

Town of Dunstable



Annual Town Meeting

May 13, 2024

7 PM

Swallow Union
Elementary School





Warrant Overview

- FY2025 Town Operating Budget
- Capital Purchases and Improvement Projects
 - Police Cruiser
 - Window Replacement at Police Station
 - Gutter Replacement at Police Station
 - Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment
 - Highway Sander and Spreader
- CPA-funded projects
 - Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag
 - Renovation of Wells at Larter Field
 - Town Center Trail Loop Feasibility Study
 - Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation
 - Town Hall Chimney and Roof Repairs
 - Tennis Courts at Larter Field
 - High Street Property Conservation Restriction
- Establishment of an Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund
- Municipal Electrical Aggregation



Town of Dunstable



Article 1 Reports

To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers, Boards, Committees, Commissioners, and Trustees, or take any action in relation thereto.

This is a standard article to accept the 2023 Annual Town Report and to allow any Town Officer, Board, Commission, or Board to make a report at Town Meeting.



Article 2 Unpaid Bills

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) a sum of money for the purpose of paying unpaid bills of FY2023, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article is necessary to pay bills of prior fiscal years consistent with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 64. This requires a 4/5ths vote at Town Meeting.

The Town has one prior year bill that needs approval for payment: a Verizon telephone bill in the amount of \$139.95.



Town of Dunstable

Article 3

Transfer to Water Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate or transfer from available funds to the Water Enterprise Fund a sum of money for the purpose of funding operating expenses or other purposes as deemed necessary by the Board of Water Commissioners for FY2024, or take any action in relation thereto.



This article allows for financial transfers from available funds to the Water Enterprise Fund. At present, the Town does not anticipate the Water Enterprise Fund to require any additional appropriations or transfers for the current fiscal year, FY2024.

Town of Dunstable



Article 4 Operating Budget



To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, or any combination thereof, to fund the various departments, boards, committees, commissions, and other operating expenses of the Town for Fiscal Year 2025, beginning July 1, 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article sets the operating budget for all Town Departments and the School Districts for FY2025 which totals \$13,107,748.

Expenditures

- **General Government: \$631,255**
- **Public Safety: \$1,687,507**
- **Public Works: \$895,811**
- **Library and Recreation: \$310,494**
- **Human Services: \$79,328**
- **Debt Service: \$179,627**
- **Insurance and Assessments: \$967,574**
- **Regional School Districts: \$8,356,152**

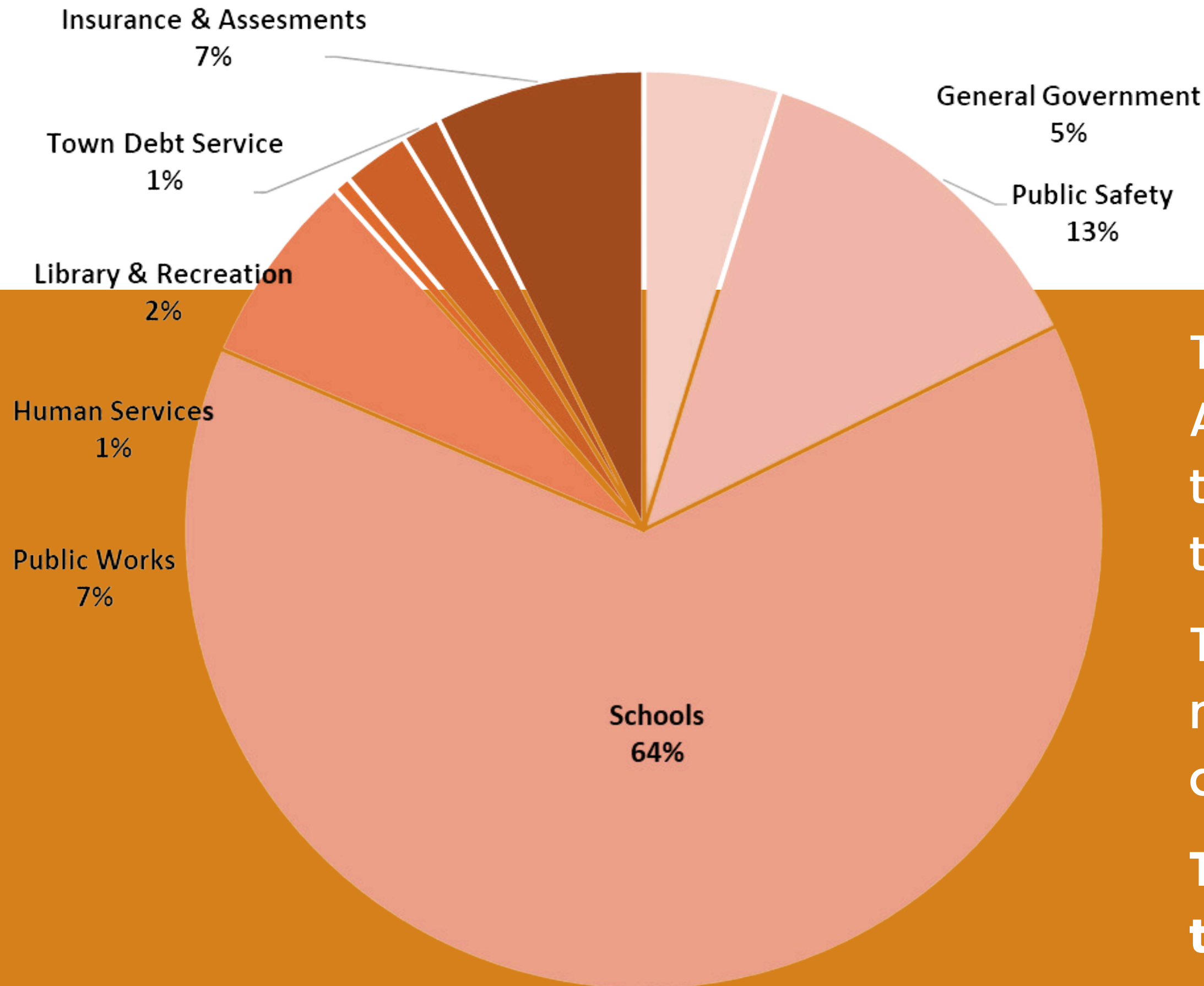
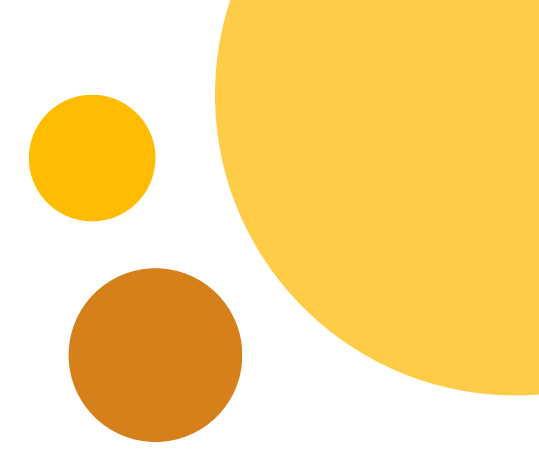
Revenue

- **Tax Levy: \$11,766,908**
- **State Aid: \$384,676**
- **Local Receipts: \$750,000**
- **Free Cash: \$358,724**



Town of Dunstable

Expenditures by Budget Category

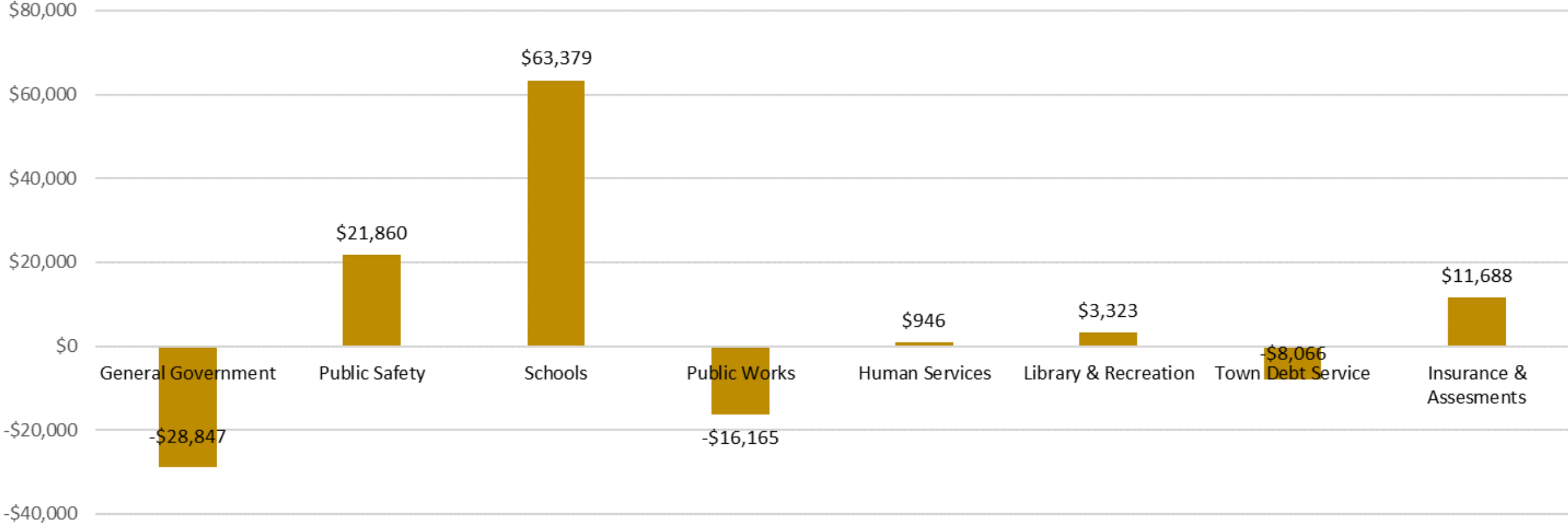


The Regional School Districts' Assessments amount to 64% of the Town's overall budget totaling \$8,356,152.

Town operations and debt make up the remaining 36% at a total of \$4,751,596.

Total FY25 expenditures amount to \$13,107,748.

