

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY
INFORMATION, AND OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023



TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Selectmen
Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts (the Town), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying 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 of Ludlow, Massachusetts, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance 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 (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS 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 GAAS 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, the budgetary comparison for the General Fund, and certain pension and OPEB schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a 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 Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements. The combining nonmajor enterprise funds financial statements are presented for purpose of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 15, 2024 on our consideration of the Town's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely 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 effectiveness of the Town's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Marcum LLP

Greenfield, MA
July 15, 2024

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

As management of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts (the Town), we offer readers this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Town's basic financial statements. The basic financial statements are comprised of three components (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains required supplementary information and 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 our finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows and inflows of resources with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information showing how the Town'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 leave).

The government-wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (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 include general government, public safety, education, public works, health and human services, and culture and recreation. The business-type activities include golf, sewer, and landfill activities.

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. Fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The Town's the funds can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

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 the Town'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 Town's near-term financing decisions. Reconciliations are provided to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position (or cost recovery), financial position, and cash flows. The proprietary fund category includes enterprise funds.

Enterprise funds are used to report activity for which a fee is charged to external users, and must be used when one of the following criteria are met (1) activity is financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges, (2) laws or regulations require the activity's costs of providing services be recovered with fees and charges, and (3) the pricing policies of the activity establishes fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs such as depreciation and debt service. The primary focus on these criteria is on fees charged to external users. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements, only in more detail. Specifically, enterprise funds are used to account for golf, sewer, and landfill operations.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the Town. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support Town programs.

Notes to 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.

Required Supplementary Information and Other Supplementary Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information, which is required to be disclosed by accounting

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and other supplementary information presented by the Town.

Financial Highlights

- As of the close of the current fiscal year, net position in governmental activities was \$(49,857,746), a change of \$(505,685) and net position in business-type activities was \$7,409,169, a change of \$310,005 in comparison to the prior year.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$17,670,026, a change of \$545,956 in comparison to the prior year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$9,265,995, a change of \$768,092 in comparison to the prior year.

Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The following is a summary of condensed government-wide financial data for the current and prior fiscal year.

Summary of Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Assets						
Current and other assets	\$ 41,989,749	\$ 37,706,590	\$ 2,635,515	\$ 2,318,277	\$ 44,625,264	\$ 40,024,867
Capital assets	<u>110,686,556</u>	<u>107,061,792</u>	<u>10,141,499</u>	<u>9,418,977</u>	<u>120,828,055</u>	<u>116,480,769</u>
Total Assets	<u>152,676,305</u>	<u>144,768,382</u>	<u>12,777,014</u>	<u>11,737,254</u>	<u>165,453,319</u>	<u>156,505,636</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>12,797,393</u>	<u>12,596,310</u>	<u>175,592</u>	<u>245,829</u>	<u>12,972,985</u>	<u>12,842,139</u>
Liabilities						
Other liabilities	22,323,630	15,895,887	150,396	23,441	22,474,026	15,919,328
Long-term liabilities	<u>180,493,878</u>	<u>166,850,836</u>	<u>5,097,821</u>	<u>5,354,927</u>	<u>185,591,699</u>	<u>172,205,763</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>202,817,508</u>	<u>182,746,723</u>	<u>5,248,217</u>	<u>5,378,368</u>	<u>208,065,725</u>	<u>188,125,091</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>12,513,936</u>	<u>27,509,875</u>	<u>295,220</u>	<u>495,662</u>	<u>12,809,156</u>	<u>28,005,537</u>
Net Position						
Net investment in capital assets	70,582,766	67,997,627	7,719,220	6,698,635	78,301,986	74,696,262
Restricted	7,724,231	6,840,077	--	--	7,724,231	6,840,077
Unrestricted	<u>(128,164,743)</u>	<u>(127,729,610)</u>	<u>(310,051)</u>	<u>(589,582)</u>	<u>(128,474,794)</u>	<u>(128,319,192)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (49,857,746)</u>	<u>\$ (52,891,906)</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>	<u>\$ 6,109,053</u>	<u>\$ (42,448,577)</u>	<u>\$ (46,782,853)</u>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the Town's financial position. At the close of the most recent fiscal year, total net position was \$(42,448,577), a change of \$(195,680) in comparison to the prior year.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

By far the largest portion of net position, \$78,301,986 reflects our investment in capital assets (e.g., land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, and furnishings, vehicles, and infrastructure), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that 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 net position, \$7,724,231 represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position was a deficit of \$(128,164,743) in governmental activities and \$(310,051) in business-type activities caused primarily by unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities.

Summary of Change in Net Position

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Revenues						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 6,438,751	\$ 5,562,117	\$ 3,047,240	\$ 3,115,255	\$ 9,485,991	\$ 8,677,372
Operating grants and contributions	26,016,359	27,215,299	--	--	26,016,359	27,215,299
Capital grants and contributions	2,543,514	5,994,857	--	--	2,543,514	5,994,857
General revenues:						
Property taxes	48,994,014	46,407,948	--	--	48,994,014	46,407,948
Excises	2,765,932	2,899,024	--	--	2,765,932	2,899,024
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	2,001,569	2,113,023	--	--	2,001,569	2,113,023
Grants and contributions not restricted	4,172,700	3,914,063	--	--	4,172,700	3,914,063
Investment income (loss)	372,512	(162,230)	41,422	2,839	413,934	(159,391)
Miscellaneous	271,809	279,032	--	16,893	271,809	295,925
Total Revenues	<u>93,577,160</u>	<u>94,223,133</u>	<u>3,088,662</u>	<u>3,134,987</u>	<u>96,665,822</u>	<u>97,358,120</u>
Expenses						
General government	6,030,226	4,826,987	--	--	6,030,226	4,826,987
Public safety	15,158,007	13,115,317	--	--	15,158,007	13,115,317
Education	60,635,923	58,117,371	--	--	60,635,923	58,117,371
Public works	6,296,070	5,572,877	--	--	6,296,070	5,572,877
Health and human services	1,638,269	1,615,588	--	--	1,638,269	1,615,588
Culture and recreation	1,904,002	1,666,405	--	--	1,904,002	1,666,405
Interest on long-term debt	1,158,423	1,180,457	--	--	1,158,423	1,180,457
Intergovernmental	1,159,141	1,000,352	--	--	1,159,141	1,000,352
Sewer operations	--	--	2,086,237	1,345,439	2,086,237	1,345,439
Nonmajor enterprise funds operations	--	--	795,204	836,425	795,204	836,425
Total Expenses	<u>93,980,061</u>	<u>87,095,354</u>	<u>2,881,441</u>	<u>2,181,864</u>	<u>96,861,502</u>	<u>89,277,218</u>
Change in Net Position						
Before Transfers	(402,901)	7,127,779	207,221	953,123	(195,680)	8,080,902
Transfer In (Out), Net	(102,784)	(104,533)	102,784	104,533	--	--
Change in Net Position	(505,685)	7,023,246	310,005	1,057,656	(195,680)	8,080,902
Net Position - Beginning of Year as Restated	(49,352,061)	(59,915,152)	7,099,164	5,051,397	(42,252,897)	(54,863,755)
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$ (49,857,746)</u>	<u>\$ (52,891,906)</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>	<u>\$ 6,109,053</u>	<u>\$ (42,448,577)</u>	<u>\$ (46,782,853)</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

Governmental Activities

Governmental activities for the year resulted in a change in net position of \$(505,685). Key elements of this change are as follows:

General Fund operations	\$ 2,119,111
Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund expenditures in excess of revenues	(285,865)
Radio Systems Capital Project Fund expenditures in excess of revenues	(2,091,790)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds revenues and transfers in excess of expenditures	804,500
Capital outlay	5,209,048
Principal debt service in excess of depreciation expense	(3,763,791)
Change in net pension liability, net of related deferrals	(1,618,960)
Change in net OPEB liability, net of related deferrals	(1,357,104)
Other	<u>479,166</u>
	<u>\$ (505,685)</u>

Business-Type Activities

Business-type activities for the year resulted in a change in net position of \$310,005, primarily relating to the results of operations from the Sewer Fund and Nonmajor Enterprise Funds, as follows:

Sewer Fund operations	\$ 92,902
Nonmajor Enterprise Funds operations	<u>217,103</u>
	<u>\$ 310,005</u>

Financial Analysis of the Town's Funds

As noted earlier, fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds

The focus of governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of the Town's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

General Fund

The General Fund is the chief operating fund. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was \$9,265,995, while total fund balance was \$14,912,334. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to General Fund expenditures. Refer to the table below.

General Fund	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	Change	% of General Fund Expenditures*
Total unassigned fund balance	\$ 9,265,995	\$ 8,497,903	\$ 768,092	12.4%
Total fund balance	\$ 14,912,334	\$ 12,793,223	\$ 2,119,111	20.0%

*Expenditure amounts used to calculate the above percentages have been adjusted to exclude the on-behalf payment from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System of \$5,654,509.

The fund balance of the General Fund changed by \$2,119,111 during the current fiscal year. Key factors in this change are as follows:

Shortfall of tax collections compared to net assessment	\$ (238,078)
Revenues in excess of budget	1,273,757
Expenditures less than budget	1,897,820
Difference between current year encumbrances to be spent in the subsequent period and prior year encumbrances spent in the current year	1,146,911
Use of free cash as a funding source	(3,147,588)
Prior year expenses (snow and ice deficit) raised in the current year	185,279
Other	(77,532)
Change in stabilization fund	<u>1,078,542</u>
	<u>\$ 2,119,111</u>

Included in the total fund balance of the General Fund is the Town's stabilization fund with a balance of \$5,401,129 at the end of the current fiscal year, a change of \$1,078,542 from the prior year.

Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund

The fund balance of the major capital project governmental fund changed by \$(285,865), primarily due to ongoing capital expenses covered by short-term financing. Long-term financing is expected at the end of fiscal year 2024 or early fiscal year 2025.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

Radio Systems Capital Project Fund

The fund balance of the major capital project governmental fund changed by \$(2,091,790), primarily due to ongoing capital expenses covered by short-term financing. Long-term financing is expected at the end of fiscal year 2024 or early fiscal year 2025.

ARPA Fund

The ARPA fund accounts for COVID-19 related expenditures or costs incurred from the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). At June 30, 2023, the ARPA fund reported \$6,236,649 of received, but unspent funding.

Nonmajor Governmental Funds

The fund balance of nonmajor governmental funds changed by \$804,500, primarily from timing differences between the receipt and disbursement of grants.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the business-type activities reported in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail.

Unrestricted net position of the enterprise funds at the end of the year amounted to a deficit of \$(310,051), a change of \$279,531 in comparison to the prior year.

Other factors concerning the finances of proprietary funds have already been addressed in the entity-wide discussion of business-type activities.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

Differences between the original budget and the final amended budget resulted in an overall increase in appropriations of \$110,085, as follows:

- Unpaid prior year bills \$10,085
- Police overtime \$100,000

This increase was funded by free cash.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

Total investment in capital assets for governmental and business-type activities at year-end amounted to \$120,828,055 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets includes land and land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, and furnishings, vehicles, and infrastructure.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

Depreciation expense for governmental activities	\$ (5,124,129)
Depreciation expense for business-type activities	(326,225)
Buildings and Improvements	
Furnace replacement	28,040
Ludlow High School auditorium HVAC	78,553
Machinery, Equipment, and Furnishings	
General government	25,044
Public safety	174,768
Education	108,268
Public works	319,803
Culture and recreation	66,670
Golf	58,636
Vehicles	
Public safety	106,471
Infrastructure	
Center Street cemetery paving	69,981
Streets and sidewalks	1,147,830
Construction in Progress	
Chapin Street school	311,173
Ludlow High School track and field	29,000
Radio communications	2,040,931
Riverside Drive	678,390
Town Hall roof	24,126

Additional information on capital assets can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

JUNE 30, 2023

Long-Term Debt

At the end of the current fiscal year, total bonded debt outstanding was \$37,168,234, all of which was backed by the full faith and credit of the Town.

