficient to meet their obligations under the PSAs. Under the PSAs each Participant is unconditionally obligated to make all payments due to MMWEC, whether or not the Project(s) is completed or operating, and notwithstanding the suspension or interruption of the output of the Project(s).

Pursuant to the PSAs, the MMWEC Project Participants are liable for their proportionate share of the costs associated with decommissioning the plants, which costs are being funded through monthly Project billings. The Seabrook and Millstone Project Participants are also liable for their proportionate share of the uninsured costs of a nuclear incident that might be imposed under the Price-Anderson Act. Originally enacted in 1957, the Act has been renewed several times. In July 2005, Congress extended the Act until the end of 2025.

MMWEC is involved in various legal actions, the outcome of which, in the opinion of MMWEC management, will not have a material effect on the financial position of MMWEC.

The total capital expenditures and annual capacity, fuel and transmission costs (which include debt service and decommissioning expenses discussed above) associated with the GELD's Project Capability of the Projects in which it participates was \$14,723,938 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Other Power Supply – The GELD has entered into an All Requirements Bulk Power Sales Agreement (All Requirements Agreement) with MMWEC, under which MMWEC provides, delivers, and sells all electric power and energy to the GELD, whether through owned generation, purchased power contracts or other power supply arrangements.

Under the term of the All Requirements Agreement, the GELD is committed to purchase additional power through MMWEC in future years for the amounts listed in the table below:

For Years Ending December 31,	Power Purchase Commitments
2024	\$ 455,777
2025	118,705
Total	<u>\$ 574,482</u>

Berkshire Wind Cooperative – The GELD is a member of the Berkshire Wind Cooperation Corporation (the "Cooperative"). The Cooperative is organized under Chapters 157 and 164: Section 47C of the State of Massachusetts Statutes and constitutes a municipal lighting plant cooperative. The Cooperative was formed by Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and 16 Municipal Light Departments (Members) for the purpose of financing, owning, constructing, and operating wind generation facilities located on Brodie Mountain in the towns of Hancock and Lanesborough, Massachusetts (Berkshire Wind Facility).

The Cooperative provides wind energy to MMWEC pursuant to the Berkshire Wind Power Purchase Agreement dated May 21, 2008 between MMWEC and the Cooperative. Under this agreement, MMWEC entered into a Power Sales Contract with the Cooperative pursuant to which MMWEC has agreed to purchase 100% of the capacity and energy output and, to the extent uncommitted to any third party under existing agreements, associated environmental energy attributes of a wind power generating facility to be owned, constructed and operated by the Cooperative at the Berkshire Wind Facility.

The Berkshire Wind Facility is comprised of two Phases. Phase 1 is comprised of ten 1.5-megawatt wind turbines which have been commercially operating since 2011, and Phase 2 is comprised of two 2.3-megawatt wind turbines which began commercial operations in November 2019.

MMWEC sells all of the capability of the Berkshire Wind Facility (Capability) to the Members of the Cooperative (Members) under Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Among other things, the PPAs require each Cooperative Member to pay its *pro rata* share of the costs related to the Berkshire Wind Facility and its *pro rata* share of the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs of the Berkshire Wind Facility. In addition, should a Cooperative Member fail to make any payment when due, other Cooperative Members may be required to increase (step-up) their payments and correspondingly their share of the Capability to an additional amount. Additionally,



each Participant is unconditionally obligated to make all payments due to the Berkshire Wind Cooperative Corporation, whether or not the Berkshire Wind Facility is completed or operating, and notwithstanding the suspension or interruption of the output of the Berkshire Wind Facility.

The total capital expenditures, debt service and operation and maintenance (O&M) costs associated with the Plant's pro rata share of the Phases in which it participates for the year ended December 31, 2023 are listed in the table below:

Phase	Percentage Share	Total Capital Expenditures	Debt Service Billed	Operations & Maintenance Billed
Berkshire Phase 1	5.533%	\$ 3,838,690	\$ 335,981	\$ 152,060

The estimated aggregate amount of the required payments for future years for the GELD's pro rata share of the Phases in which it participates is shown below:

For Years Ending December 31,	Total Phase 1 Debt Service
2024	\$ 268,115
2025	267,714
2026	267,963
2027	267,977
2028	267,742
2029 - 2030	535,622
Total	<u>\$ 1,875,133</u>