Expenditures by Budget Category

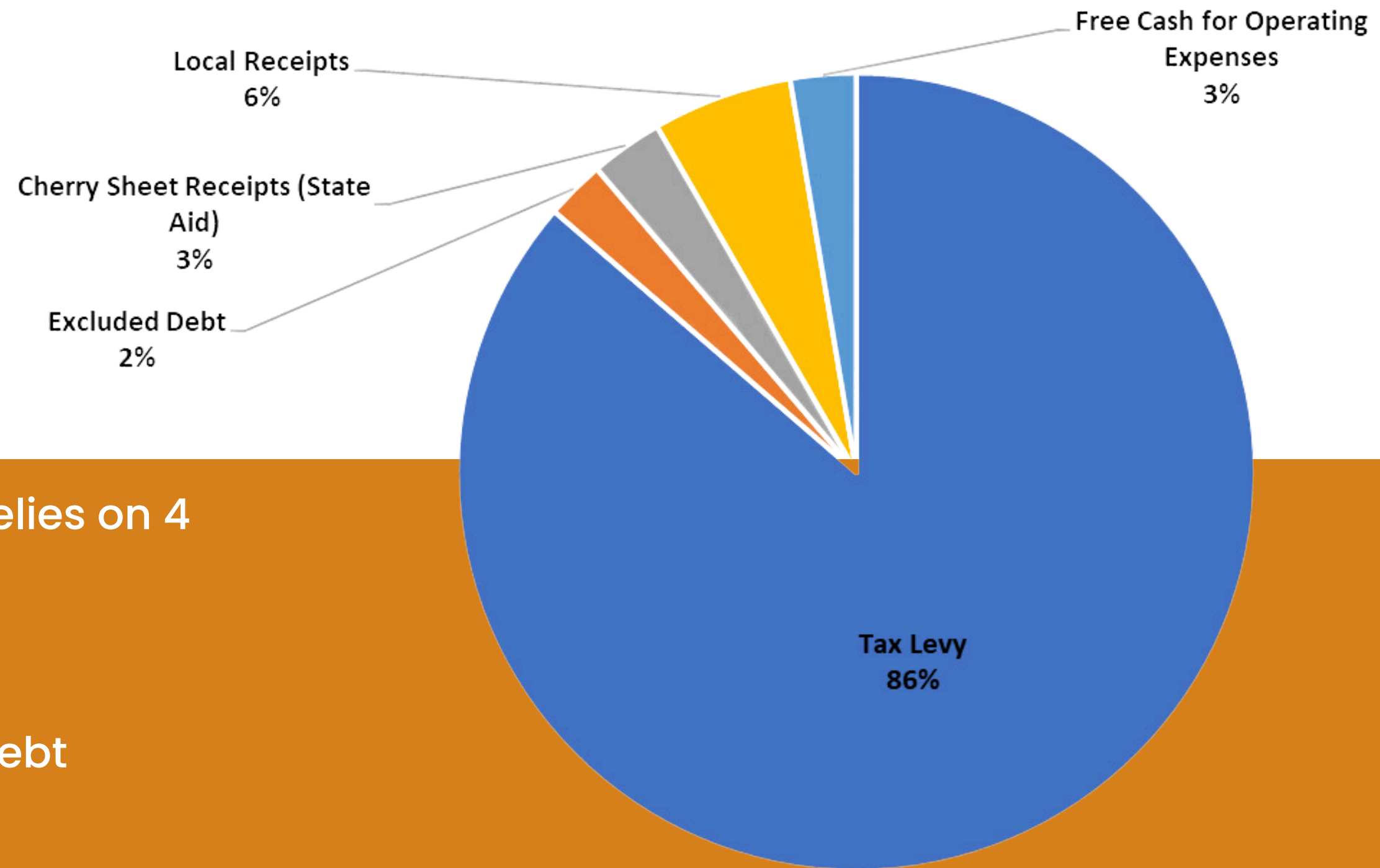


- Health insurance budget increased by 2.2%, Pension assessment is increasing by 6%.
- Liability insurance increased by less than 1%.
- The Groton Dunstable Regional School District budget assessment increased by 2.8%.
- Total municipal operations budget is decreasing by .16%; municipal operations and debt expenses are decreasing by .32%.
- Total municipal salaries are increasing by 2%.

Budget Category	FY24	FY25	\$ Change	% Change
General Government	660,102	\$631,255	-\$28,847	-4.37%
Public Safety	1,665,647	\$1,687,507	\$21,860	1.31%
Schools	8,292,773	\$8,356,152	\$63,379	0.76%
Public Works	911,976	\$895,811	-\$16,165	-1.77%
Human Services	78,382	\$79,328	\$946	1.21%
Library & Recreation	307,171	\$310,494	\$3,323	1.08%
Town Debt Service	187,693	\$179,627	-\$8,066	-4.30%
Insurance & Assesments	955,886	\$967,574	\$11,688	1.22%
Total Town Expenditures	13,059,629	\$13,107,748	\$48,118	0.37%

Revenue

Tax Levy	\$11,062,281	\$11,448,838	\$386,557	3.49%
Excluded Debt	\$326,394	\$318,070	-\$8,324	-2.55%
Cherry Sheet Receipts (State Aid)	\$379,303	\$384,676	\$5,373	1.42%
Local Receipts	\$749,632	\$750,000	\$368	0.05%
Free Cash for Operating Expenses	\$574,343	\$358,724	-\$215,619	-37.54%
Total	\$13,091,953	\$13,260,308	\$168,355	1.29%

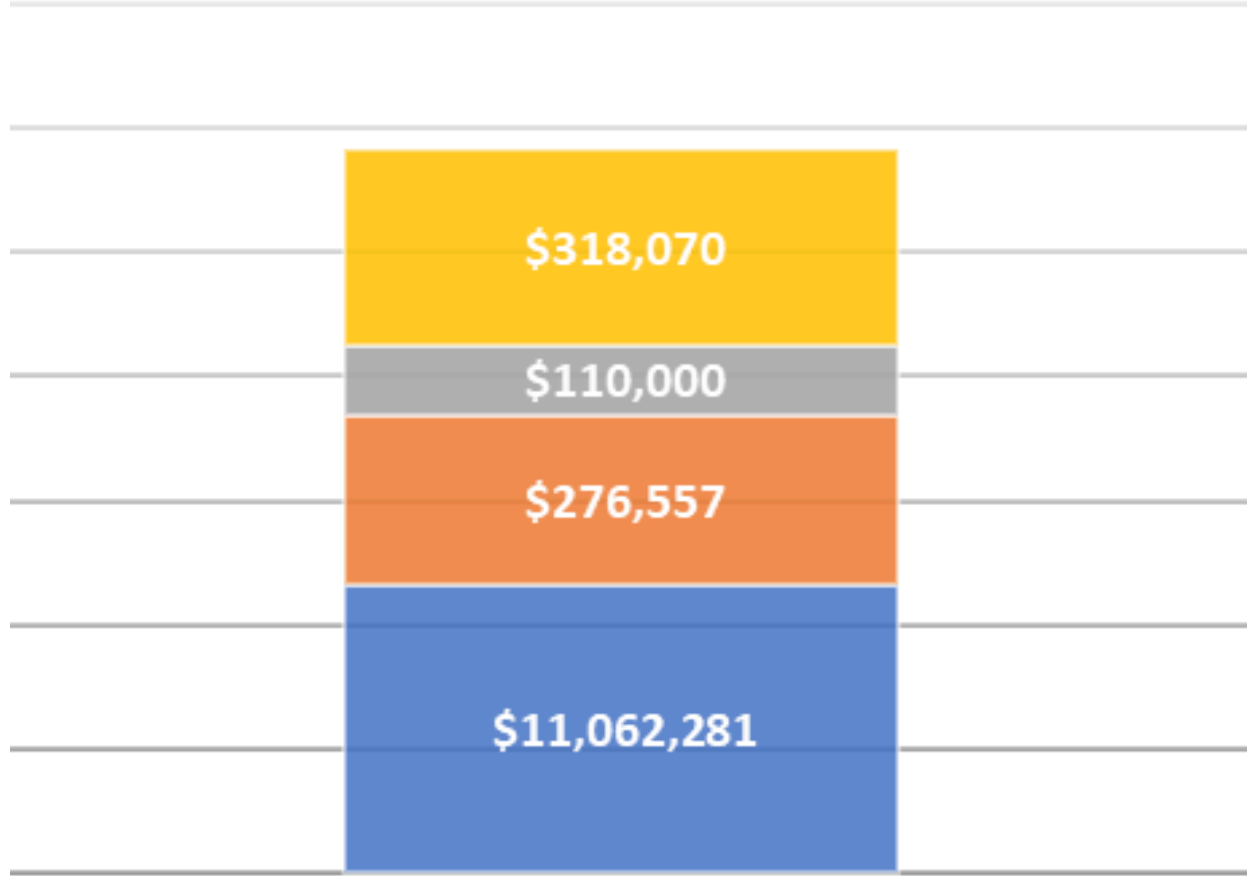


The Town's Operating Budget relies on 4 major revenue sources:

- Real Estate Taxes
 - Tax levy plus excluded debt
- Local Receipts
- State Aid
- Free Cash

Tax Levy

	FY24	FY25	\$ Change	% Change
Tax Levy	\$10,685,152	\$11,062,281	\$377,129	3.53%
2 1/2 % Allowed Increase	\$267,129	\$276,557	\$9,428	3.53%
New & Amended Growth	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$0	0.00%
Excluded Debt	\$326,394	\$318,070	-\$8,324	-2.55%
Total	\$11,388,675	\$11,766,908	\$378,233	3.32%



■ Tax Levy
 ■ 2 1/2 % Allowed Increase
 ■ New & Amended Growth
 ■ Excluded Debt

2 1/2% Increase

Proposition 2½ allows the annual growth of the tax levy to increase by 2 1/2%, plus new growth. Dunstable’s 2½ increase for FY25 is \$276,577.