During the fiscal year, the Town maintained its AA- rating from Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings for the Town's existing general obligation debt.

Additional information on long-term debt can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town of Ludlow's finances for all those with an interest in the Town's finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Town of Ludlow
488 Chapin Street
Ludlow, Massachusetts 01056

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 32,079,958	\$ 2,411,324	\$ 34,491,282
Investments	6,653,583	--	6,653,583
Receivables:			
Property taxes	1,009,027	--	1,009,027
Excises	325,262	--	325,262
User fees	166,900	224,191	391,091
Departmental and other, net of allowance for uncollectibles	676,112	--	676,112
Intergovernmental	773,007	--	773,007
Total Current Assets	41,683,849	2,635,515	44,319,364
Noncurrent Assets			
Receivables:			
Property taxes	305,900	--	305,900
Capital assets:			
Nondepreciable capital assets	12,541,710	1,218,178	13,759,888
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	98,144,846	8,923,321	107,068,167
Total Noncurrent Assets	110,992,456	10,141,499	121,133,955
Total Assets	152,676,305	12,777,014	165,453,319
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Related to pension	8,569,293	67,557	8,636,850
Related to OPEB	4,228,100	108,035	4,336,135
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	12,797,393	175,592	12,972,985

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)

JUNE 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	1,308,493	128,788	1,437,281
Accrued payroll and withholdings	4,752,570	--	4,752,570
Accrued interest payable	391,297	21,608	412,905
Notes payable	9,615,000	--	9,615,000
Unearned revenues	6,236,649	--	6,236,649
Other current liabilities	19,621	--	19,621
Current portion of long-term liabilities:			
Bonds and loans payable	1,473,710	251,622	1,725,332
Total Current Liabilities	<u>23,797,340</u>	<u>402,018</u>	<u>24,199,358</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Bonds and loans payable, net of current portion	33,272,244	2,170,658	35,442,902
Net pension liability	59,033,528	495,650	59,529,178
Net OPEB liability	85,313,486	2,179,891	87,493,377
Compensated absences liability	1,400,910	--	1,400,910
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>179,020,168</u>	<u>4,846,199</u>	<u>183,866,367</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>202,817,508</u>	<u>5,248,217</u>	<u>208,065,725</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Related to pension	1,644,678	17,494	1,662,172
Related to OPEB	10,869,258	277,726	11,146,984
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>12,513,936</u>	<u>295,220</u>	<u>12,809,156</u>
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	70,582,766	7,719,220	78,301,986
Restricted for:			
Grants and other statutory restrictions	6,095,059	--	6,095,059
Permanent funds:			
Nonexpendable	1,467,256	--	1,467,256
Expendable	161,916	--	161,916
Unrestricted	(128,164,743)	(310,051)	(128,474,794)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (49,857,746)</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>	<u>\$ (42,448,577)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position			
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
Governmental Activities							
General government	\$ 6,030,226	\$ 461,372	\$ 191,284	\$ --	\$ (5,377,570)	\$ --	\$ (5,377,570)
Public safety	15,158,007	3,845,138	158,529	--	(11,154,340)	--	(11,154,340)
Education	60,635,923	509,294	25,375,840	--	(34,750,789)	--	(34,750,789)
Public works	6,296,070	1,138,160	6,930	2,543,514	(2,607,466)	--	(2,607,466)
Health and human services	1,638,269	309,656	229,056	--	(1,099,557)	--	(1,099,557)
Culture and recreation	1,904,002	175,131	54,720	--	(1,674,151)	--	(1,674,151)
Interest on long-term debt	1,158,423	--	--	--	(1,158,423)	--	(1,158,423)
Intergovernmental	1,159,141	--	--	--	(1,159,141)	--	(1,159,141)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>93,980,061</u>	<u>6,438,751</u>	<u>26,016,359</u>	<u>2,543,514</u>	<u>(58,981,437)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(58,981,437)</u>
Business-Type Activities							
Sewer operations	2,086,237	2,047,815	--	--	--	(38,422)	(38,422)
Nonmajor enterprise funds	795,204	999,425	--	--	--	204,221	204,221
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>2,881,441</u>	<u>3,047,240</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>165,799</u>	<u>165,799</u>
	<u>\$ 96,861,502</u>	<u>\$ 9,485,991</u>	<u>\$ 26,016,359</u>	<u>\$ 2,543,514</u>	<u>(58,981,437)</u>	<u>165,799</u>	<u>(58,815,638)</u>
General Revenues and Transfers							
Property taxes					48,994,014	--	48,994,014
Excises					2,765,932	--	2,765,932
Penalties, interest, and other taxes					2,001,569	--	2,001,569
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					4,172,700	--	4,172,700
Investment income					372,512	41,422	413,934
Miscellaneous					271,809	--	271,809
Transfers, net					(102,784)	102,784	--
Total General Revenues and Transfers					<u>58,475,752</u>	<u>144,206</u>	<u>58,619,958</u>
Change in Net Position					(505,685)	310,005	(195,680)
Net Position - Beginning of Year as Restated					<u>(49,352,061)</u>	<u>7,099,164</u>	<u>(42,252,897)</u>
Net Position - End of Year					<u>\$ (49,857,746)</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>	<u>\$ (42,448,577)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

BALANCE SHEET GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund	Radio Systems Capital Project Fund	ARPA Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets						
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 14,909,955	\$ 2,062,678	\$ 1,257,373	\$ 6,239,129	\$ 7,610,823	\$ 32,079,958
Investments	5,178,148	--	--	--	1,475,435	6,653,583
Receivables:						
Property taxes	1,009,027	--	--	--	--	1,009,027
Tax liens and foreclosures	305,900	--	--	--	--	305,900
Excises	325,262	--	--	--	--	325,262
User fees	166,900	--	--	--	--	166,900
Departmental and other, net of allowance for uncollectibles	578,594	--	--	--	97,518	676,112
Intergovernmental	220,952	--	--	--	552,055	773,007
Total Assets	<u>\$ 22,694,738</u>	<u>\$ 2,062,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,257,373</u>	<u>\$ 6,239,129</u>	<u>\$ 9,735,831</u>	<u>\$ 41,989,749</u>
Liabilities						
Accounts payable	\$ 729,241	\$ --	\$ 112,313	\$ 2,480	\$ 464,459	\$ 1,308,493
Accrued payroll and withholdings	4,752,570	--	--	--	--	4,752,570
Notes payable	--	4,995,000	4,620,000	--	--	9,615,000
Other liabilities	10,721	--	--	--	8,900	19,621
Unearned revenues	--	--	--	6,236,649	--	6,236,649
Total Liabilities	<u>5,492,532</u>	<u>4,995,000</u>	<u>4,732,313</u>	<u>6,239,129</u>	<u>473,359</u>	<u>21,932,333</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Unavailable revenues	2,289,872	--	--	--	97,518	2,387,390
Fund Balances						
Nonspendable	--	--	--	--	1,467,256	1,467,256
Restricted	--	--	--	--	8,386,795	8,386,795
Committed	1,611,997	--	--	--	--	1,611,997
Assigned	4,034,342	--	--	--	--	4,034,342
Unassigned	9,265,995	(2,932,322)	(3,474,940)	--	(689,097)	2,169,636
Total Fund Balances	<u>14,912,334</u>	<u>(2,932,322)</u>	<u>(3,474,940)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>9,164,954</u>	<u>17,670,026</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 22,694,738</u>	<u>\$ 2,062,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,257,373</u>	<u>\$ 6,239,129</u>	<u>\$ 9,735,831</u>	<u>\$ 41,989,749</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

JUNE 30, 2023

<i>Total Governmental Fund Balances</i>	\$ 17,670,026
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds.	110,686,556
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	8,569,293
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in OPEB expense in future periods.	4,228,100
Revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting and are not deferred until collection.	2,387,390
In the Statement of Activities, interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt, whereas in governmental funds interest is not reported until due.	(391,297)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in governmental funds:	
Bonds and loans payable	(34,745,954)
Net pension liability	(59,033,528)
Net OPEB liability	(85,313,486)
Compensated absences liability	(1,400,910)
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension to be recognized in pension expense in future periods.	(1,644,678)
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in OPEB expense in future periods.	<u>(10,869,258)</u>
<i>Net Position of Governmental Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ (49,857,746)</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	General Fund	Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund	Radio Systems Capital Project Fund	ARPA Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues						
Property taxes	\$ 48,754,732	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 48,754,732
Excises	2,726,750	--	--	--	--	2,726,750
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	2,001,569	--	--	--	--	2,001,569
Charges for services	3,544,481	--	--	--	1,620,477	5,164,958
Intergovernmental	23,947,986	--	--	101,795	8,615,764	32,665,545
Licenses and permits	1,046,968	--	--	--	--	1,046,968
Fines and forfeitures	42,664	--	--	--	--	42,664
Investment income	346,031	--	--	--	26,481	372,512
Miscellaneous	145,436	62,587	57,889	--	5,897	271,809
Total Revenues	<u>82,556,617</u>	<u>62,587</u>	<u>57,889</u>	<u>101,795</u>	<u>10,268,619</u>	<u>93,047,507</u>
Expenditures						
Current:						
General government	4,507,018	--	--	101,795	1,251,239	5,860,052
Public safety	10,051,673	--	2,149,679	--	1,012,349	13,213,701
Education	40,213,942	348,452	--	--	5,407,889	45,970,283
Public works	4,508,257	--	--	--	1,608,152	6,116,409
Health and human services	1,161,031	--	--	--	136,995	1,298,026
Culture and recreation	978,985	--	--	--	61,048	1,040,033
Employee benefits	15,364,353	--	--	--	--	15,364,353
Debt service:						
Principal	1,161,000	--	--	--	--	1,161,000
Interest	1,215,769	--	--	--	--	1,215,769
Intergovernmental	1,159,141	--	--	--	--	1,159,141
Total Expenditures	<u>80,321,169</u>	<u>348,452</u>	<u>2,149,679</u>	<u>101,795</u>	<u>9,477,672</u>	<u>92,398,767</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>2,235,448</u>	<u>(285,865)</u>	<u>(2,091,790)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>790,947</u>	<u>648,740</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Transfers in	--	--	--	--	13,553	13,553
Transfers out	(116,337)	--	--	--	--	(116,337)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(116,337)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>13,553</u>	<u>(102,784)</u>
Change in Fund Balance	2,119,111	(285,865)	(2,091,790)	--	804,500	545,956
Fund Balances, at Beginning of Year	<u>12,793,223</u>	<u>(2,646,457)</u>	<u>(1,383,150)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>8,360,454</u>	<u>17,124,070</u>
Fund Balances, at End of Year	<u>\$ 14,912,334</u>	<u>\$ (2,932,322)</u>	<u>\$ (3,474,940)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 9,164,954</u>	<u>\$ 17,670,026</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds \$ 545,956

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:

Capital outlay	5,209,048
Depreciation	(5,124,129)

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 transaction, however, has an effect on net assets:

Repayment of general obligation bonds and loans	1,360,338
Bond premium amortization	45,412

Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are fully deferred in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances. Therefore, the recognition of revenue for various types of accounts receivable (i.e., real estate and personal property, motor vehicle excise, etc.) differ between the two statements. This amount represents the net change in unavailable revenue.