#### **E. Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Care Costs**

The Town's landfill is closed, and a final cover has been installed in accordance with Federal and State laws and regulations. Those laws and regulations also require the Town to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions ("post-closure care") at the site for 30 years after the landfill cover is installed. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the estimated remaining cost of monitoring; \$522,702 has been recorded as a governmental activity's liability; actual costs may be higher due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

#### **IV. Implementation of New GASB Pronouncements**

##### Current Year Implementations

In June 2022, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – An Amendment of GASB Statement No 62. The objective of this Statement is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent and comparable information for decision making or assessing accountability. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2024). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

*Future Implementations* –

In June 2022, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 101, Compensated Absences. The objective of this Statement is to update the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2023 (fiscal year 2025). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In December 2023, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 102, Certain Risk Disclosures. The objective of this Statement is to provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2024 (fiscal year 2025). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In April 2024, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 103, Financial Reporting Model Improvements. The objective of this Statement is to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government's accountability. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2025 (fiscal year 2026). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on its financial Statements.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - PENSIONS**  
**YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY**

Year Ended December 31,	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 as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2023	1.40%	\$ 23,696,683	\$ 9,066,266	261.37%	55.21%
2022	1.42%	25,150,097	8,598,720	292.49%	52.61%
2021	1.43%	19,238,916	8,229,713	233.77%	61.10%
2020	1.60%	24,595,262	8,305,473	296.13%	53.40%
2019	1.59%	25,513,416	7,971,673	320.05%	49.50%
2018	1.49%	23,290,688	7,545,657	308.66%	46.40%
2017	1.51%	21,402,700	7,236,359	295.77%	49.30%
2016	1.58%	22,421,400	7,051,413	317.97%	45.50%
2015	1.60%	20,586,198	6,891,765	298.71%	46.10%
2014	1.62%	19,495,870	6,626,697	294.20%	47.70%

**SCHEDULE OF THE TOWN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PENSION PLAN**

Year Ended June 30,	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,494,280	\$ -	\$ 9,202,260	27.11%
2023	2,538,910	2,538,910	-	8,727,701	29.09%
2022	2,385,255	2,385,255	-	8,353,159	28.56%
2021	2,090,290	2,090,290	-	8,430,055	24.80%
2020	1,973,053	1,973,053	-	8,091,248	24.39%
2019	2,081,699	2,081,699	-	7,658,842	27.18%
2018	1,966,279	1,966,279	-	7,344,904	26.77%
2017	1,839,040	1,839,040	-	7,157,184	25.70%
2016	1,737,842	1,737,842	-	6,995,141	24.84%
2015	1,560,704	1,560,704	-	6,726,097	23.20%

This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for ten years.  
However, until a full ten-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS - TOWN