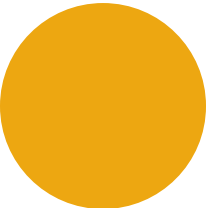
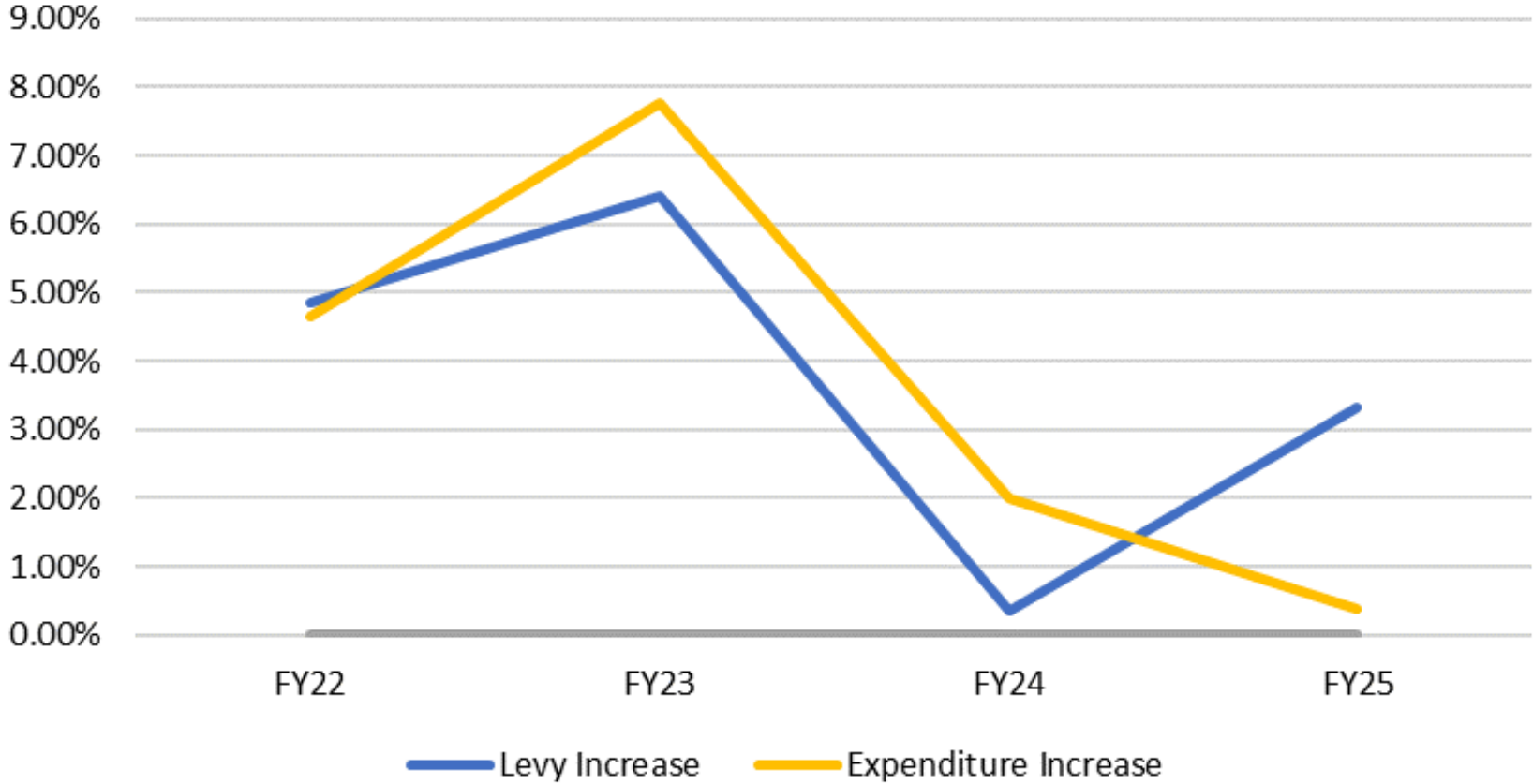
New Growth

New growth is new development in the Town or improvements to properties that result in an increased assessed value. New growth revenue planned for FY25 is \$110,000.

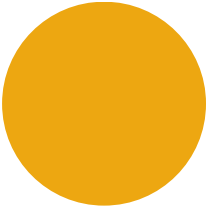
Excluded Debt

The tax levy includes excluded debt for projects approved by the voters of Dunstable. These projects include the water tower, fire rescue truck, and front end loader for the Town and school projects, as well. The total excluded debt payments for FY25 is anticipated to be \$318,070. The Town increases the tax levy based on the debt payments of these projects annually .

Tax Levy versus Budget Expenditures



Starting in FY23, the Town's budget expenditure increases have outpaced the Town's tax levy increase.



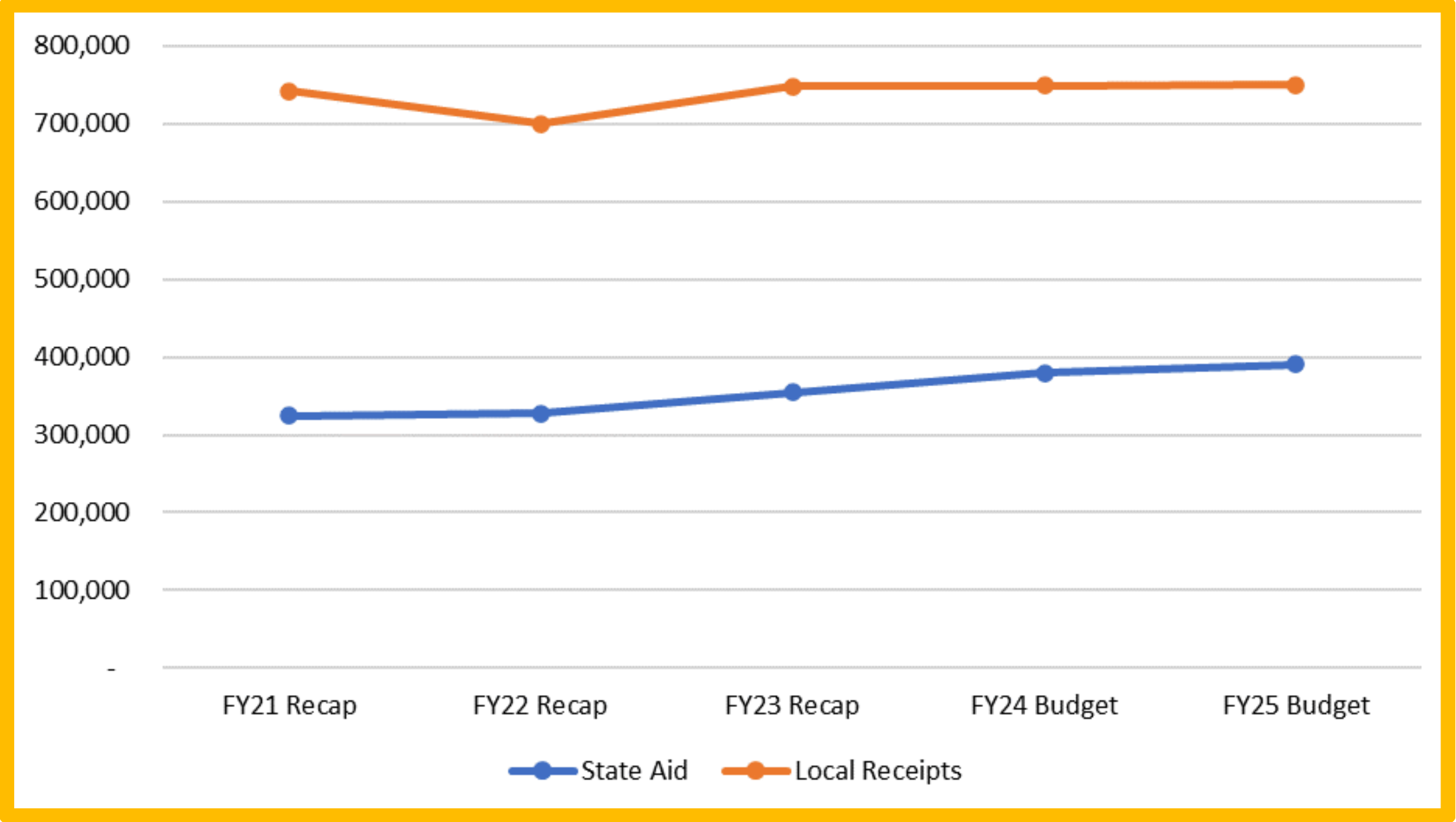
In FY24, the levy only increased by .35% because excluded debt was reduced, the School Capital Exclusion in FY23 was only for one year in the amount of \$188,974. The result was the total levy increase was only \$39,296



In FY25, the Town has limited spending increases to .37% increase, shifting this trend as a strategy to decrease its reliance on free cash (one-time surplus revenues) and strengthening its financial condition long-term.

	Levy Increase	Expenditure Increase
FY22	4.85%	4.66%
FY23	6.41%	8%
FY24	0.35%	1.99%
FY25	3.32%	0.37%

State Aid and Local Receipts



State Aid

Over the last 5 years, including the budget plan for FY25, the Town has experienced a 4% average annual increase in State Aid

Local Aid

Local receipts, over this same period of time, has remained flat at \$750,000

Total Increase

All total, for all Town revenues other than real estate property taxes, the Town has experienced a 1.4% average annual increase.

Free Cash

A total of \$358,724 of the Town's free cash is being used to balance the FY25 budget.

Over the last 5 years, the Town's reliance on free cash as a revenue stream to balance the budget has increased significantly.

Because each year's free cash certification is not guaranteed, using it for reoccurring expenses can be unsustainable and demonstrates a structural budgetary problem.

Because the Department of Revenue recommends free cash only be used for one-time expenses, in the FY25 budget, the Town has reduced its reliance on free cash significantly and plans to reduce free cash use for operating expenses by \$100,000 in FY26 and FY27.

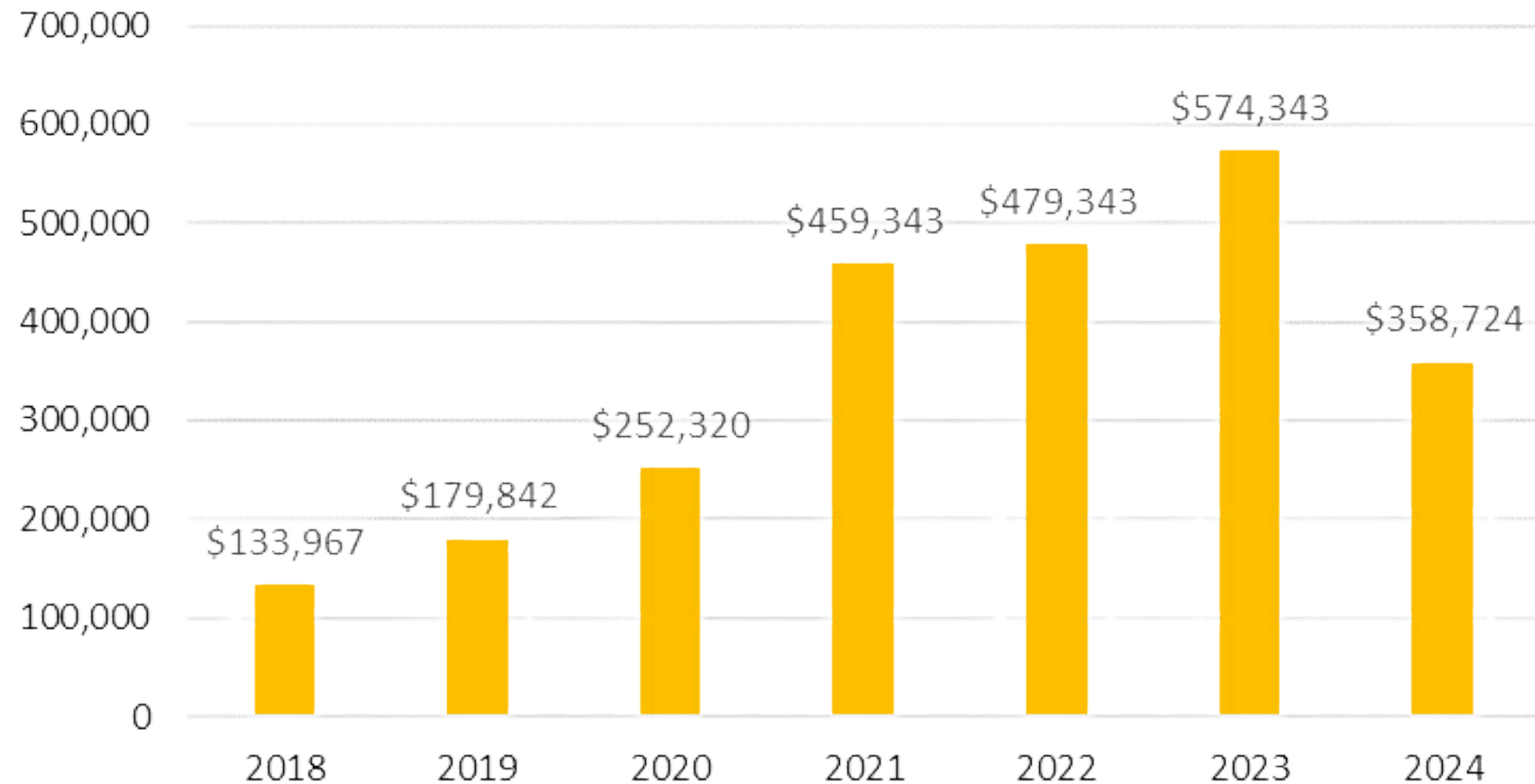
What is Free Cash? Why is it important?