462,625

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 governmental funds:

Change in accrued interest on bonds payable	11,934
Change in net pension liability and related deferred outflows and inflows	(1,618,960)
Change in net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows and inflows	(1,357,104)
Change in compensated absences liability	<u>(40,805)</u>

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$ (505,685)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – PROPRIETARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 1,942,028	\$ 469,296	\$ 2,411,324
User fees receivable	<u>224,191</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>224,191</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>2,166,219</u>	<u>469,296</u>	<u>2,635,515</u>
Noncurrent Assets			
Nondepreciable capital assets	110,278	1,107,900	1,218,178
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>8,460,194</u>	<u>463,127</u>	<u>8,923,321</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>8,570,472</u>	<u>1,571,027</u>	<u>10,141,499</u>
Total Assets	<u>10,736,691</u>	<u>2,040,323</u>	<u>12,777,014</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Related to pension	13,482	54,075	67,557
Related to OPEB	<u>98,330</u>	<u>9,705</u>	<u>108,035</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>111,812</u>	<u>63,780</u>	<u>175,592</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	118,780	10,008	128,788
Accrued interest payable	21,608	--	21,608
Bonds payable	<u>251,622</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>251,622</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>392,010</u>	<u>10,008</u>	<u>402,018</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Bonds payable, net of current portion	2,170,658	--	2,170,658
Net pension liability	98,914	396,736	495,650
Net OPEB liability	<u>1,984,074</u>	<u>195,817</u>	<u>2,179,891</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>4,253,646</u>	<u>592,553</u>	<u>4,846,199</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,645,656</u>	<u>602,561</u>	<u>5,248,217</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Related to pension	3,491	14,003	17,494
Related to OPEB	<u>252,778</u>	<u>24,948</u>	<u>277,726</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>256,269</u>	<u>38,951</u>	<u>295,220</u>
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	6,148,192	1,571,028	7,719,220
Unrestricted	<u>(201,614)</u>	<u>(108,437)</u>	<u>(310,051)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 5,946,578</u>	<u>\$ 1,462,591</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION – PROPRIETARY FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total
Operating Revenue			
Charges for services	\$ 2,047,815	\$ 999,425	\$ 3,047,240
Operating Expenses			
Salaries and wages	166,272	284,537	450,809
Operating expenses	1,489,187	415,935	1,905,122
Depreciation	271,493	54,732	326,225
Administration	109,500	40,000	149,500
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,036,452</u>	<u>795,204</u>	<u>2,831,656</u>
Operating Income	<u>11,363</u>	<u>204,221</u>	<u>215,584</u>
Nonoperating Revenue (Expense)			
Investment income	28,540	12,882	41,422
Interest expense	(49,785)	--	(49,785)
Total Nonoperating Revenue (Expense), Net	<u>(21,245)</u>	<u>12,882</u>	<u>(8,363)</u>
Income Before Transfers	(9,882)	217,103	207,221
Transfer In	<u>102,784</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>102,784</u>
Change in Net Position	92,902	217,103	310,005
Net Position, at Beginning of Year as Restated	<u>5,853,676</u>	<u>1,245,488</u>	<u>7,099,164</u>
Net Position, at End of Year	<u>\$ 5,946,578</u>	<u>\$ 1,462,591</u>	<u>\$ 7,409,169</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS – PROPRIETARY FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 2,130,427	\$ 999,425	\$ 3,129,852
Payments to employees	(133,066)	(412,775)	(545,841)
Payments to vendors	<u>(1,488,966)</u>	<u>(431,083)</u>	<u>(1,920,049)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>508,395</u>	<u>155,567</u>	<u>663,962</u>
Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activity			
Transfers in	<u>102,784</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>102,784</u>
Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	--	(58,636)	(58,636)
Principal payments on bonds and loans	(265,539)	(32,525)	(298,064)
Interest paid	<u>(51,618)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(51,618)</u>
Net Cash (Used in) Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(317,157)</u>	<u>(91,161)</u>	<u>(408,318)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Investment income	<u>28,540</u>	<u>12,882</u>	<u>41,422</u>
Net Change in Cash and Short-Term Investments	322,562	77,288	399,850
Cash and Short Term Investments, Beginning of Year	<u>1,619,466</u>	<u>392,008</u>	<u>2,011,474</u>
Cash and Short Term Investments, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,942,028</u>	<u>\$ 469,296</u>	<u>\$ 2,411,324</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS – PROPRIETARY FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Business-Type Activities		
	Enterprise Funds		
	Sewer Fund	Nonmajor Enterprise Funds	Total
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net			
Cash Provided by Operating Activities			
Operating income	\$ 11,363	\$ 204,221	\$ 215,584
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	271,493	54,732	326,225
Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows:			
User fees receivable	41,627	--	41,627
Intergovernmental receivables	40,985	--	40,985
Deferred outflows - related to pension	1,207	7,340	8,547
Deferred outflows - related to OPEB	69,091	4,841	73,932
Accounts payable	118,780	10,008	128,788
Net pension liability	(9,703)	(38,917)	(48,620)
Net OPEB liability	86,915	2,663	89,578
Deferred inflows - related to pension	(19,435)	(77,952)	(97,387)
Deferred inflows - related to OPEB	(103,928)	(11,369)	(115,297)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>\$ 508,395</u>	<u>\$ 155,567</u>	<u>\$ 663,962</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Post- Employment Benefits Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Assets		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,655	\$ 197,638
Investments:		
Fixed income mutual funds	123,999	--
Equity mutual funds	398,194	--
Corporate equities	43,120	--
Total investments	565,313	--
Total Assets	567,968	197,638
Liability		
Accounts payable	--	12,261
Net Position		
Restricted for OPEB	567,968	--
Restricted for individuals, organizations, and other governments	--	185,377
Total Net Position	\$ 567,968	\$ 185,377

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Other Post- Employment Benefits Trust Fund	Custodial Funds
Additions		
Contributions:		
Employer	\$ 50,000	\$ --
Other	2,534,214	--
Investment income	40,954	54
Fees collected for Commonwealth of Massachusetts	--	53,324
Fees collected for other entities	--	19,546
Fees collected for students	--	122,379
Total Additions	<u>2,625,168</u>	<u>195,303</u>
Deductions		
Benefit payments to members and beneficiaries	2,534,214	--
Payments to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts	--	52,232
Payments to other entities	--	17,112
Payments on behalf of students	--	152,326
Total Deductions	<u>2,534,214</u>	<u>221,670</u>
Change in Net Position	90,954	(26,367)
Restricted Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>477,014</u>	<u>211,744</u>
Restricted Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 567,968</u>	<u>\$ 185,377</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts (the Town) conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of the significant policies of the Town:

REPORTING ENTITY

The Town is a municipal corporation governed by an elected Board of Selectmen. As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the Town and applicable component units for which the Town is considered to be financially accountable. In fiscal year 2023, no entities met the component unit requirements of GASB Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity* (as amended).

GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-Wide 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 nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. 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.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are 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.

Fund Financial Statements

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds and major individual enterprise funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. 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 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.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include (1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, (2) operating grants and contributions, and (3) capital grants and contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes and excises.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both 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. For this purpose, the Town considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, certain expenditures such as debt service, claims and judgments, compensated absences, OPEB, and pension are recorded only when payment is due.

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

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

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

- The *Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund* is used to account for costs related to the construction of the new Chapin Street school, which is funded through borrowing and a grant from the Massachusetts School Business Authority (MSBA).
- The *Radio Systems Capital Project Fund* is used to account for costs related to the radio communication upgrades for the police department. This project is funded through borrowing.
- The *ARPA Fund* accounts for COVID-19 related expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19 of the Town, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

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 liabilities are incurred.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating 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 of enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

The Town reports the following major proprietary fund:

- The *Sewer Fund* is used to account for operations of the Town's wastewater treatment facility and supporting infrastructure.

The Town reports the following nonmajor proprietary funds:

- The *Golf Fund* is used to account for operations of the Town's municipal golf course.
- The *Landfill Fund* is used to account for operations of the Town's transfer station and supporting infrastructure.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION (CONTINUED)

Fund Financial Statements (Continued)

The fiduciary 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 liabilities are incurred.

The Town reports the following fiduciary funds:

- The *Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund* is used to accumulate resources for medical and prescription drug insurance benefits for retired employees.
- The *Custodial Funds* account for fiduciary assets held by the Town in a custodial capacity as an agent on behalf of others and are not required to be reported elsewhere on the financial statements. Custodial funds include fees collected on behalf of others.

CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash balances from all funds, except those required to be segregated by law, are combined to form a consolidation of cash. Cash balances are invested to the extent available, and interest earnings are recognized in the General Fund. Certain special revenue, proprietary, and fiduciary funds segregate cash, and investment earnings become a part of those funds.

Deposits with financial institutions consist primarily of demand deposits, certificates of deposits, savings accounts, and money market accounts. Generally, a cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund's portion of this pool is reflected on the financial statements under the caption "cash and short-term investments".

For purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, the proprietary funds consider investments with original maturities of three months or less to be short-term investments.

The Town's invests in the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT) Cash Portfolio, an external investment pool overseen by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This cash portfolio meets the requirements of GASB Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*, where investments are valued at amortized cost which approximates the net asset value of \$1 per share.

Investments are carried at fair value, except for certificates of deposit, which are reported at cost.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

PROPERTY TAX LIMITATIONS

Legislation known as “Proposition 2 ½” limits the amount of revenue that can be derived from property taxes. The prior fiscal year’s tax levy limit is used as a base and cannot increase by more than 2.5% (excluding new growth), unless an override or debt exemption is voted. Certain provisions of Proposition 2 ½ can be overridden by a referendum.

CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets, which include land and land improvements, buildings and improvements, machinery, equipment, and furnishings, vehicles, and infrastructure assets are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements and in the proprietary fund statements. Capital assets are defined by the Town as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$20,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation. 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. Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Land improvements	20 - 30
Buildings	40
Building improvements	10 - 20
Vehicles	3 - 10
Machinery and furnishings	3 - 10
Office equipment	3 - 10
Computer equipment	3 - 5
Infrastructure	50

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

It is the Town’s policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. All vested sick and vacation pay is 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, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

In the government-wide financial statements, and proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type Statement of Net Position.

FUND EQUITY

Fund equity at the governmental fund financial reporting level is classified as “fund balance”. Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as “net position”.

Fund Balance

Generally, fund balance represents the difference between current assets/deferred outflows and current liabilities/deferred inflows. The Town has implemented GASB Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, which enhances the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied and by clarifying existing governmental fund type definitions, as follows:

- *Nonspendable* represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (1) not in spendable form or (2) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. This fund balance classification includes nonmajor governmental fund reserves for the principal portion of permanent trust funds.
- *Restricted* represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes by constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. This fund balance classification includes various special revenue funds, capital projects funded by borrowing, and the income portion of permanent trust funds.
- *Committed* represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Town’s highest level of decision-making authority. This fund balance classification includes the unexpended balance of Town Meeting articles funded by appropriation.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

FUND EQUITY (CONTINUED)

Fund Balance (Continued)

- *Assigned* represents amounts that are constrained by the Town's intent to use these resources for a specific purpose. This fund balance classification includes General Fund encumbrances that have been established by various Town departments for the expenditure of current year budgetary financial resources upon vendor performance in the subsequent budgetary period, and surplus set aside to be used in the subsequent year's budget.
- *Unassigned* represents amounts that are available to be spent in future periods, general stabilization funds, and deficit funds. The General Fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance.