	Year Ended June 30							
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB liability:								
Service cost	\$ 379,529	\$ 371,225	\$ 280,037	\$ 290,989	\$ 286,592	\$ 328,620	\$ 460,696	\$ 395,760
Interest	861,748	820,035	656,612	619,730	550,245	645,543	461,403	334,604
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(3,498,380)	-	40,016	-	777,133	-	-	2,270,297
Changes of assumptions	(876,804)	(14,236)	3,168,541	(307,696)	(887,465)	(2,198,188)	-	-
Benefit payments	(541,308)	(502,239)	(407,202)	(390,892)	(344,921)	(300,225)	(269,876)	(226,325)
Net change in total OPEB liability	(3,675,215)	674,785	3,738,004	212,131	381,584	(1,524,250)	652,223	2,774,336
Total OPEB liability - beginning of year	14,060,612	13,385,827	9,647,823	9,435,692	9,054,108	10,578,358	9,926,135	7,151,799
Total OPEB liability - end of year (a)	<u>\$ 10,385,397</u>	<u>\$ 14,060,612</u>	<u>\$ 13,385,827</u>	<u>\$ 9,647,823</u>	<u>\$ 9,435,692</u>	<u>\$ 9,054,108</u>	<u>\$ 10,578,358</u>	<u>\$ 9,926,135</u>
Plan fiduciary net position:								
Contributions - employer	\$ 726,308	\$ 683,239	\$ 584,296	\$ 567,986	\$ 513,921	\$ 400,204	\$ 369,826	\$ 226,325
Net investment income	152,971	74,983	(130,373)	145,866	15,891	12,377	1,388	12
Benefit payments	(541,308)	(502,239)	(407,202)	(390,892)	(344,921)	(300,225)	(269,876)	(226,325)
Net change in Plan fiduciary net position	337,971	255,983	46,721	322,960	184,891	112,356	101,338	12
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year	1,024,271	768,288	721,567	398,607	213,716	101,360	22	10
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year (b)	<u>\$ 1,362,242</u>	<u>\$ 1,024,271</u>	<u>\$ 768,288</u>	<u>\$ 721,567</u>	<u>\$ 398,607</u>	<u>\$ 213,716</u>	<u>\$ 101,360</u>	<u>\$ 22</u>
Net OPEB liability - end of year (a) - (b)	<u>\$ 9,023,155</u>	<u>\$ 13,036,341</u>	<u>\$ 12,617,539</u>	<u>\$ 8,926,256</u>	<u>\$ 9,037,085</u>	<u>\$ 8,840,392</u>	<u>\$ 10,476,998</u>	<u>\$ 9,926,113</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	13.12%	7.28%	5.74%	7.48%	4.22%	2.36%	0.96%	0.00%
Covered payroll	\$ 9,598,247	\$ 8,628,236	\$ 8,376,928	\$ 7,892,268	\$ 7,662,396	\$ 6,857,693	\$ 6,552,226	\$ 6,657,954
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	94.01%	151.09%	150.62%	113.10%	117.94%	128.91%	159.90%	149.09%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years.  
However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS - TOWN**

	Year Ended June 30							
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Actuarially-determined contribution	\$ 863,426	\$ 1,016,208	\$ 903,575	\$ 767,568	\$ 936,392	\$ 934,511	\$ 1,043,834	\$ 978,898
Contributions in relation to the actuarially-determined contribution	(726,308)	(683,239)	(584,296)	(567,986)	(513,921)	(400,204)	(369,826)	(226,325)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ 137,118</u>	<u>\$ 332,969</u>	<u>\$ 319,279</u>	<u>\$ 199,582</u>	<u>\$ 422,471</u>	<u>\$ 534,307</u>	<u>\$ 674,008</u>	<u>\$ 752,573</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 9,598,247	\$ 8,628,236	\$ 8,376,928	\$ 7,892,268	\$ 7,662,396	\$ 6,857,693	\$ 6,552,226	\$ 6,657,954
Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll	7.57%	7.92%	6.98%	7.20%	6.71%	5.84%	5.64%	3.40%
Valuation date	July 1, 2023							
Amortization period	30 years							
Investment rate of return	6.79%							
Municipal bond rate	4.21%							
Single equivalent discount rate	6.79%							
Inflation	2.50%							
Healthcare cost trend rates	9.00 > 3.60%							
Salary increases	3.00%							
Actuarial cost method	Individual Entry Age Normal							
Asset valuation method	Market value of assets as of reporting date							

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS**

	Year Ended June 30							
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of	14.93%	8.03%	-14.74%	26.85%	4.31%	4.71%	0.88%	0.01%

Note: These schedules are presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years. However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS - GELD**