Free Cash is the result of the spending and collection activity within any given fiscal year. On an annual basis Free Cash is generated through two main sources:

- Actual revenues being higher than estimated revenues
- Actual expenditures being less than budgeted expenditures

Free Cash availability can impact a community's financial health:

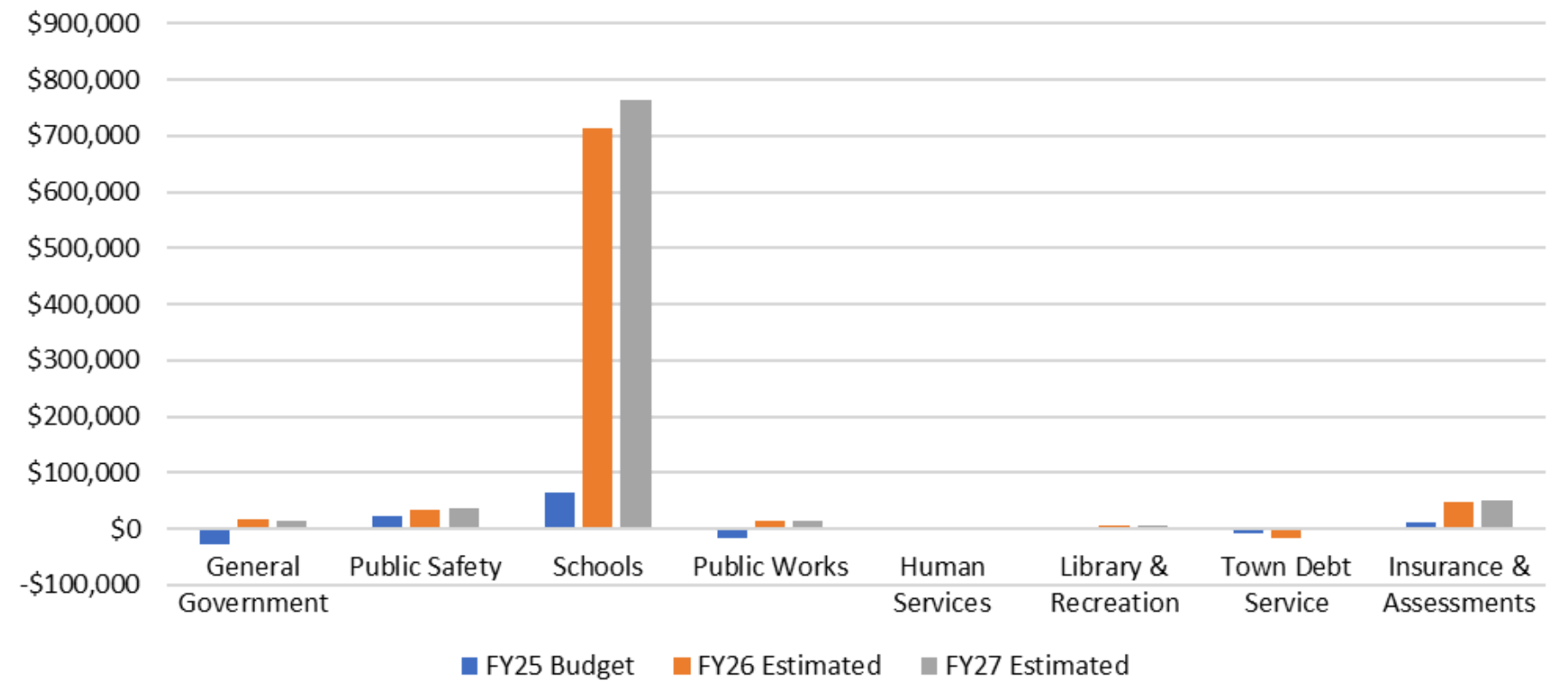
- Retaining Free Cash provides the Town with financial flexibility and reserves
- Reductions in Free Cash may negatively impact a community's bond credit rating
- Using Free Cash to balance the budget endangers future spending plans if it is not regenerated each year



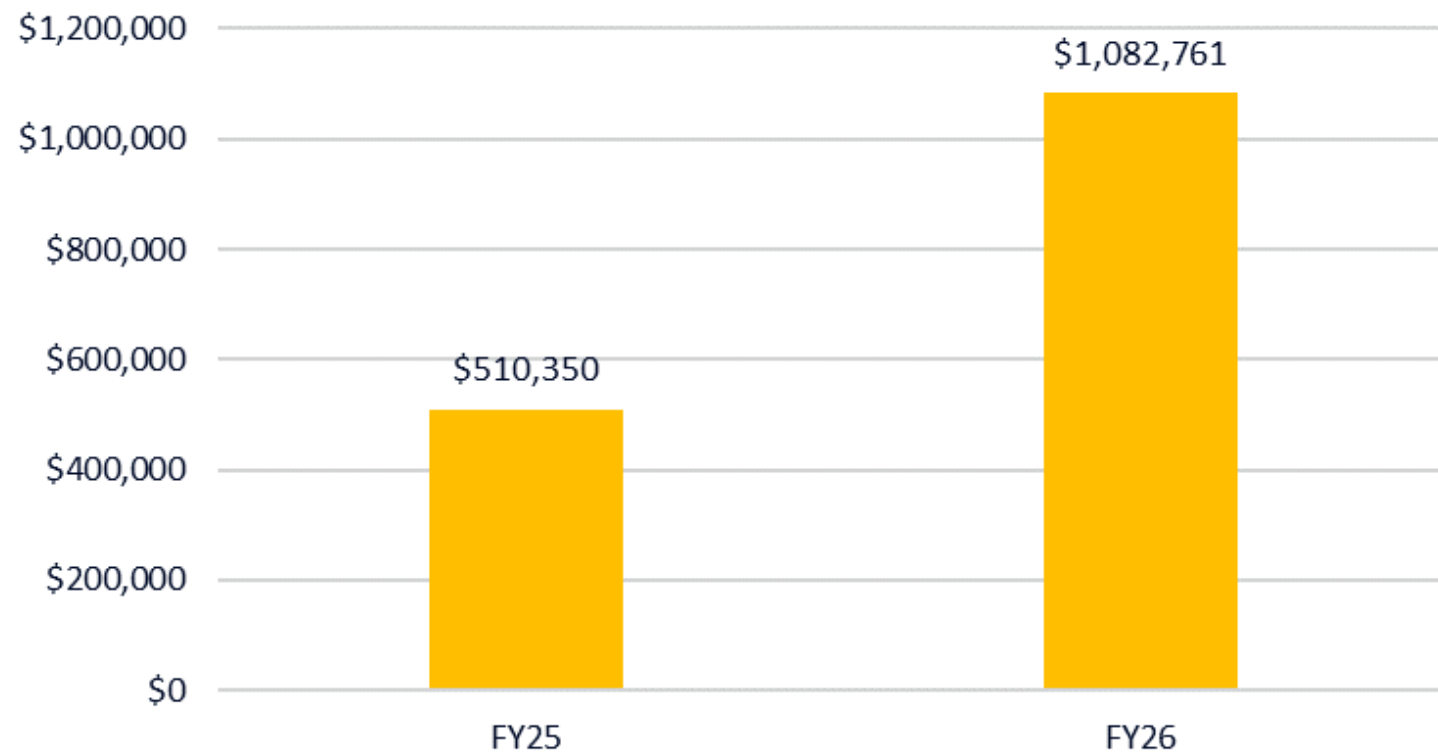
Financial Forecast

Budget Category	FY25 Budget	FY26 Estimated	FY27 Estimated
General Government	-\$28,847	\$16,957	\$14,590
Public Safety	\$21,860	\$34,697	\$35,453
Schools	\$63,379	\$713,074	\$763,470
Public Works	-\$16,165	\$13,061	\$13,379
Human Services	\$946	\$2,129	\$2,225
Library & Recreation	\$3,323	\$5,765	\$6,453
Town Debt Service	-\$8,066	-\$17,656	\$85
Insurance & Assessments	\$11,688	\$48,379	\$50,798
Total Increase	\$48,118	\$816,406	\$886,454

Increases by Budget Category FY25-FY27



Forecasted Budget Deficits



FY26-FY27 Deficit Forecast

FY26	\$510,350
FY27	\$1,082,761



Article 5 Free Cash Transfer for FY25

To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash (Surplus Revenue) to meet the appropriations of Fiscal Year 2025, beginning July 1, 2024, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article is necessary to appropriate Free Cash to subsidize the FY2025 operating budget. A total of \$358,724 of the Town's Free Cash is being used to balance the FY25 budget.

The Department of Revenue certified FY24 Free Cash in the amount of \$617,368.



Town of Dunstable



Article 6

Revolving Fund Expenditure Limits

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to set the annual expenditure limits for Fiscal Year 2025 for all revolving funds established by the General Bylaws, as follows, or take any action in relation thereto:

This article is necessary to set expenditure limits for FY2024 for Town Revolving Funds pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E½.