When an expenditure is incurred that would qualify for payment from multiple fund balance types, the Town uses the following order to liquidate liabilities: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets/deferred outflows and liabilities/deferred inflows. Net investment in capital assets, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on use either through enabling legislation adopted by the Town or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The remaining net position is reported as unrestricted.

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 disclosures for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

At the annual Town Meeting, the Finance Committee presents an operating and capital budget for the proposed expenditures of the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget, as enacted by Town Meeting, establishes the legal level of control and specifies that certain appropriations are to be funded by particular revenues. The original budget is amended during the fiscal year at special town meetings as required by changing conditions. In cases of extraordinary or unforeseen expenses, the Finance Committee is empowered to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund (a contingency appropriation) to a departmental appropriation. "Extraordinary" includes expenses, which are not in the usual line, or are great or exceptional. "Unforeseen" includes expenses, which are not foreseen as of the time of the annual meeting when appropriations are voted.

Departments are limited to the line items as voted. Certain items may exceed the line-item budget as approved if it is for an emergency and for the safety of the general public. These items are limited by Massachusetts General Laws and must be raised in the next year's tax rate.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund and proprietary funds. Effective budgetary control is achieved for all other funds through provisions of Massachusetts General Laws. At year-end, appropriation balances lapse, except for certain unexpended capital items and encumbrances, which will be honored during the subsequent year.

EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER APPROPRIATIONS

Snow and ice expenditures exceeded appropriations during the current fiscal year by \$(171,361). This deficit is being funded through taxation in fiscal year 2024.

DEFICIT FUND EQUITY

Certain individual funds reflected deficit balances as of June 30, 2023. It is anticipated that the deficits in these funds will be eliminated through future departmental revenues, bond proceeds, and transfers from other funds.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN

Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 44, Section 55 place certain limitation on the nature of deposits and investments available to the Town. Deposits, including demand deposits, money markets, and certificates of deposits in any one financial institution, may not exceed 60% of the capital and surplus of such institution unless collateralized by the institution involved. Investments may be made in unconditionally guaranteed U.S. government obligations having maturities of a year or less from the date of purchase, or through repurchase agreements with maturities of no greater than 90 days in which the underlying securities consist of such obligations. Other allowable investments include certificates of deposits having a maturity date of up to 3 years from the date of purchase, national banks, and Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT). MMDT, which is an external investment pool overseen by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, meets the criteria established by GASB Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. MMDT has an average maturity of less than 1 year and is not rated or subject to custodial credit risk disclosure. MGL Chapter 44, Section 54 provides additional investment options for certain special revenue, trust, and OPEB funds.

DEPOSITS

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Town's deposits may not be returned. The Town does not have formal deposit policies related to the custodial credit risk of deposits.

As of June 30, 2023, none, of the Town's bank balance of \$34,910,621 was exposed to custodial credit risk as uninsured and/or uncollateralized. Additionally, \$61,853 was invested in MMDT, which is not subject to this disclosure.

INVESTMENTS

The following is a summary of the Town's investments as of June 30, 2023:

Asset backed securities	\$	750
Certificate of deposits		212,694
Corporate bonds		3,098,956
Corporate equities		594,964
Equity mutual funds		62,766
Federal agency securities		281,445
U.S. Treasury notes		<u>2,402,008</u>
	\$	<u>6,653,583</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Custodial Credit Risk

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in possession of another party.

As of June 30, 2023, the Town did not have investments subject to custodial credit risk exposure as all assets were held in the Town's name.

Credit Risk - Investments in Debt Securities

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligations. The Town does not have formal investment policies related to credit risk.

As of June 30, 2023, the credit quality ratings, as rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. of the Town's debt securities were as follows (U.S. Treasury notes have an implied rating of AAA):

Investment Type	Amount	Rating as of Year-End		
		AAA	A1/A2	Baa1/Baa2
Corporate bonds	\$ 3,098,956	\$ 305,974	\$ 1,277,254	\$ 1,515,728
Federal agency securities	<u>281,445</u>	<u>281,445</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	<u>\$ 3,380,401</u>	<u>\$ 587,419</u>	<u>\$ 1,277,254</u>	<u>\$ 1,515,728</u>

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributable to the magnitude of the Town's investment in a single issuer. The Town's policies related to concentration of credit risk exposure limits investments (other than U.S. Treasury/agency obligations and MMDT) as follows:

Market-Linked Certificates of Deposit

No limit if fully collateralized through a third-party agreement; otherwise limited to each institution's insurance coverage (FDIC, DIFM, etc.).

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Other Unsecured Bank Deposits

Deposits that do not fit in another category are limited to 5% of the institution's assets and no more than 10% of the Town's cash. The credit worthiness of the institution is evaluated by monitoring established bank credit reporting systems.

Trust Fund Investments

Not more than 15% may be invested in bank stock and insurance company stock and no more than 1.5% of these funds may be invested in any one bank or insurance company.

Individual investments exceeding 5% of the Town's total investments were as follows at June 30, 2023:

Investment Issuer	Amount	% of Total Investments
XCEL Energy Inc.	\$ 354,658	5.33%
Duke Energy	341,306	5.13%
Merck & Co Inc.	334,336	5.02%
	<u>\$ 1,030,300</u>	<u>15.48%</u>

Interest Rate Risk - Investments in Debt Securities

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Town does not have formal investment policies limiting investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Interest Rate Risk - Investments in Debt Securities (Continued)

Information about the sensitivity of the fair values of the Town's investments to market interest rate fluctuations was as follows at June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	Amount	Investment Maturities (in Years)		
		Less Than 1	1-5	Thereafter
Asset backed securities	\$ 750	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 750
Certificate of deposits	212,694	88,657	124,037	--
Corporate bonds	3,098,956	766,836	2,332,120	--
Federal agency securities	281,445	--	281,445	--
U.S. Treasury notes	2,402,008	507,392	1,894,616	--
	<u>\$ 5,995,853</u>	<u>\$ 1,362,885</u>	<u>\$ 4,632,218</u>	<u>\$ 750</u>

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in foreign exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town does not have formal investment policies related to foreign currency risk.

At June 30, 2023, none of the Town's investments were exposed to foreign currency risk.

Fair Value

The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GASB Statement No. 72, *Fair Value Measurement and Application*.

The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of an asset or liability and give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurement into three levels as follows:

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fair Value (Continued)

- Level 1 – inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that are accessible at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for an asset or liability either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active. Because they must often be priced on the basis of transactions involving similar but not identical securities or do not trade with sufficient frequency, certain directly held securities are categorized as Level 2.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs based on the best information available, using assumptions in determining the fair value of investments and derivative instruments.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation.

The Town had the following fair value measurements as of June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	Amount	Fair Value Measurements Using:		
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level:				
Asset backed securities	\$ 750	\$ --	\$ 750	\$ --
Corporate bonds	3,098,956	--	3,098,956	--
Corporate equities	594,964	594,964	--	--
Equity mutual funds	62,766	62,766	--	--
Federal agency securities	281,445	--	281,445	--
U.S. Treasury notes	2,402,008	--	2,402,008	--
	<u>\$ 6,440,889</u>	<u>\$ 657,730</u>	<u>\$ 5,783,159</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

Equity securities classified in Level 1 are valued using prices quoted in active markets for those securities.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - TOWN (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Fair Value (Continued)

Debt securities classified in Level 2 are valued using either a bid evaluation or a matrix pricing technique. Bid evaluations may include market quotations, yields, maturities, call features, and ratings. Matrix pricing is used to value securities based on the securities relationship to benchmark quote prices. Level 2 debt securities have non-proprietary information that is readily available to market participants, from multiple independent sources, which are known to be actively involved in the market.

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS - OPEB TRUST FUND

Generally, the OPEB Trust Fund's investment policies mirror that of the Town as discussed in the previous note.

The following is a summary of the OPEB Trust Fund's investments as of June 30, 2023:

Corporate equities	\$	43,120
Equity mutual funds		398,194
Fixed income mutual funds		123,999
	\$	<u>565,313</u>

CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK

As of June 30, 2023, none of the OPEB Trust Fund's investments were subject to custodial credit risk exposure because all assets were held in the OPEB Trust Fund's name.

CREDIT RISK - INVESTMENTS IN DEBT SECURITIES

As of June 30, 2023, the credit quality ratings as rated by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. of the Town's debt securities was as follows:

Investment Type	Amount	AAA	Rating as of Year-End			
			AA	A	BBB-Below B	Unrated
Fixed income mutual funds	<u>\$ 123,999</u>	<u>\$ 74,605</u>	<u>\$ 10,271</u>	<u>\$ 10,705</u>	<u>\$ 27,790</u>	<u>\$ 628</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENTS - OPEB TRUST FUND (CONTINUED)

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government and investments in mutual funds, external investment pools, and other pooled investments are excluded from concentration of credit disclosure.

As of June 30, 2023, the OPEB Trust Fund did not have an investment in one issuer greater than 5% of total investments.

INTEREST RATE RISK

Information about the sensitivity of the fair values of the OPEB Trust Fund's investments to market interest rate fluctuations was as follows as of June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	Amount	Investment Maturities (in Years)			
		Less Than 1	1-5	6-10	Thereafter
Fixed income mutual funds	\$ 123,999	\$ 5,591	\$ 33,112	\$ 45,766	\$ 39,530

FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

At June 30, 2023, none of the OPEB Trust Fund's investments were exposed to foreign currency risk.

FAIR VALUE

The OPEB Trust Fund had the following fair value measurements as of June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	Amount	Fair Value Measurements Using:		
		Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
Investments by fair value level:				
Corporate equities	\$ 43,120	\$ 43,120	\$ --	\$ --
Equity mutual funds	398,194	398,194	--	--
Fixed income mutual funds	123,999	--	123,999	--
	<u>\$ 565,313</u>	<u>\$ 441,314</u>	<u>\$ 123,999</u>	<u>\$ --</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES AND EXCISE RECEIVABLE

Real and personal property taxes are based on market values assessed as of each January 1. By law, all taxable property must be assessed at 100% of fair cash value. Also by law, property taxes must be levied at least 30 days prior to their due date. Once levied, these taxes are recorded as receivables, net of estimated uncollectible balances. Property tax revenues have been recorded using the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting in the government-wide and fund basis statements, respectively.

The Town bills and collects its property taxes on a quarterly basis following the January 1 assessment. The due dates for those quarterly tax billings are August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1. Property taxes that remain unpaid after the respective due dates are subject to penalties and interest charges.

Based on the Town's experience, most property taxes are collected during the year in which they are assessed. Liening of properties on which taxes remain unpaid generally occurs annually. The Town ultimately has the right to foreclose on all properties where the taxes remain unpaid.

A statewide property tax limitation known as "Proposition 2 ½" limits the amount of increase in the property tax levy in any fiscal year. Generally, Proposition 2 ½ limits the total levy to an amount not greater than 2 ½% of the total assessed value of all taxable property within the Town. Secondly, the tax levy cannot increase by more than 2 ½% of the prior year's levy plus the taxes on property newly added to the tax rolls. The actual fiscal year 2023 tax levy reflected an excess capacity of \$204,751.