	Year ended December 31						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB liability:							
Service cost	\$ 71,454	\$ 57,815	\$ 45,560	\$ 44,453	\$ 47,023	\$ 42,255	\$ 43,054
Interest	106,149	82,928	79,456	85,843	81,077	76,041	64,746
Changes of benefit terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	97,830	-	(156,807)	-	(2,836)	115,369
Changes of assumptions	34,649	338,468	169,164	(96,903)	56,750	-	-
Benefit payments	(57,812)	(53,680)	(48,535)	(44,259)	(37,091)	(35,542)	(32,739)
Net change in total OPEB liability	154,440	523,361	245,645	(167,673)	147,759	79,918	190,430
Total OPEB liability - beginning of year	2,071,622	1,548,261	1,302,616	1,470,289	1,322,530	1,242,612	1,052,182
Total OPEB liability - end of year (a)	<u>\$ 2,226,062</u>	<u>\$ 2,071,622</u>	<u>\$ 1,548,261</u>	<u>\$ 1,302,616</u>	<u>\$ 1,470,289</u>	<u>\$ 1,322,530</u>	<u>\$ 1,242,612</u>
Plan fiduciary net position:							
Contributions - employer	\$ 57,812	\$ 21,472	\$ 34,817	\$ 44,259	\$ 37,091	\$ 89,971	\$ 238,739
Net investment income	181,509	(245,516)	203,790	171,246	204,052	(37,566)	118,827
Benefit payments	(57,812)	(53,680)	(48,535)	(44,259)	(37,091)	(35,542)	(32,739)
Net change in Plan fiduciary net position	181,509	(277,724)	190,072	171,246	204,052	16,863	324,827
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year	1,470,193	1,747,917	1,557,845	1,386,599	1,182,547	1,165,684	840,857
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year (b)	<u>\$ 1,651,702</u>	<u>\$ 1,470,193</u>	<u>\$ 1,747,917</u>	<u>\$ 1,557,845</u>	<u>\$ 1,386,599</u>	<u>\$ 1,182,547</u>	<u>\$ 1,165,684</u>
Net OPEB liability - end of year (a) - (b)	<u>\$ 574,360</u>	<u>\$ 601,429</u>	<u>\$ (199,656)</u>	<u>\$ (255,229)</u>	<u>\$ 83,690</u>	<u>\$ 139,983</u>	<u>\$ 76,928</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	74.20%	70.97%	112.90%	119.59%	94.31%	89.42%	93.81%
Covered payroll	N/A	\$ 1,407,400	\$ 1,365,722	\$ 1,325,944	\$ 1,180,461	\$ 1,151,904	\$ 1,118,353
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll		42.73%	-14.62%	-19.25%	7.09%	12.15%	6.88%

Note: This schedule is presented to illustrate the requirement to show information for 10 years.  
However, until a full 10-year trend is compiled, information is presented for those years in which information is available.

See independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - UNAUDITED  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS - GELD**

	Year ended December 31						
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Actuarially-determined contribution	N/A	\$ 57,815	\$ 45,560	\$ 31,942	\$ 52,619	\$ 51,849	\$ 57,538
Contributions in relation to the actuarially-determined contribution	N/A	(21,742)	(34,817)	(44,259)	(37,091)	(89,971)	(238,739)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ 36,073	\$ 10,743	\$ (12,317)	\$ 15,528	\$ (38,122)	\$ (181,201)
Covered-employee payroll	N/A	\$ 1,407,400	\$ 1,365,722	\$ 1,325,944	\$ 1,180,461	\$ 1,151,904	\$ 1,118,353
Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll		4.11%	3.34%	2.41%	4.46%	4.50%	5.14%
Valuation date	January 1, 2022						
Investment rate of return	4.92%						
Municipal bond rate	4.00%						
Single equivalent discount rate	4.92%						
Inflation	2.50%						
Healthcare cost trend rates	6.50%						
Salary increases	3.00%						
Actuarial cost method	Individual entry age normal						
Asset valuation method	Fair value						

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS  
LAST 10 FISCAL YEARS**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of	N/A	-14.13%	13.11%	12.35%	17.26%	-3.10%	12.88%

TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual		Actual	Variance
	Original	Final	Budgetary	Encumbrances	Budgetary	Favorable
	Budget	Budget	Amounts		Adjusted	(Unfavorable)
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Real estate and personal property taxes, net	41,682,774	41,542,030	41,351,016	\$ -	\$ 35,124,995	\$ (191,014)
Intergovernmental	1,087,092	1,087,092	1,205,388	-	1,205,388	118,296
Motor vehicle and other excises	2,367,583	2,367,583	2,541,605	-	2,541,605	174,022
License and permits	429,300	429,300	527,284	-	527,284	97,984
Departmental and other revenue	2,109,000	2,109,000	2,738,345	-	2,738,345	629,345
Penalties and interest on taxes	110,000	110,000	123,411	-	123,411	13,411
Fines and forfeitures	10,000	10,000	2,765	-	2,765	(7,235)
Investment income	100,000	100,000	1,535,170	-	1,535,170	1,435,170
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>47,895,749</b>	<b>47,755,005</b>	<b>50,024,984</b>		<b>43,798,963</b>	<b>2,269,979</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
General government	3,357,528	3,547,162	3,106,377	\$ 8,780	3,115,157	432,005
Public safety	5,427,934	5,534,071	5,123,796	3,210	5,127,006	407,065
Education	27,718,371	27,718,371	27,718,371	-	27,718,371	-
Public works	2,009,014	2,011,659	1,915,592	20,770	1,936,362	75,297
Health and human services	396,938	404,438	391,009	1,141	392,150	12,288
Culture and recreation	2,026,611	2,112,439	1,982,228	2,175	1,984,403	128,036
Pension and fringe benefits	4,775,619	4,565,613	4,562,176	2,712	4,564,888	725
State and county tax assessments	98,662	98,662	98,662	-	98,662	-
Debt service	4,745,663	4,961,188	4,938,170	-	4,938,170	23,018
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>50,556,340</b>	<b>50,953,603</b>	<b>49,836,381</b>	<b>38,788</b>	<b>49,875,169</b>	<b>1,078,434</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>						
Transfers in	1,455,986	1,455,986	1,390,509	-	1,390,509	(65,477)
Transfers out	(397,949)	(1,565,840)	(1,565,840)	-	(1,565,840)	-
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>1,058,037</b>	<b>(109,854)</b>	<b>(175,331)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(175,331)</b>	<b>(65,477)</b>
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES/USE OF PRIOR YEAR BUDGETARY FUND BALANCE	<u>(1,602,554)</u>	<u>(3,308,452)</u>	<u>\$ 13,272</u>	<u>\$ (38,788)</u>	<u>\$ (6,251,537)</u>	<u>\$ 3,282,936</u>
Other budget items:						
Undesignated surplus (free cash)	706,427	2,467,314				
Prior year encumbrances	896,127	896,127				
Miscellaneous	-	(54,989)				
Total other budget items	<u>1,602,554</u>	<u>3,308,452</u>				
Net budget	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>				

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



# TOWN OF GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

## NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

***Budgetary Information*** – An annual budget is legally adopted for the General Fund and each enterprise fund. Financial orders are initiated by the Town Administrator, recommended by the Town Finance Committee and approved by Town Meeting. Expenditures may not legally exceed appropriations at the department level or in the categories of personnel and non-personnel expenses. Department heads may not transfer, without Town Meeting approval or Select Board/Finance Committee approval at year-end, appropriation balances from one account to another within their department or budget, and within the categories of personnel and non-personnel. The Town Meeting must approve any transfer of unencumbered appropriation balances between departments or agencies. At the close of each fiscal year, unencumbered appropriation balances lapse and revert to unassigned fund balance.

The Town adopts an annual budget for the general fund in conformity with the guidelines described above. During fiscal year 2024, Town Meeting approved approximately \$0.4 million in supplemental budgetary appropriations, for nearly all government operation classifications, and approximately \$1.2 million in transfers to other funds.

The Town Accountant has the responsibility to ensure that budgetary control is maintained in the manner in which the appropriations were voted by Town Meeting. Budgetary control is exercised through the Town's accounting system.

***Budgetary-to-GAAP Reconciliation*** – The Town's General Fund is prepared on a basis of accounting other than GAAP to conform to the Uniform Municipal Accounting System basis of accounting as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. A reconciliation of the budgetary-basis to GAAP-basis results for the General Fund for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, is as follows:

	Basis of Accounting Differences	Fund Perspective Differences	Total
Revenues on a budgetary basis			\$ 50,024,983
Stabilization revenue	\$ -	\$ 188,159	188,159
Change in accruing tax revenues	105,414	-	105,414
Indirect cost allocations	-	(333,552)	(333,552)
Revenues on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ 105,414</u>	<u>\$ (145,393)</u>	<u>\$ 49,985,004</u>
Expenditures on a budgetary basis			\$ 49,836,382
OPEB contribution	\$ -	\$ 185,000	185,000
Indirect cost allocations	-	(333,552)	(333,552)
Expenditures on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (148,552)</u>	<u>\$ 49,687,830</u>
Other financing sources (uses) on a budgetary basis			\$ (175,331)
Stabilization transfers	\$ -	\$ 399,262	399,262
OPEB contribution	-	185,000	185,000
Other financing sources (uses) on a GAAP basis	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 584,262</u>	<u>\$ 408,931</u>