A revolving fund separately accounts for specific revenues and earmarks them for expenditure for particular purposes to support the activity, program or service that generated the revenues.

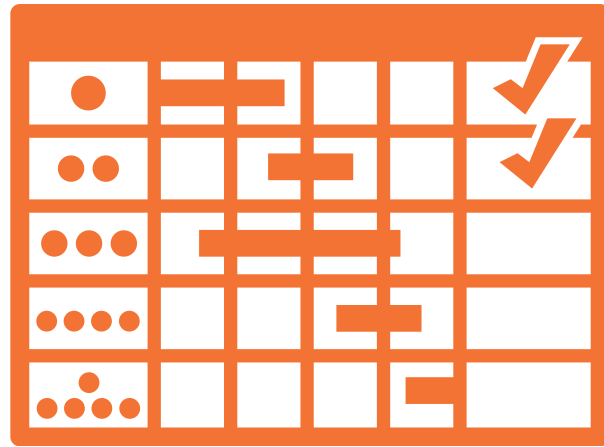


Town of Dunstable

Article 6

Revolving Fund Expenditure Limits

Revolving Fund	Spending Limit	Fees and Charges	Program or Activity Supported by Fund
Cemetery	\$10,000	Receipts collected from sale of lots, interment fees, and other fees pertaining to the cemetery.	Operation and maintenance of the cemetery.
Recreation	\$7,000	Funded through donations, fundraising, grants, and usage permits.	Repairs, maintenance, and improvement to Town recreational sites.
COA Transport	\$3,500	Funded through donations, fundraising, grants, and usage fees.	Van and other miscellaneous transportation costs.
Permit Application Fees	\$5,000	Funded through a portion of permit fees.	Fund the online building, gas, plumbing, and electrical permitting system.
Approval Not Required Plans	\$15,000	ANR application fees.	Engineering fees associated with review of Approval Not Required Plans.
Transfer Station	\$155,400	Receipts collected from trash collection and barrels.	Trash collection and trash bin sales.



Article 7

Capital Improvements for Municipal Departments

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for remodeling, reconstructing, and making repairs to existing Town buildings, infrastructure, and the purchase of necessary equipment, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

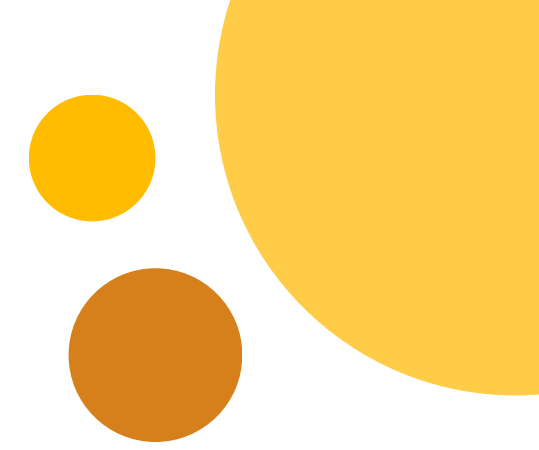
This article requests to raise and appropriate \$119,344 to fund capital improvements and purchases for the Police, Fire, and Highway Departments.



Town of Dunstable

Article 7

Capital Improvements for Municipal Departments



Police Cruiser Replacement	\$60,000
Police Station Window Replacement	\$20,000
Police Station Gutter Improvements	\$844
Fire Personal Protective Equipment	\$16,000
Highway Spreader/Sander	\$22,500
Total	\$119,344



Police Department

- Police Department replacing car #52, currently the oldest patrol vehicle in the fleet with 67,000 miles and 3,873 engine hours and, once ready for replacement, it is estimated to have 91,000 miles.
- The windows at the Police Station are experiencing rot and are not weather-tight causing increased energy costs. Given the availability of funds, this project may have to be phased over time.
- The rain gutters at the Police Station are damaged, leaking in several areas, and missing leaf guards. There have been drainage issues at the Police Station and this project is intended to mitigate issues in the future.



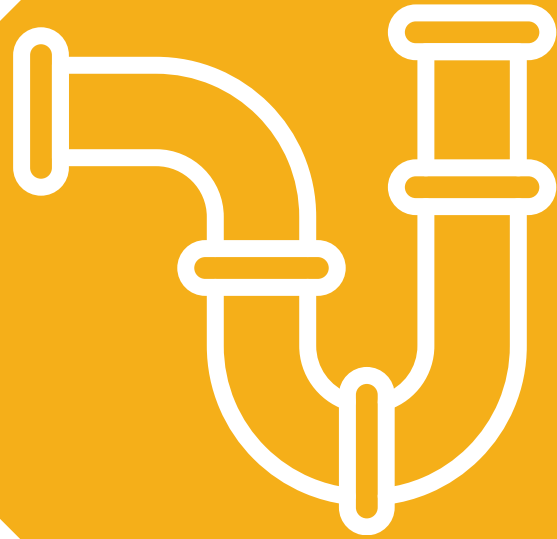
Fire Department

- Firefighter standards mandate departments have two full sets of PPE per firefighter. Currently, the Fire Department does not meet this requirement, needing approximately 15 more sets to comply. Having two full sets for each firefighter allows a member to properly decontaminate and dry their gear in between incidents and still have another set to use if another incident or call takes place. PPE gear should be replaced every ten years.

Highway Department



- The Highway Department is in need of a new spreader/sander which they have deferred for several years. They have extended the useful life of the existing spreader/sander rebuilding it twice but, at this point, the condition has deteriorated where replacement is needed. This piece of equipment is critical to maintain safe road conditions during snow events, reducing ice buildup and maintaining safe conditions during inclement weather.



Article 8

Water System Infrastructure Improvements

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Water Retained Earnings the sum of \$35,000 for design, repair, replacement, construction, and installation of various water infrastructure and associated work, including all incidental and related costs, or take any action in relation thereto.

This articles requests \$35,000 from Water Enterprise retained earnings to fund MassDEP mandated improvements to the Town's municipal water supply. As a result of water quality impacts from high seasonal temperatures in 2022 and 2023 and a MassDEP inspection, a permanent water disinfection system is required to be installed. The system includes equipment to constantly measure chlorine levels in the water and provide remote notification to the water system operators, and other improvements as needed.

The Department of Revenue certified FY24 Retained Earnings in the amount of \$82,752. Retained Earnings is unappropriated, surplus revenue collected by the Water Enterprise Fund.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 9

Community Preservation Committee Recommendations

To see what transfers or other actions the Town may vote with respect to any recommended action of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Section 6, this article is required to transfer not less than 10% of the annual revenues in the Community Preservation Fund for open space, not less than 10% of the annual revenues for historic resources, not less than 10% of the annual revenues for community housing, and no more than 5% of the annual revenues for administrative and operating expenses of the Community Preservation Committee.

This article will also include the debt service payment due in FY2024 for the purchase of the Ferrari Farm Property.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 10

Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, a sum of money for the continued removal of invasive weeds in Lake Massapoag, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$3,500 from the Undesignated CPA funds be appropriated to support the continued removal of invasive weeds at Lake Massapoag.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 10

Removal of Invasive Weeds at Lake Massapoag



- Lake Massapoag has been treated for milfoil and fanwort invasive unwater plants in the past.
- Curly leaf pondweed is now an invasive species in abundance at Lake Massapoag which has been treated from 2019 to 2023 with periodic treatments for milfoil.
- For this year, Curly leaf pondweed and milfoil will be treated.
- In addition to Dunstable, the Towns of Tyngsborough and Groton have been requested to fund this work through CPA funds.



ARTICLE 11 – Renovation of Wells at Larter Field

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$11,940 for the renovation of wells at Larter Field, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$11,940 from the Open Space/Recreation Allocation be appropriated to support the renovation of well at Larter Field.

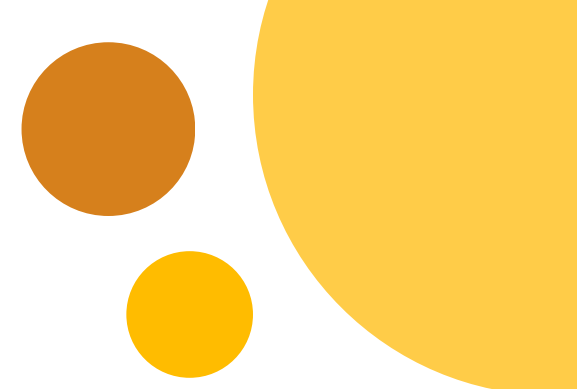
Last year, CPA funds were approved in the amount of \$33,600 to replace 5 of the 7 wells at Larter Field. This work has been completed. The 2 remaining wells have now failed and need to be restored which this article seeks to fund.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 12

Town Center Trail Loop Feasibility Study



To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$20,000 for consulting services to develop a feasibility study and concept design for the Dunstable Town Center Trail Loop project, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended appropriating \$20,000 from the Undesignated Allocation for the purpose of supporting the development of a feasibility study and concept design for the Dunstable Town Center Trail Loop project.



ARTICLE 12

Town Center Trail Loop Feasibility Study

Last year, the Town of Dunstable was awarded an AARP micro grant to study walkability in Dunstable Town Center. Working with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), the Town led a series of walk audits to study walking conditions within Dunstable Town Center. Participants observed and evaluated the experience of getting around on foot in Town Center, identified destinations that should be accessible by walking, and shared information about unofficial pathways that could be improved.

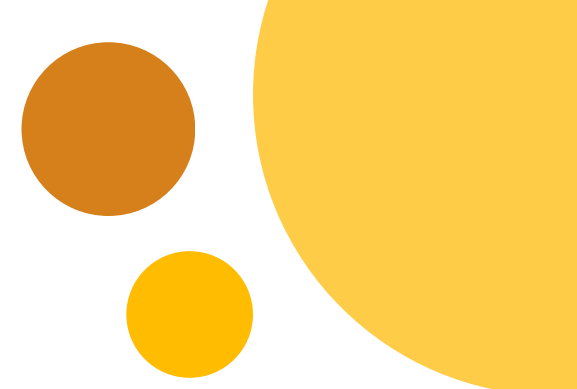
Roughly 25 participants from a wide range of backgrounds participated in the audits, including:

- Town elected officials;
- Residents, particularly seniors through the Council on Aging;
- Volunteers from the Safe Pathways Committee, a Town committee founded in the 2010s to focus on creating new pedestrian and bicycling paths in town; and
- Town staff from Administration, Police, Council on Aging, and Highway departments.



ARTICLE 12

Town Center Trail Loop Feasibility Study



Recommendation

Create a pathway network across publicly-owned lands within Town Center to formalize existing pathways and provide safe and accessible recreational opportunities that connect residents with key destinations.