Motor vehicle excise taxes are assessed annually for every motor vehicle and trailer registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Registry of Motor Vehicles annually calculates the value of all registered motor vehicles for the purpose of excise assessment. The amount of motor vehicle excise tax due is calculated using a fixed rate of \$25 per \$1,000 of value.

Boat excise taxes are assessed annually for all water vessels, including documented boats and ships, used or capable of being used for transportation on water. A boat excise is assessed by the community where the vessel is moored. July 1 is the assessing date for all vessels, and the boat excise due is calculated using a fixed rate of \$10 per \$1,000 of value.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES AND EXCISE RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

Property taxes and excise receivable at June 30, 2023 consisted of the following:

Receivable Type	Gross Amount	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	Current Portion	Long- Term Portion
Real estate taxes	\$ 974,010	\$ --	\$ 974,010	\$ --
Personal property taxes	35,017	--	35,017	--
Tax liens	<u>305,900</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>305,900</u>
	<u>\$ 1,314,927</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 1,009,027</u>	<u>\$ 305,900</u>
Motor vehicle excise	\$ 324,868	\$ --	\$ 324,868	\$ --
Boat excise	<u>394</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>--</u>
	<u>\$ 325,262</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 325,262</u>	<u>\$ --</u>
Departmental - ambulance	\$ 1,157,137	\$ (608,278)	\$ 548,859	
Departmental - police outside detail	97,518	--	97,518	
Departmental - other	<u>29,735</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>29,735</u>	
	<u>\$ 1,284,390</u>	<u>\$ (608,278)</u>	<u>\$ 676,112</u>	

NOTE 6 - INTERGOVERNMENTAL RECEIVABLES

This balance primarily represents reimbursement requested from federal and state agencies for expenditures incurred in fiscal year 2023.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets activity for the year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Convert CIP	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities					
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:					
Land improvements	\$ 3,749,736	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 3,749,736
Buildings and improvements	112,419,744	106,593	--	175,000	112,701,337
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	9,777,713	694,553	--	--	10,472,266
Vehicles	6,184,595	106,471	--	--	6,291,066
Infrastructure	<u>43,094,610</u>	<u>1,217,811</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>44,312,421</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated as Restated	<u>175,226,398</u>	<u>2,125,428</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>177,526,826</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation For:					
Land improvements	(2,937,266)	(193,644)	--	--	(3,130,910)
Buildings and improvements	(30,095,173)	(2,879,817)	--	--	(32,974,990)
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	(8,434,606)	(482,764)	--	--	(8,917,370)
Vehicles	(3,981,105)	(494,667)	--	--	(4,475,772)
Infrastructure	<u>(28,809,701)</u>	<u>(1,073,237)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(29,882,938)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation as Restated	<u>(74,257,851)</u>	<u>(5,124,129)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(79,381,980)</u>
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	<u>100,968,547</u>	<u>(2,998,701)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>98,144,846</u>
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:					
Land	2,343,138	--	--	--	2,343,138
Construction in progress (CIP)	<u>7,289,952</u>	<u>3,083,620</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(175,000)</u>	<u>10,198,572</u>
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>9,633,090</u>	<u>3,083,620</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(175,000)</u>	<u>12,541,710</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net as Restated	<u>\$ 110,601,637</u>	<u>\$ 84,919</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 110,686,556</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Convert CIP	Ending Balance
Business-Type Activities					
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated:					
Land improvements	\$ 174,565	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 174,565
Buildings and improvements	481,602	--	--	--	481,602
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	749,291	58,636	(42,283)	--	765,644
Vehicles	548,942	--	--	--	548,942
Infrastructure	<u>12,831,242</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>12,831,242</u>
Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated as Restated	<u>14,785,642</u>	<u>58,636</u>	<u>(42,283)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>14,801,995</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation For:					
Land improvements	(164,625)	(2,918)	--	--	(167,543)
Buildings and improvements	(424,947)	(5,847)	--	--	(430,794)
Machinery, equipment, and furnishings	(617,974)	(37,013)	42,283	--	(612,704)
Vehicles	(548,944)	--	--	--	(548,944)
Infrastructure	<u>(3,838,242)</u>	<u>(280,447)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(4,118,689)</u>
Total Accumulated Depreciation as Restated	<u>(5,594,732)</u>	<u>(326,225)</u>	<u>42,283</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(5,878,674)</u>
Capital Assets, Being Depreciated, Net	<u>9,190,910</u>	<u>(267,589)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>8,923,321</u>
Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated:					
Land	1,107,900	--	--	--	1,107,900
Construction in progress (CIP)	<u>110,278</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>110,278</u>
Total Capital Assets, Not Being Depreciated	<u>1,218,178</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,218,178</u>
Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net as Restated	<u>\$ 10,409,088</u>	<u>\$ (267,589)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 10,141,499</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 7 - CAPITAL ASSETS (CONTINUED)

Depreciation expense was charged to functions of the Town as follows:

Governmental Activities

General government	\$	97,768
Public safety		516,519
Education		2,705,569
Public works		1,281,470
Human services		26,895
Culture and recreation		495,908
	\$	<u>5,124,129</u>

Business-Type Activities

Golf	\$	54,732
Sewer		271,493
	\$	<u>326,225</u>

NOTE 8 - DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred outflows of resources represent the consumption of net assets by the Town that apply to future reporting periods. Deferred outflows of resources have a positive effect on net position, similar to assets. Deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB, in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 75, are more formally discussed in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes.

NOTE 9 - NOTES PAYABLE

The Town had the following notes outstanding at June 30, 2023:

Purpose	Interest Rate(s) %	Date of Issue	Date of Maturity	Balance at 06/30/23
Chapin Street School	3.75%	09/22/22	09/15/23	\$ 4,995,000
Radio Systems	3.75%	09/22/22	09/15/23	<u>4,620,000</u>
				<u>\$ 9,615,000</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - NOTES PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

The following summarizes activity in notes payable during fiscal year 2023:

Purpose	Balance Beginning of Year	New Issues	Maturities	Balance End of Year
Chapin Street School	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 4,995,000	\$ (3,000,000)	\$ 4,995,000
Radio Systems	<u>4,985,000</u>	<u>4,620,000</u>	<u>(4,985,000)</u>	<u>4,620,000</u>
	<u>\$ 7,985,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,615,000</u>	<u>\$ (7,985,000)</u>	<u>\$ 9,615,000</u>

NOTE 10 - UNEARNED REVENUE

Unearned revenue represents grant funds received by the Town from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds will be used for COVID-19 related expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19 over the next several years.

NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM DEBT

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND LOANS

The Town issues general obligation bonds (including direct placements), loans from direct borrowings from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (MCWT), and financing agreements to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds and loans outstanding were as follows as of June 30, 2023:

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND LOANS (CONTINUED)

Purpose	Original Issue Amount	Serial Maturities Through	Interest Rate(s) %	Amount Outstanding as of June 30, 2023
Governmental Activities				
General Obligation Bonds:				
2018 Refunding of 2004 multi-purpose bond	\$ 240,000	08/15/24	2.00 - 5.00%	\$ 55,000
Center Street land	485,000	08/15/27	2.00 - 5.00%	225,000
Roof projects	1,310,000	08/15/30	2.00 - 5.00%	800,000
2018 Multi-purpose bond	4,000,000	02/01/43	3.00 - 4.00%	3,150,000
2019 Multi-purpose bond	30,350,000	02/01/49	5.00 - 3.00%	<u>27,975,000</u>
				<u>32,205,000</u>
Financing Agreements:				
Pumper truck-fire engine	622,189	07/01/23	3.82%	129,010
Toro groundsmaster 5910	123,129	02/15/24	6.79%	41,043
Fire equipment	1,504,788	07/15/26	4.20%	<u>1,190,191</u>
				<u>1,360,244</u>
				<u>\$ 33,565,244</u>
Purpose	Original Issue Amount	Serial Maturities Through	Interest Rate(s) %	Amount Outstanding as of June 30, 2023
Business-Type Activities				
Loans from Direct Borrowings:				
Sewer construction (MCWT CWS-08-05)	\$ 3,480,685	07/15/30	2.00%	\$ 1,561,037 *
Sewer construction (MCWT CW-08-05)	921,027	07/15/32	2.00%	509,830
Sewer construction (MCWT CW-08-05-A)	503,676	07/15/36	2.00%	<u>351,413</u>
				<u>\$ 2,422,280</u>

*13% of this debt is being paid by the General Fund to reflect the portion of project costs that benefited the Town's general infrastructure.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEBT SERVICE

The annual payments to all long-term debt outstanding as of June 30, 2023 were as follows:

Governmental Activities Fiscal Year	Bonds - Direct Placements		Financing Agreements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 975,000	\$ 1,099,119	\$ 453,298	\$ 44,128
2025	960,000	1,052,719	292,573	29,871
2026	970,000	1,006,494	302,210	20,235
2027	1,020,000	959,769	312,163	10,281
2028	1,055,000	912,785	--	--
2029 - 2033	5,460,000	3,968,713	--	--
2034 - 2038	6,145,000	2,975,600	--	--
Thereafter	<u>15,620,000</u>	<u>2,858,900</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	<u>\$ 32,205,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,834,099</u>	<u>\$ 1,360,244</u>	<u>\$ 104,515</u>

Business-Type Activities Fiscal Year	Loans - Direct Borrowings		Financing Agreements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 251,622	\$ 46,896	\$ --	\$ 788
2025	256,813	41,748	--	--
2026	262,111	36,491	--	--
2027	267,517	31,127	--	--
2028	273,036	25,652	--	--
2029 - 2033	1,021,159	50,679	--	--
2034 - 2036	<u>90,022</u>	<u>3,626</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	<u>\$ 2,422,280</u>	<u>\$ 236,219</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ 788</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

CHANGES IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During the year ended June 30, 2023, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities (in thousands):

Governmental Activities	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Less Current Portion	Equals Long-Term Portion
Bonds payable:						
Direct placements	\$ 33,365	\$ --	\$ (1,160)	\$ 32,205	\$ (975)	\$ 31,230
Financing agreements	1,560	--	(200)	1,360	(453)	907
Unamortized premium	<u>1,227</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(45)</u>	<u>1,182</u>	<u>(45)</u>	<u>1,137</u>
	36,152	--	(1,405)	34,747	(1,473)	33,274
Net pension liability	46,961	12,073	--	59,034	--	59,034
Net OPEB liability	82,378	2,935	--	85,313	--	85,313
Compensated absences liability	<u>1,360</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,401</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,401</u>
	<u>\$ 166,851</u>	<u>\$ 15,049</u>	<u>\$ (1,405)</u>	<u>\$ 180,495</u>	<u>\$ (1,473)</u>	<u>\$ 179,022</u>

Business-Type Activities	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Less Current Portion	Equals Long-Term Portion
Bonds payable:						
Direct placements	\$ 19	\$ --	\$ (19)	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Loans payable	2,669	--	(247)	2,422	(252)	2,170
Financing agreements	<u>32</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(32)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	2,720	--	(298)	2,422	(252)	2,170
Net pension liability	544	--	(48)	496	--	496
Net OPEB liability	<u>2,090</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2,180</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2,180</u>
	<u>\$ 5,354</u>	<u>\$ 90</u>	<u>\$ (346)</u>	<u>\$ 5,098</u>	<u>\$ (252)</u>	<u>\$ 4,846</u>

LONG-TERM DEBT SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTAL AND BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES

General obligation bonds and loans from direct borrowings issued by the Town are approved by Town Meeting and repaid with revenues recorded in the General Fund and user fees recorded in enterprise funds. All other long-term debt is repaid from the funds that the cost related to, primarily the General Fund and enterprise funds.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 12 - DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Deferred inflows of resources represent at the acquisition of net assets by the Town that apply to future reporting periods. Deferred inflows of resources have a negative effect on net position, similar to liabilities. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB, in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 75, will be recognized as expense in future years and are more fully described in the corresponding pension and OPEB notes. Unavailable revenues are reported in the governmental funds Balance Sheet in connection with receivables for which revenues are not considered available to liquidate liabilities of the current year.