MassTrails Grants are a popular funding source for this type of improvement; grant awards are dependent on project type, but run up to \$100,000 for recreational trails projects. While MassTrails Grants require a 20% local match, this match may be provided through a municipality's Community Preservation Act funding.





ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, borrow pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, Section 11, (the Community Preservation Act), or any other applicable statute, or otherwise provide a sum of money not to exceed \$1,132,750 to restore and rehabilitate the exterior of the Union School Building, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$200,000 from the Historic Preservation Allocation be appropriated and to borrow the remaining \$932,150 using CPA funds to support the restoration and rehabilitation of the exterior of the Union Building.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

- Built in 1895
- The Union Building contributes to and is integrated in the Dunstable Center Historic District.
- Historic importance as a place of learning
- Currently occupied by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District.
- District intends to vacate the building and turn it over to the Town
- Select Board created and appointed the Union Building Rehabilitation Committee
- Union Building Rehabilitation Committee led development of restoration plan and identification of viable reuse options working with Northern Middlesex Council of Governments and Spencer Preservation Group



ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

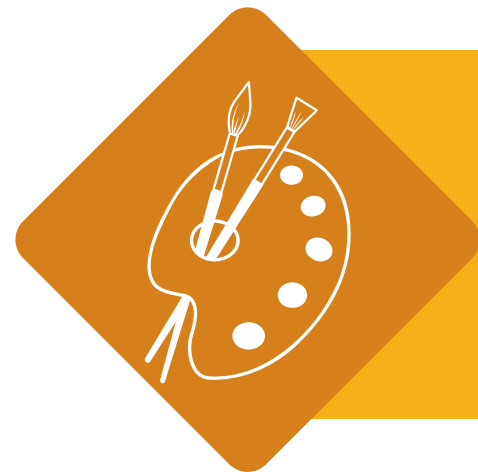
- Union Building Rehabilitation Committee hosted two well-attended outreach meetings to engage the community and facilitate a community conversation on the needs, hopes, and vision for the building.
- The Committee also issued a survey to solicit feedback from the community on re-use priorities.
- Working with their consultants, the Committee developed viable re-use options which aim to serve the community, activate the building, contribute to the vibrancy of Town Center, and preserve and restore an important historic asset.
- Considerations on determining viable re-use options were cost and financial impact, operational and management issues, activation of building, community feedback.



ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

Second floor re-use alternatives



Private artist studios



Private or shared office space

First floor re-use alternatives



Membership-Based Space (a shared maker space with tools such as a laser cutter, 3D printer, and sewing machines and textile technology)



Event Rental-Based Space (An empty box space with tables, chairs, and AV equipment available for rental for small meetings or parties)

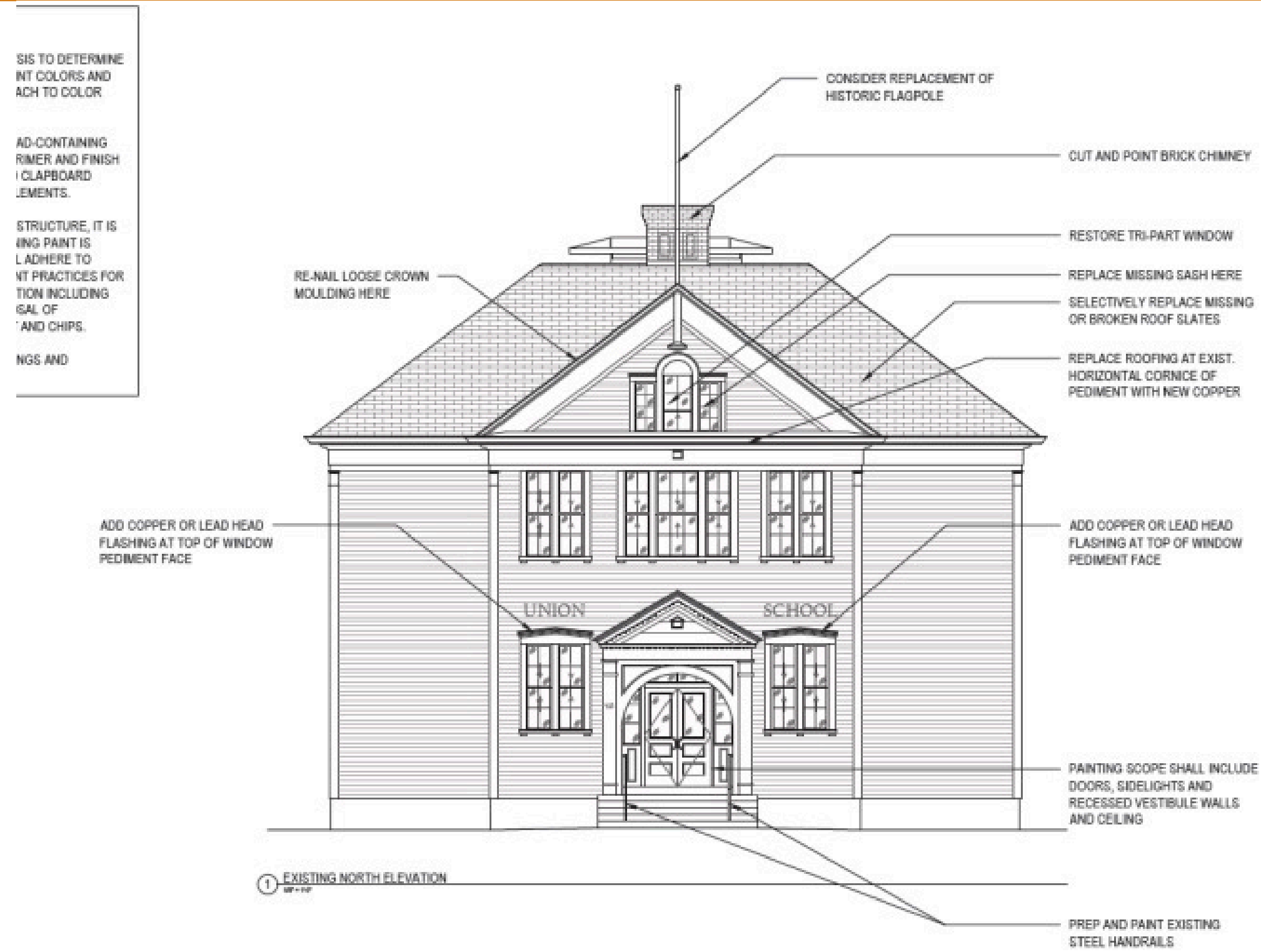


Youth, Daycare, or Community Center Space (A space with regular educational programming for youth and/or adults or childcare rented by a nonprofit or business)

ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

- In 2021, Spencer Preservation Group conducted a condition exterior envelope assessment outlining the needs and cost of restoration
- The assessment recommends to replace shingles, repoint chimney, and foundation, repaint in original colors, repair siding, restore Palladian window, and replace flagpole
- Combined work was estimated to cost approximately \$819,969, which is due in large part to the safe management of lead paint - to chemically strip and dispose of paint before priming and painting woodwork.
- As part of the re-use process, Spencer updated their estimated cost to \$1,132,750 for the exterior work.
- The interior work to renovate the building is estimated to cost an additional \$1.5 million.



ARTICLE 13

Union School Building Restoration and Rehabilitation

Next Steps



Restore Exterior of Building

Develop bid documents and issue an Invitation for Bids for exterior restoration, award contract, manage and coordinate construction work and schedule.



Seek out and apply for grant funds for interior improvements

Leverage School District capital funds and grant funds (MCC, MassDevelopment) to develop plans and bid documents for interior improvements, and issue Invitation for Bids.



Improve Interior of Building

issue Invitation for Bids for interior of building.



Identify and solicit interested parties re-use of building

Based on the work of the Union Building Rehabilitation Committee solicit interested parties to rent/lease the building for identified re-use priorities, award lease(s).



ARTICLE 14

Town Hall Chimney and Roof Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$20,000 for repairs to the Town Hall chimney and roof, including all incidental and related costs, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$20,000 from the Historical Preservation Allocation be appropriated to support the restoration of the chimney structure and roof at Town Hall.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 14

Town Hall Chimney and Roof Repairs

Last year, during two major storm events, the roof at Town Hall suffered leaks in two areas of the building. Fortunately, the Town had American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available to pay for the repairs to both portions of the roof. The repairs to the interior damage caused by the leaks was covered through our insurer, MIA.

However, one area of the roof, at the chimney structure at the back portion of the building, is in need of additional investment. A more permanent repair is needed as the Town's server room, housing all the Town's digital infrastructure, is directly under this chimney and roof area.