NOTE 13 - TRANSFERS

The Town reports interfund transfers between various funds. Most transfers result from budgetary or statutory actions, whereby funds are moved to accomplish various expenditure purposes. The following is a summary of interfund transfers for fiscal year 2023:

	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>
Governmental Funds		
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 116,337
Nonmajor Governmental Funds:		
Special revenue funds	<u>13,553</u>	<u>-</u>
Business-Type Funds		
Sewer Fund	<u>102,784</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 116,337</u>	<u>\$ 116,337</u>

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 14 - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - FUND BALANCES

The Town's fund balances at June 30, 2023 was comprised of the following:

	General Fund	Chapin Street School Capital Project Fund	Radio Systems Capital Project Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable					
Nonexpendable permanent funds	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ 1,467,256	\$ 1,467,256
Restricted					
Special revenue funds	--	--	--	6,784,156	6,784,156
Bonded projects	--	--	--	1,440,723	1,440,723
Expendable permanent funds	--	--	--	161,916	161,916
Total Restricted	--	--	--	8,386,795	8,386,795
Committed					
Special articles:					
General government	677,926	--	--	--	677,926
Public safety	227,155	--	--	--	227,155
Education	9,950	--	--	--	9,950
Public works	346,479	--	--	--	346,479
Health and human services	124,586	--	--	--	124,586
Culture and recreation	225,901	--	--	--	225,901
Total Committed	1,611,997	--	--	--	1,611,997
Assigned					
Encumbrances:					
General government	92,458	--	--	--	92,458
Public safety	61,948	--	--	--	61,948
Education	264,870	--	--	--	264,870
Public works	333,823	--	--	--	333,823
Culture and recreation	200	--	--	--	200
Employee benefits	27,996	--	--	--	27,996
Reserved for expenditures	3,253,047	--	--	--	3,253,047
Total Assigned	4,034,342	--	--	--	4,034,342
Unassigned					
General Fund	3,864,866	--	--	--	3,864,866
Stabilization fund	5,401,129	--	--	--	5,401,129
Deficit funds	--	(2,932,322)	(3,474,940)	(689,097)	(7,096,359)
Total Unassigned	9,265,995	(2,932,322)	(3,474,940)	(689,097)	2,169,636
Total Fund Balance	\$ 14,912,334	\$ (2,932,322)	\$ (3,474,940)	\$ 9,164,954	\$ 17,670,026

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 15 - RESTRICTED NET POSITION

The Town's restricted net position at June 30, 2023 were comprised of the following:

Purpose	Amount
Cable RRFA	\$ 1,041,769
School choice	1,564,623
School grants	982,311
Food service fund	477,843
School revolving funds	500,231
Town grants	1,210,791
Town revolving funds	<u>317,491</u>
	<u>\$ 6,095,059</u>

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The Town follows the provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*, with respect to employees' retirement funds.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

Certain employees of the Town (except teachers and administrators under contract employed by the School Department) are members of the Hampden County Retirement System (the System), a cost sharing, multiple-employer Public Employee Retirement System (PERS). Eligible employees must participate in the System. The pension plan provides pension benefits, deferred allowances, and death and disability benefits. Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws establishes the authority of the System, contribution percentages and benefits paid. The System Retirement Board does not have the authority to amend benefit provisions. Additional information is disclosed in the System's annual financial reports publicly available from the System located at 67 Hunt Street, Suite 116, Agawam, MA 01001.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Participant Contributions

Participants contribute a set percentage of their gross regular compensation annually. Employee contribution percentages are specified in Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws. The employee's individual contribution percentage is determined by their date of entry into the System. In addition, all employees hired on or after January 1, 1979 contribute an additional 2% on all gross regular compensation over the rate of \$30,000 per year. The percentages are as follows:

Before January 1, 1975	5%
January 1, 1975 – December 31, 1983	7%
January 1, 1984 – June 30, 1996	8%
Beginning July 1, 1996	9%

For those members entering the System on or after April 2, 2012, in Group 1, the contribution rate will be reduced to 6% when at least 30 years of creditable service has been attained.

Participant Retirement Benefits

A retirement allowance consists of two parts: an annuity and a pension. A member's accumulated total deductions and a portion of the interest they generate constitute the annuity. The difference between the total retirement allowance and the annuity is the pension. The average retirement benefit is approximately 80-85% pension and 15-20% annuity.

The System provides for retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those hired prior to April 2, 2012, and the highest 5-year average annual rate of regular compensation for those first becoming members of the System on or after that date. However, per Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2011, for members who retire on or after April 2, 2012, if in the 5 years of creditable service immediately preceding retirement, the difference in the annual rate of regular compensation between any 2 consecutive years exceeds 100%, the normal yearly amount of the retirement allowance shall be based on the average annual rate of regular compensation received by the member during the period of 5 consecutive years preceding retirement. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, level of compensation and group classification.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Participant Retirement Benefits (Continued)

There are four classes of membership in the retirement system, but one of these classes, Group 3, is made up exclusively of the Massachusetts State Police. The other three classes are as follows:

- Group 1 – General employees, including clerical, administrative, technical, and all other employees not otherwise classified.
- Group 2 – Certain specified hazardous duty positions.
- Group 4 – Police officers, firefighters, and other specified hazardous positions.

A retirement allowance may be received at any age, upon attaining 20 years of service. The plan also provides for retirement at age 55 if the participant was a member prior to January 1, 1978, with no minimum vesting requirements. If the participant was a member on or after January 1, 1978, and a member of Groups 1 or 2, then a retirement allowance may be received if the participant (1) has at least 10 years of creditable service, (2) is age 55, (3) voluntarily left Town employment on or after that date, and (4) left accumulated annuity deductions in the fund. Members of Group 4 have no minimum vesting requirements; however, must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

A participant who became a member on or after April 2, 2012, is eligible for a retirement allowance upon 10 years' creditable service and reaching ages 60 or 55 for Groups 1 and 2, respectively. Participants in Group 4 must be at least age 55. Groups 2 and 4 require that participants perform the duties of the group position for at least 12 months immediately prior to retirement.

Methods of Payment

A member may elect to receive his or her retirement allowance in one of three forms of payment as follows:

- Option A – Total annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the member's death.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Methods of Payment (Continued)

- Option B – A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement and terminating at the death of the member—provided, however, that if the total amount of the annuity portion received by the member is less than the amount of his or her accumulated deductions, including interest, the difference or balance of his accumulated deductions will be paid in a lump sum to the retiree’s beneficiary or beneficiaries of choice.
- Option C – A reduced annual allowance, payable in monthly installments, commencing at retirement. At the death of the retired employee, 2/3 of the allowance is payable to the member’s designated beneficiary (who may be the spouse, or former spouse who has not remarried, child, parent, sister, or brother of the employee) for the life of the beneficiary. For members who retired on or after January 12, 1988, if the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable increases (or “pops up” to Option A) based on the factor used to determine the Option C benefit at retirement. For members who retired prior to January 12, 1988, if the System has accepted Section 288 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1998 and the beneficiary pre-deceases the retiree, the benefit payable “pops up” to Option A in the same fashion. The Option C became available to accidental disability retirees on November 7, 1996.

Participant Refunds

Employees who resign from service and who are not eligible to receive a retirement allowance are entitled to request a refund of their accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with at least 10 years of service or involuntarily withdrawing, receive 100% of the regular interest that has accrued on those accumulated total deductions. Members voluntarily withdrawing with less than 10 years of service get credited interest each year at a rate of 3%.

Employer Contributions

Employers are required to contribute at actuarially determined rates as accepted by the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC).

The Town’s contribution to the System for the year ended June 30, 2023, was \$5,291,386, which was equal to its annual required contribution.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the System and additions to/deductions from System's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by System. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

PENSION LIABILITIES, PENSION EXPENSE, AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO PENSION

At June 30, 2023, the Town reported a liability of \$59,529,178 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022, rolled forward to December 31, 2022. The Town's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023, the Town's proportion was 13.53%, which was a decrease of (0.13%) from its proportion measured as of December 31, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town recognized pension expense of \$6,770,387. In addition, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension from the following sources:

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

PENSION LIABILITIES, PENSION EXPENSE, AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO PENSION (CONTINUED)

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 4,480,555	\$ --
Differences between expected and actual experience	150,638	(630,804)
Changes of assumptions	2,832,817	--
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	1,172,840	(1,031,368)
	\$ 8,636,850	\$ (1,662,172)

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

Year Ended June 30:	Amount
2024	\$ 917,445
2025	1,660,938
2026	1,492,476
2027	2,984,668
2028	(80,849)
	\$ 6,974,678

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Valuation date	January 1, 2022
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal Cost
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	7.00%
Projected salary increases	4.0 – 4.5%
Inflation rate	3.25%
Post-retirement cost-of-living adjustment	3% on first \$18,000
Remaining amortization period	13 years

Mortality rates were based on the assumptions that reflect the RP-2014 Blue Collar Employee Mortality Table projected generational with Scale MP-2021. Healthy retiree mortality rates were based on RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table project generational with Scale MP-2021. Disabled Retiree mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table set forward one year and projected generationally with Scale MP-2021.

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was selected from a best estimate range determined using the building-block approach. Under this method, an expected future real return range (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) is calculated separately for each asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return, net of investment expenses by the target asset allocation percentage, and by adding expected inflation.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

TARGET ALLOCATIONS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	20.50%	6.59%
International developed markets equity	12.00%	6.87%
International emerging markets equity	4.50%	8.30%
Core fixed income	15.00%	1.53%
High yield fixed income	8.00%	3.54%
Real estate (core)	10.00%	3.44%
Timber	4.00%	4.01%
Hedge fund, GTAA, risk parity	10.00%	3.06%
Private equity	16.00%	9.49%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that the plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current active and inactive 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.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 16 - HAMPDEN COUNTY RETIREMENT SYSTEM (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current rate:

1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
\$ 73,609,363	\$ 59,529,178	\$ 47,682,364

PENSION PLAN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the System’s separately issued financial report.

NOTE 17 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS)

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement System (MTRS) is a public employee retirement system (PERS) that administers a cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plan, as defined in GASB Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is responsible for all contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. The MTRS covers certified teachers in cities (except Boston), towns, regional school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives, and Quincy College. The MTRS is part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ reporting entity and does not issue a stand-alone audited financial report.

Management of MTRS is vested in the Massachusetts Teachers’ Retirement Board (MTRB), which consists of seven members — two elected by the MTRS members, one who is chosen by the six other MTRB members, the State Treasurer (or their designee), the State Auditor (or their designee), a member appointed by the Governor, and the Commissioner of Education (or their designee), who serves ex-officio as the Chairman of the MTRB.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 17 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

BENEFITS PROVIDED

MTRS provides retirement, disability, survivor, and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last 5 years or any 5 consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after 10 years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with 10 years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012, cannot retire prior to age 60.

The MTRS' funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of MGL. The Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MTRS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions for MTRS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Membership Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975	5% of regular compensation
1975 to 1983	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present	9% of regular compensation
7/1/2001 to present	11% of regular compensation (for teachers hired after 7/1/01 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 17 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

CONTRIBUTIONS (CONTINUED)

In addition, members who join MTRS on or after April 2, 2012, will have their withholding rates reduced to 8% for those participating in retirement, otherwise the withholdings are reduced to 6% plus 2% on earnings over \$30,000 a year after achieving 30 years of creditable service.

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

The net pension liability for the June 30, 2022, measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022, rolled forward to June 30, 2022. This valuation used the following assumptions:

- (a) 2.5% inflation rate, (b) 7.00% investment rate of return, (c) 3.5% interest rate credited to the annuity savings fund and (d) 3.0% cost of living increase per year on the first \$13,000 per year.
- Salary increases are based on analyses of past experience but range from 4.0% to 7.5% depending on length of service.
- Experience study is dated July 21, 2014, and encompasses the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, updated to reflect post-retirement mortality from 2012-2020.
- Mortality rates were as follows:
 - Pre-retirement – reflects Pub-2010 Teachers Employees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 (gender distinct).
 - Post-retirement – reflects Pub-2010 Teachers Retirees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 (gender distinct).
 - Disability – assumed to be in accordance with the Pub-2010 Teachers Retirees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2020 (gender distinct).

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

Investment assets of the MTRS are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. 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 rates of return 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 rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 17 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

TARGET ALLOCATIONS (CONTINUED)

Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022, are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global equity	38.0%	4.20%
Core fixed income	15.0%	0.50%
Private equity	15.0%	7.30%
Portfolio completion strategies	10.0%	2.70%
Real estate	10.0%	3.30%
Value added fixed income	8.0%	3.70%
Timber/natural resources	4.0%	3.90%
	<u>100.0%</u>	

DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the 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.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 17 - MASSACHUSETTS TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MTRS) (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The following illustrates the sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. In particular, the table presents the MTRS collective net pension liability assuming it was calculated using a single discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate (amounts in thousands):

1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
\$ 32,734,080	\$ 25,888,138	\$ 20,094,302

SPECIAL FUNDING SITUATION

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarial determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers. Therefore, these employers are considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions* (GASB 68) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a nonemployer contributing entity in MTRS. Since the employers do not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize for each employer.

TOWN PROPORTIONS

In fiscal year 2022 (the most recent measurement period), the Town's proportionate share of the MTRS' collective net pension liability was approximately \$69.6 million based on a proportionate share of 0.27%. As required by GASB 68, the Town has recognized its portion of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' contribution of approximately \$5.7 million as both a revenue and expenditure on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, and its portion of the collective pension expense of approximately \$5.7 million as both a revenue and expense on the Statement of Activities.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)*, replaces the requirements of GASB Statement No. 43, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This applies if a trust fund has been established to fund future OPEB costs. In fiscal year 2014, the Town established a single-employer defined benefit OPEB Trust Fund to provide funding for future employee health care costs. The OPEB Trust Fund does not issue a stand-alone financial report.

GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, replaces the requirements of Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. This statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. This statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discounted projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service.

All the following OPEB disclosures are based on a measurement date of June 30, 2023.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEB PLAN

Plan Description

The Town provides post-employment healthcare benefits for retired employees through the Town's plan. The Town provides health insurance coverage through Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) Health Benefits Trust. The benefits, benefit levels, employee contributions, and employer contributions are governed by Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws.

Benefits Provided

The Town provides medical and prescription drug insurance to retirees and their covered dependents. All active employees who retire from the Town and meet the eligibility criteria will receive these benefits.

Funding Policy

The Town's funding policy includes financing the implicit subsidy on a pay-as-you go basis, as required by statute. Additional contributions are based on annual budget authorizations.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPEB PLAN (CONTINUED)

Plan Membership

At June 30, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries	
currently receiving benefit payments	533
Active employees	<u>539</u>
	<u>1,072</u>

INVESTMENTS

At June 30, 2023, the OPEB Trust Fund's assets consisted of corporate equities, equity mutual funds, and fixed income mutual funds.

Rate of Return

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 7.84%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND OTHER INPUTS

The net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2021, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	3.00%, average, including inflation
Investment rate of return	6.09%, net of OPEB plan investment expense
Municipal bond rate	4.13%
Discount rate	4.24%
Healthcare cost trend rate	8.00%
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	50%

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND OTHER INPUTS (CONTINUED)

Pre-Retirement Mortality rates for general employees were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females. Pre-Retirement Mortality rates for teachers were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Employees projected generationally with Scale MP-2016 for males and females.

Post-Retirement Mortality rates for general employees were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females. Post-Retirement Mortality rates for teachers were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females.

Disability Mortality rates for general employees were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females, for teachers and non-teachers. Disability Mortality rates for teachers were based on RP-2014 Mortality Table for White Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females.

TARGET ALLOCATIONS

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 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.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

TARGET ALLOCATIONS (CONTINUED)

Best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2023, are summarized in the following table.

Asset Class	Target Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity - large cap	28.25%	4.10%
Domestic equity - small/mid cap	14.50%	4.55%
International equity - developed market	14.00%	4.64%
International equity - emerging market	8.75%	5.45%
Domestic fixed income	18.50%	1.05%
International fixed income	4.50%	0.96%
Alternatives	8.25%	5.95%
Real estate	2.75%	6.25%
Cash and cash equivalents	0.50%	0.00%
	<u>100.00%</u>	

CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to the implicit subsidy contribution, the Town's policy is to contribute amounts provided annually by the budget.

DISCOUNT RATE

The discount rate used to measure the net OPEB liability was 4.24%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rate.

Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan fiduciary net position was not projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. As a result, a blended discount rate was used based on a combination of the investment rate of return of 6.09% and municipal bond rate of 4.13% (based on the S&P Municipal Bond 20-Year High Grade Index (SAPIHG) as of June 30, 2023).

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

DISCOUNT RATE (CONTINUED)

Net OPEB Liability

The components of the net OPEB liability, measured as of June 30, 2023, were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 88,061,332
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(567,955) *</u>
Net OPEB Liability	<u>\$ 87,493,377</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	0.64%

*May reflect certain rounding and immaterial classification difference from page 25.

CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY

The following summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the past year:

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Plan	
		Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability (a) - (b)
Balances, Beginning of Year	\$ 84,945,700	\$ 477,001	\$ 84,468,699
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	2,441,956	--	2,441,956
Interest	3,617,610	--	3,617,610
Contributions - employer, and other systems	--	2,584,214	(2,584,214)
Net investment income	--	40,954	(40,954)
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	(409,720)	--	(409,720)
Benefit payments	<u>(2,534,214)</u>	<u>(2,534,214)</u>	<u>--</u>
Net Changes	<u>3,115,632</u>	<u>90,954</u>	<u>3,024,678</u>
Balances, End of Year	<u>\$ 88,061,332</u>	<u>\$ 567,955</u>	<u>\$ 87,493,377</u>

Changes in assumptions or other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 4.20% in 2022 to 4.24% in 2023.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

SENSITIVITY OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE DISCOUNT RATE

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

1% Decrease (3.24%)	Discount Rate (4.24%)	1% Increase (5.24%)
\$ 102,071,712	\$ 87,493,377	\$ 75,835,091

SENSITIVITY OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY TO CHANGES IN THE HEALTHCARE COST TREND RATES

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

1% Decrease (7.00%)	Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (8.00%)	1% Increase (9.00%)
\$ 74,605,213	\$ 87,493,377	\$ 103,947,672

OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Town recognized an OPEB expense of \$3,992,030. At June 30, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 18 - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

OPEB EXPENSE AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES RELATED TO OPEB (CONTINUED)

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ --	\$ (5,211,263)
Change in assumptions	4,300,478	(5,935,721)
Net difference between projected and actual OPEB investment earnings	35,657	--
	\$ 4,336,135	\$ (11,146,984)

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

Year Ended June 30:	Amount
2024	\$ (911,531)
2025	(1,599,232)
2026	(2,246,970)
2027	(2,002,796)
2028	(50,320)
	\$ (6,810,849)

NOTE 19 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

OUTSTANDING LEGAL ISSUES

There are several pending legal issues in which the Town is involved. The Town's management is of the opinion that the potential future settlement of such claims would not materially affect its financial statements taken as a whole.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 19 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)

GRANTS

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount of expenditures, which may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although the Town expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

ENCUMBRANCES

At year-end, the Town's General Fund had \$781,295 in encumbrances that will be honored in the next fiscal year.

NOTE 20 – BEGINNING NET POSITION RESTATEMENT

The beginning (July 1, 2022) net position of the Town has been restated as follows:

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities <hr/> Sewer Fund
As Previously Reported	\$ (52,891,906)	\$ 4,863,565
To Restate Fixed Assets	<u>3,539,845</u>	<u>990,111</u>
As Restated	<u>\$ (49,352,061)</u>	<u>\$ 5,853,676</u>

NOTE 21 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Management has evaluated subsequent events through July 15, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 21 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS (CONTINUED)

DEBT

Subsequent to June 30, 2023, the Town rolled the short-term notes outstanding at June 30, 2023:

Purpose	Amount	Interest Rate(s) %	Date of Issue	Date of Maturity
Chapin Street School	\$ 4,923,571	4.75%	09/13/23	09/12/24
Radio Systems	\$ 4,456,666	4.75%	09/13/23	09/12/24
Public Safety HVAC	\$ 1,400,000	4.75%	09/13/23	09/12/24

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) – BUDGET AND ACTUAL – GENERAL FUND

(Unaudited)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	
Revenues				
Property taxes	\$ 48,992,810	\$ 48,992,810	\$ 48,754,732	\$ (238,078)
Excises	2,903,519	2,903,519	2,726,750	(176,769)
Penalties, interest, and other taxes	2,011,355	2,011,355	2,001,569	(9,786)
Charges for services	3,262,079	3,262,079	3,544,481	282,402
Intergovernmental	18,016,359	18,016,359	18,293,477	277,118
Licenses and permits	550,000	550,000	1,046,968	496,968
Fines and forfeitures	39,357	39,357	42,664	3,307
Investment income	12,408	12,408	267,489	255,081
Miscellaneous	--	--	145,436	145,436
Total Revenues	<u>75,787,887</u>	<u>75,787,887</u>	<u>76,823,566</u>	<u>1,035,679</u>
Expenditures				
General government	5,135,633	5,104,024	4,893,497	210,527
Public safety	10,293,218	10,481,572	10,264,496	217,076
Education	35,670,829	34,598,227	34,282,756	315,471
Public works	4,942,214	4,888,212	5,001,733	(113,521)
Health and human services	1,291,546	1,298,596	1,235,324	63,272
Culture and recreation	1,067,283	1,118,793	1,129,974	(11,181)
Employee benefits	16,385,262	16,385,262	15,392,349	992,913
Debt service	2,742,842	2,742,842	2,376,769	366,073
Intergovernmental	--	1,016,331	1,159,141	(142,810)
Total Expenditures	<u>77,528,827</u>	<u>77,633,859</u>	<u>75,736,039</u>	<u>1,897,820</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures	<u>(1,740,940)</u>	<u>(1,845,972)</u>	<u>1,087,527</u>	<u>2,933,499</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers out	(1,111,284)	(1,116,337)	(1,116,337)	--
Use of free cash:				
Operating budget	388,912	498,997	--	(498,997)
Capital budget	1,648,591	1,648,591	--	(1,648,591)
Transfer to stabilization fund	1,000,000	1,000,000	--	(1,000,000)
Other use - snow and ice deficit	(185,279)	(185,279)	(185,279)	--
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,740,940</u>	<u>1,845,972</u>	<u>(1,301,616)</u>	<u>(3,147,588)</u>
Overall Budgetary (Deficiency)	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$ (214,089)</u>	<u>\$ (214,089)</u>

See independent auditors' report and notes to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR GENERAL FUND BUDGET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

BUDGETARY BASIS

The General Fund final appropriation appearing on the previous page represents the final amended budget after all reserve fund transfers and supplemental appropriations.