Article 15

High Street Conservation Restriction

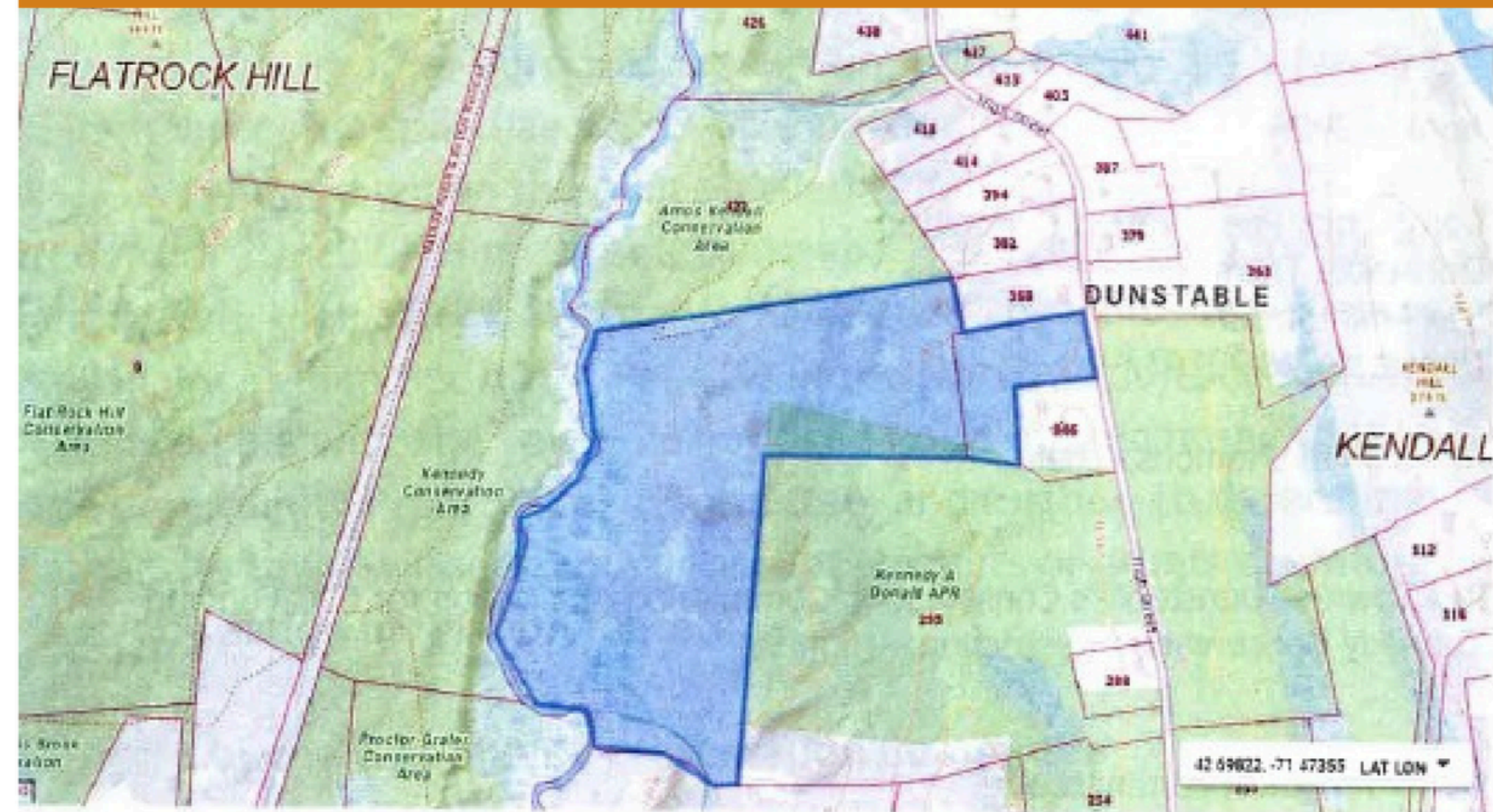


ARTICLE 15

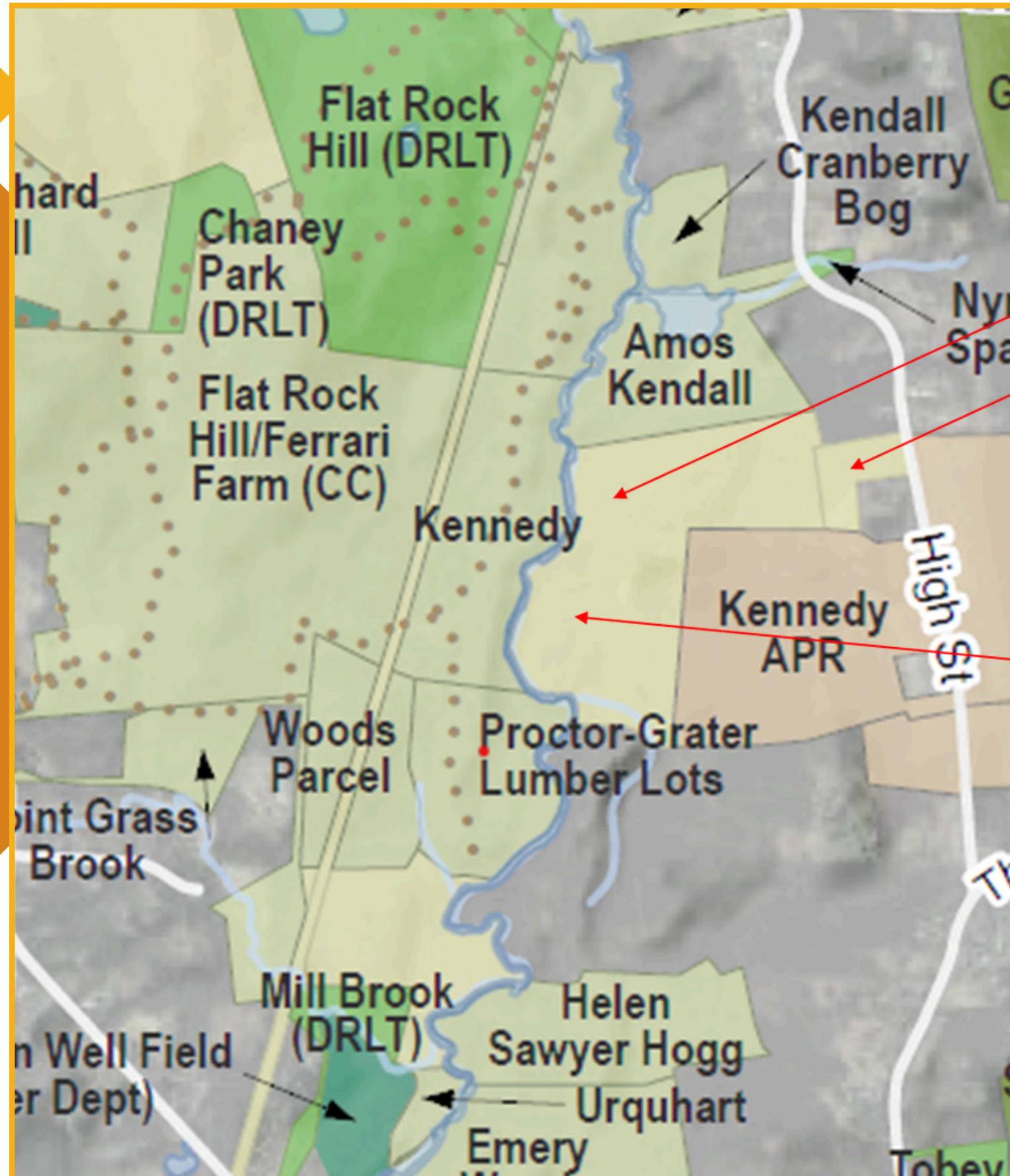
High Street Property Conservation Restriction

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$300,000 to purchase through the Conservation Commission on behalf of the Town a conservation restriction for open space and conservation purposes on a 29.8-acre +/- tract of real property adjacent to 346 High Street identified on Assessors Map 15 Parcels 2 and 3B, and shown as "Parcel B" and "Assessor Parcel ID: 15-2" on a plan recorded in the North Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 251, Plan 34, which is on file with the Town Clerk, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, and further, to determine whether the town will seek and/or accept any gifts or grants therefor, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$6,000 from Administrative Allocation, \$50,000 from Open Space/Recreation Allocation, and \$244,000 from Undesignated CPA funds be appropriated to support the purchase of a conservation restriction at the property adjacent to 346 High Street.



Article 15 High Street Conservation Restriction



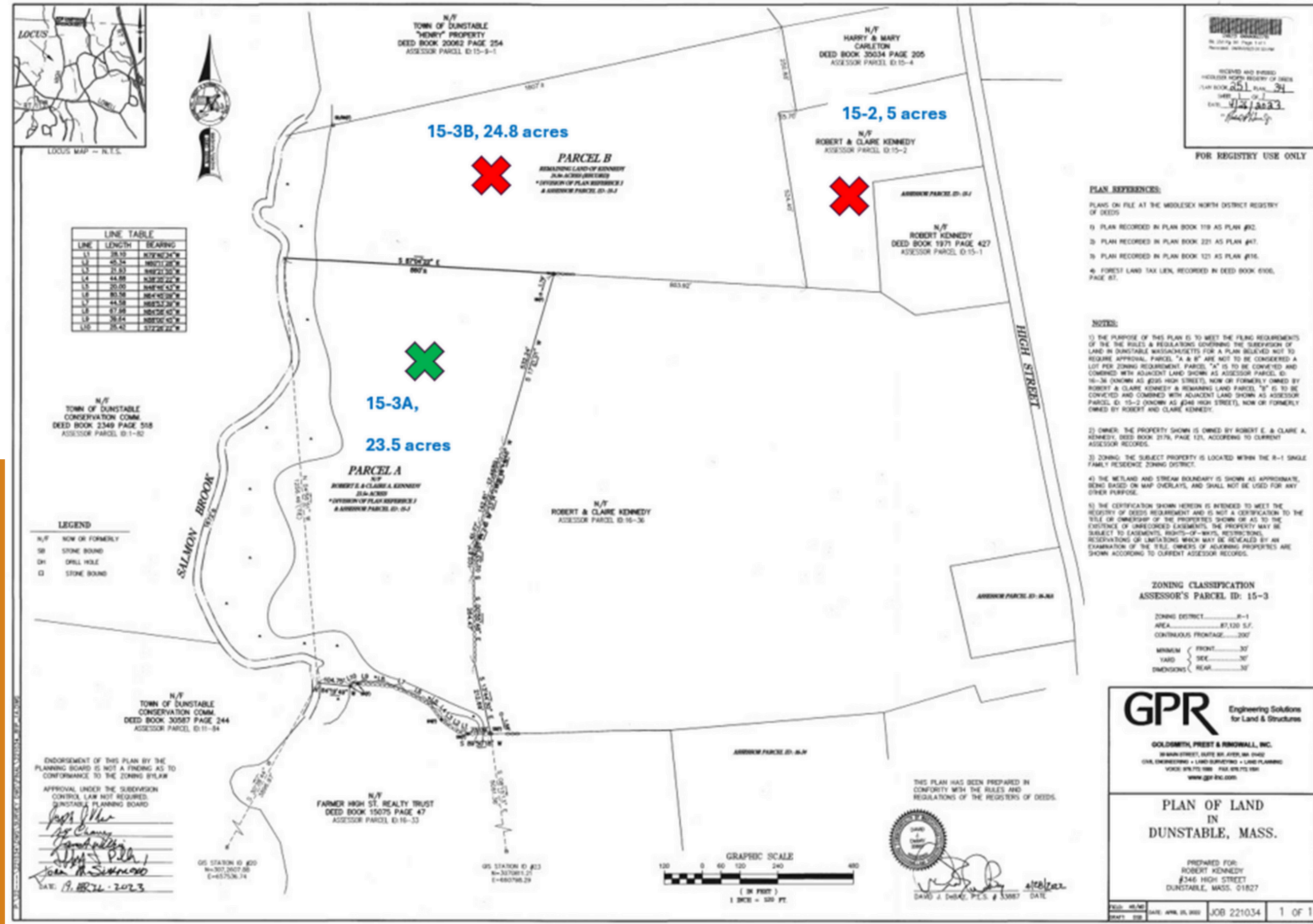
2 Parcels (15-2, 15-3B = 29.8 acres)

1 Parcel (15-3A = 23.5 acres)

TOTAL = 53.3 acres

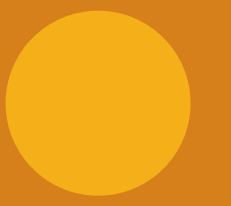
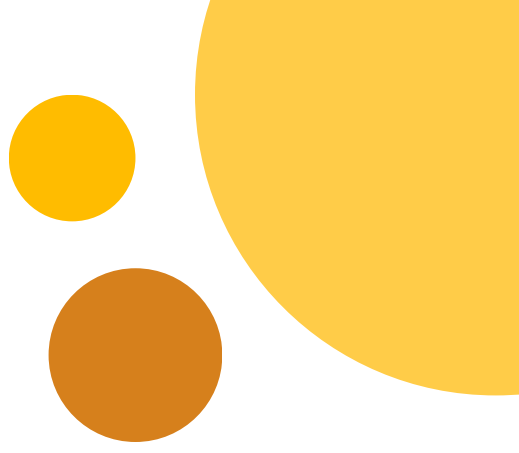
Article 15

High Street Conservation Restriction



Article 15

High Street Conservation Restriction



Article 15 High Street Conservation Restriction

Appraisal Finances:

Full Fair Market Value \$1,208,000.00
Development Value \$1,081,000.00
Forestry Value \$ 127,000.00
CR Price "Bargain Sale" \$ 700,000.00

Funding:

State LAND Grant Program \$ 406,000.00 (58%)
CPC \$ 294,000.00 (42%) * = \$ 700,000.00 CR Price
CPC Admin \$ 6,000.00
(legal & appraisal costs)

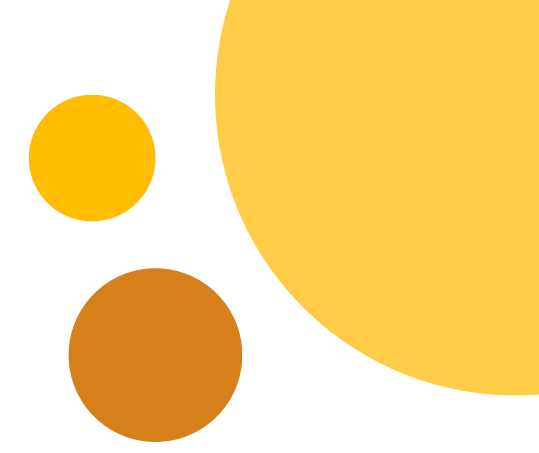
Town & State CPC:

State match \$ 123,000.00
Town \$171,000.00 = \$ 294,000.00

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, the sum of \$300,000 to purchase a conservation restriction for open space and conservation purposes 29.8-acre +/- on High Street

Article 15

High Street Conservation Restriction





ARTICLE 16

Construction of Tennis Courts at Larter Field

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, including CPA funds, an additional \$140,875 for the purpose of constructing new tennis courts at Larter Field, including all costs incidental and related thereto, based upon the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

The Community Preservation Committee has recommended that \$140,875 from Undesignated CPA funds be appropriated to support the construction of tennis and pickleball courts at Larter Field.

On July 30, 2020, Town Meeting approved the appropriation of \$182,000 to rehabilitate the existing tennis courts behind Swallow Union Elementary School. Last year, Town Meeting reallocated this previously approved funding for the new purpose of relocating and constructing new tennis courts at Larter Field. The Parks and Recreation Commissions issued an Invitation for Bids and the low bid on the project was \$300,875. This funding request will cover the balance of the cost of the project and design and construction oversight for the Town.



Town of Dunstable



ARTICLE 17

Chapter 90

Funds

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate any sums of money received by the Town under provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 for the purposes authorized by Chapter 90, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article is necessary to authorize the Town to appropriate Chapter 90 funds received by the state. Per the legislatively established formula, the amount of funding a municipality receives is based on local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%), and employment (20.83%). Local road mileage is gathered from MassDOT's Road Inventory File.

In FY2025, the Town of Dunstable is slated to receive \$184,722 in Chapter 90 funding.



Town of Dunstable



ARTICLE 18

Establishment of an Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund for the purpose of defraying real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 60, Section 3D to establish aid to the elderly and disabled through a taxation fund to be used for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of low income elderly and disabled citizens and establish an Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund Committee under said Section 3D to administer the provisions contained herein, including the identification of citizens to receive such aid, or take any action in relation thereto.

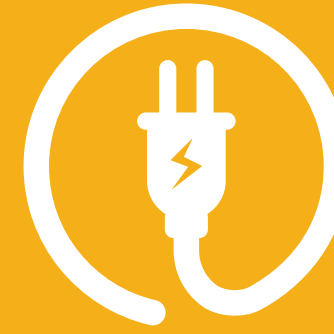
This article asks Town Meeting to to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 60, Section 3D. Acceptance of the statute authorizes the Town to allow residents to voluntarily donate, through a check off on their tax bills, for the purpose of defraying real estate taxes of low income elderly and disabled residents and also to establish an Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund administered by a Taxation Aid Committee to consist of the chair of the Board of Assessors, Town Treasurer, and three residents appointed by the Board of Selectmen.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 19

Municipal Electrical Aggregation



To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 164, Section 134, and further, to authorize the Select Board, or its designee, to research, develop, and participate in a contract or contracts to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses in the Town, independently or in joint action with other municipalities, and to enter into agreements with consultants, experts, and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan, and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt out of the aggregation, or take any action in relation thereto.

This article would allow the Town to initiate the process to create a municipal electrical aggregation program for the residents of Dunstable. Municipal aggregation is the process by which a municipality purchases electricity in bulk from a competitive supplier on behalf of the residents and businesses within the community. It allows communities to determine where its electricity comes from.



Town of Dunstable

ARTICLE 19

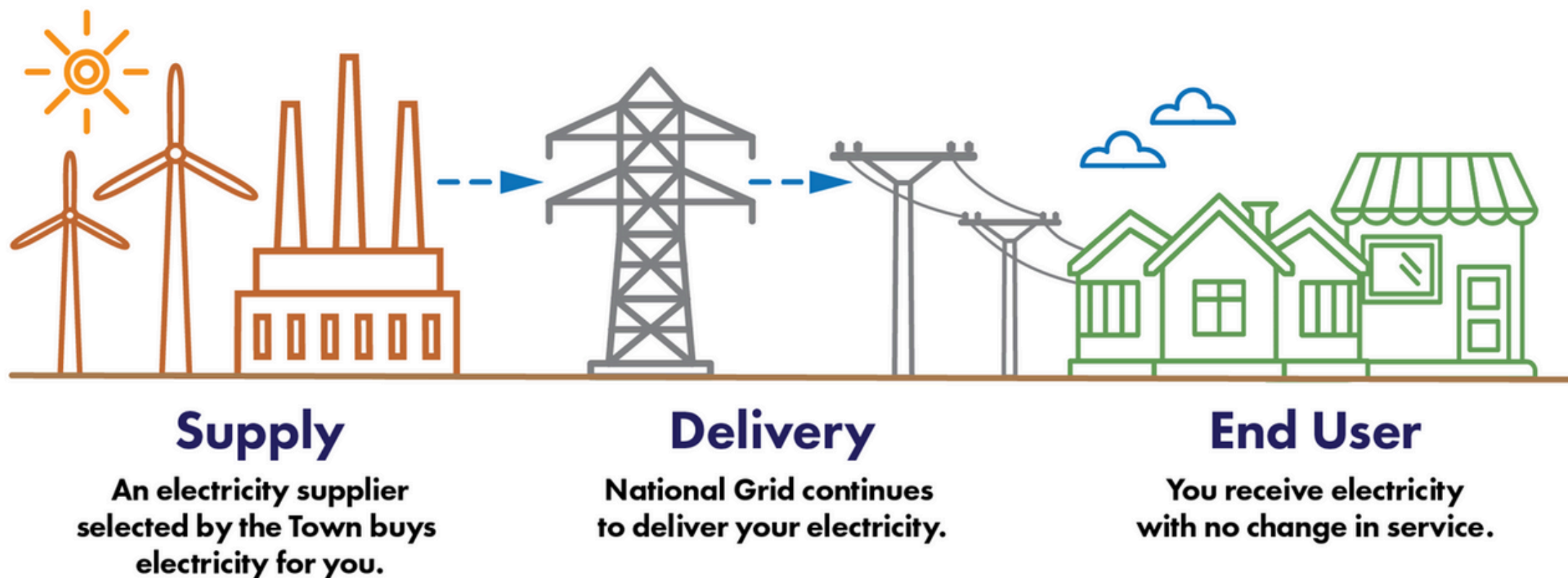
Municipal Electrical Aggregation

OVERVIEW

Municipal Aggregation is a form of group buying for electricity in which a municipality secures an electricity supply for its residents and businesses.

More than 170 Massachusetts cities and towns have aggregation programs already, with many more under development.

National Grid continues to deliver electricity, but the town buys cleaner electricity from a supplier that it chooses.



**Stable
electricity
prices with a
potential for
savings**

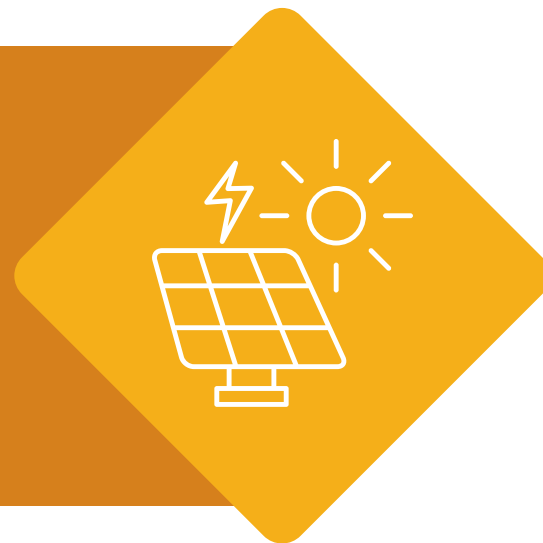
**New electricity
choices**

**Cleaner
electricity**

ARTICLE 19

Municipal Electrical Aggregation

Customers with solar net metering or community solar continue to receive those benefits with no change.



Customers on National Grid Basic Service are enrolled automatically, but they can opt out at any time at no charge, either before the program begins or after.



National Grid continues to deliver the electricity, maintain the poles and wires, and restore power when it goes out.



Customers receive just one bill – the same National Grid bill they receive today.



Customers eligible for a low income discount or fuel assistance continue to receive those discounts with no change.

ARTICLE 19

Municipal Electrical Aggregation

Next Steps

1

Hold Town Meeting vote authorizing the Town to initiate the process. This does not commit the Town to launch a program.

2

Develop a municipal Aggregation Plan

3

File the Aggregation Plan with the state Department of Public Utilities for review and approval.

5

Conduct a competitive procurement for an electricity supplier.

4

Provide public education.

6

Program launch