BUDGET/GAAP RECONCILIATION

The budgetary data for the General Fund is based upon accounting principles that differ from GAAP. Therefore, in addition to the GAAP-basis financial statements, the results of operations of the General Fund are presented in accordance with budgetary accounting principles to provide a meaningful comparison to budgetary data.

The following is a summary of adjustments made to the actual revenues, expenditures, and other financing sources (uses), to conform to the budgetary basis of accounting.

	Revenues	Expenditures	Other Financing Sources (Uses)
GAAP Basis	\$ 82,556,617	\$ 80,321,169	\$ (116,337)
Remove stabilization funds investment income (loss)	(78,542)	--	--
Reverse the effect of GAAP accruals	--	(77,532)	
Reverse beginning of year appropriation carryforwards from expenditures	--	2,393,292	--
Add end of year appropriation carryforwards to expenditures	--	(1,246,381)	--
Reverse the effect of non-budgeted State contributions	(5,654,509)	(5,654,509)	--
Recognize prior year snow and ice deficit funded in the current year	--	--	(185,279)
Reverse the adjustment eliminating interfund transfers	--	--	(1,000,000)
Budgetary Basis	\$ 76,823,566	\$ 75,736,039	\$ (1,301,616)

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY *(Amounts expressed in thousands) (Unaudited)*

Hampden County Regional Retirement System						
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	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 Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022	13.53%	\$ 59,529	\$ 17,707	336.19%	52.02%
June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	13.66%	\$ 47,505	\$ 17,162	276.80%	60.81%
June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020	13.38%	\$ 52,479	\$ 16,755	313.21%	53.80%
June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019	13.42%	\$ 54,557	\$ 16,113	338.59%	50.23%
June 30, 2019	December 31, 2018	13.55%	\$ 53,940	\$ 15,489	348.25%	47.33%
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	13.48%	\$ 48,213	\$ 14,785	326.10%	50.82%
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	13.24%	\$ 48,224	\$ 14,377	335.44%	46.82%
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	12.88%	\$ 40,239	\$ 13,407	300.14%	49.22%
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	13.47%	\$ 38,666	\$ 13,483	286.78%	51.38%

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System									
Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Total Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Town	Total Net Pension Liability Associated with the Town	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	
June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	0.2687%	\$ --	\$ 69,555	\$ 69,555	\$ 22,115	-- %	57.75%	
June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	0.2755%	\$ --	\$ 62,562	\$ 62,562	\$ 21,369	-- %	62.03%	
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	0.2803%	\$ --	\$ 80,021	\$ 80,021	\$ 21,240	-- %	50.67%	
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	0.2811%	\$ --	\$ 70,882	\$ 70,882	\$ 20,458	-- %	53.95%	
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	0.2852%	\$ --	\$ 67,628	\$ 67,628	\$ 20,030	-- %	54.84%	
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	0.2951%	\$ --	\$ 67,543	\$ 67,543	\$ 20,041	-- %	54.25%	
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	0.2834%	\$ --	\$ 63,355	\$ 63,355	\$ 18,639	-- %	52.73%	
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	0.2827%	\$ --	\$ 57,914	\$ 57,914	\$ 17,917	-- %	55.38%	
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	0.2746%	\$ --	\$ 43,655	\$ 43,655	\$ 16,838	-- %	61.64%	

Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS

(Amounts expressed in thousands) (Unaudited)

Hampden County Regional Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
June 30, 2023	December 31, 2022	\$ 5,291	\$ 5,291	\$ --	\$ 17,707	29.88%
June 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	\$ 5,004	\$ 5,004	\$ --	\$ 17,162	29.16%
June 30, 2021	December 31, 2020	\$ 4,538	\$ 4,538	\$ --	\$ 16,755	27.08%
June 30, 2020	December 31, 2019	\$ 4,163	\$ 4,163	\$ --	\$ 16,113	25.84%
June 30, 2019	December 31, 2018	\$ 3,939	\$ 3,939	\$ --	\$ 15,489	25.43%
June 30, 2018	December 31, 2017	\$ 3,583	\$ 3,583	\$ --	\$ 14,785	24.24%
June 30, 2017	December 31, 2016	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ --	\$ 14,377	22.96%
June 30, 2016	December 31, 2015	\$ 2,936	\$ 2,936	\$ --	\$ 13,407	21.90%
June 30, 2015	December 31, 2014	\$ 2,880	\$ 2,880	\$ --	\$ 13,483	21.36%

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Actuarially Determined Contribution Provided by Commonwealth	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	\$ 5,722	\$ 5,722	\$ --	\$ 22,115	25.87%
June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021	\$ 4,817	\$ 4,817	\$ --	\$ 21,369	22.54%
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	\$ 4,355	\$ 4,355	\$ --	\$ 21,240	20.50%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	\$ 4,059	\$ 4,059	\$ --	\$ 20,458	19.84%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ --	\$ 20,030	18.72%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	\$ 3,646	\$ 3,646	\$ --	\$ 20,041	18.19%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	\$ 3,187	\$ 3,187	\$ --	\$ 18,639	17.10%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	\$ 2,889	\$ 2,889	\$ --	\$ 17,917	16.12%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	\$ 2,574	\$ 2,574	\$ --	\$ 16,838	15.29%

Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET OPEB LIABILITY *(Amounts expressed in thousands) (Unaudited)*

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB Liability							
Service cost	\$ 2,442	\$ 3,708	\$ 3,366	\$ 3,258	\$ 3,172	\$ 2,504	\$ 3,407
Interest	3,617	2,490	2,540	2,558	2,774	3,599	3,020
Differences between expected and actual experience	--	(7,081)	--	(1,930)	--	(20,956)	--
Changes of assumptions	(410)	(8,624)	3,775	5,826	7,903	(5,286)	--
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(2,534)</u>	<u>(2,851)</u>	<u>(2,729)</u>	<u>(2,712)</u>	<u>(2,563)</u>	<u>(2,520)</u>	<u>(2,684)</u>
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	3,115	(12,358)	6,952	7,000	11,286	(22,659)	3,743
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	<u>84,946</u>	<u>97,304</u>	<u>90,352</u>	<u>83,352</u>	<u>72,066</u>	<u>94,725</u>	<u>90,982</u>
Total OPEB Liability - Ending (a)	<u>88,061</u>	<u>84,946</u>	<u>97,304</u>	<u>90,352</u>	<u>83,352</u>	<u>72,066</u>	<u>94,725</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position							
Contributions - employer	2,584	2,901	2,779	2,762	2,613	2,570	2,734
Net investment income (loss)	41	(82)	90	8	15	10	13
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(2,534)</u>	<u>(2,851)</u>	<u>(2,729)</u>	<u>(2,712)</u>	<u>(2,563)</u>	<u>(2,520)</u>	<u>(2,684)</u>
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	91	(32)	140	58	65	60	63
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	<u>477</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>123</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	<u>568</u>	<u>477</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>369</u>	<u>311</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>186</u>
Net OPEB Liability - Ending (a-b)	<u>\$ 87,493</u>	<u>\$ 84,469</u>	<u>\$ 96,795</u>	<u>\$ 89,983</u>	<u>\$ 83,041</u>	<u>\$ 71,820</u>	<u>\$ 94,539</u>

Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULES OF NET OPEB LIABILITY, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND INVESTMENT RETURNS *(Amounts expressed in thousands) (Unaudited)*

Schedule of Net OPEB Liability	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB liability	\$ 88,061	\$ 84,946	\$ 97,304	\$ 90,352	\$ 83,352	\$ 72,066	\$ 94,725
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(568)</u>	<u>(477)</u>	<u>(509)</u>	<u>(369)</u>	<u>(311)</u>	<u>(246)</u>	<u>(186)</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 87,493</u>	<u>\$ 84,469</u>	<u>\$ 96,795</u>	<u>\$ 89,983</u>	<u>\$ 83,041</u>	<u>\$ 71,820</u>	<u>\$ 94,539</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	0.65%	0.56%	0.52%	0.41%	0.37%	0.34%	0.20%
Schedule of Contributions	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 5,892	\$ 7,022	\$ 6,370	\$ 6,153	\$ 7,285	\$ 6,387	\$ 8,043
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>(2,584)</u>	<u>(2,901)</u>	<u>(2,779)</u>	<u>(2,762)</u>	<u>(2,613)</u>	<u>(2,570)</u>	<u>(2,734)</u>
Contribution deficiency	<u>\$ 3,308</u>	<u>\$ 4,121</u>	<u>\$ 3,591</u>	<u>\$ 3,391</u>	<u>\$ 4,672</u>	<u>\$ 3,817</u>	<u>\$ 5,309</u>
Schedule of Investment Returns	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Annual money weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	7.84%	(15.15%)	23.45%	2.40%	5.30%	4.85%	8.85%

Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

See notes to the Town's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

**OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

JUNE 30, 2023

	Golf Fund	Landfill Fund	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 433,706	\$ 35,590	\$ 469,296
Noncurrent Assets			
Nondepreciable capital assets	1,107,900	--	1,107,900
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	463,127	--	463,127
Total Noncurrent Assets	1,571,027	--	1,571,027
Total Assets	2,004,733	35,590	2,040,323
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Related to pension	54,075	--	54,075
Related to OPEB	9,705	--	9,705
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	63,780	--	63,780

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION COMBINING STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED) NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2023

	Golf Fund	Landfill Fund	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable	10,008	--	10,008
Noncurrent Liabilities			
Net pension liability	396,736	--	396,736
Net OPEB liability	195,817	--	195,817
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	592,553	--	592,553
Total Liabilities	602,561	--	602,561
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Related to pension	14,003	--	14,003
Related to OPEB	24,948	--	24,948
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	38,951	--	38,951
Net Position			
Net investment in capital assets	1,571,028	--	1,571,028
Unrestricted	(144,027)	35,590	(108,437)
Total Net Position	\$ 1,427,001	\$ 35,590	\$ 1,462,591

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Golf Fund	Landfill Fund	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
Operating Revenues			
Charges for services	\$ 999,425	\$ --	\$ 999,425
Operating Expenses			
Salaries and wages	284,537	--	284,537
Operating expenses	407,641	8,294	415,935
Depreciation	54,732	--	54,732
Administration	40,000	--	40,000
Total Operating Expenses	<u>786,910</u>	<u>8,294</u>	<u>795,204</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>212,515</u>	<u>(8,294)</u>	<u>204,221</u>
Nonoperating Revenues			
Investment income	<u>10,470</u>	<u>2,412</u>	<u>12,882</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues	<u>10,470</u>	<u>2,412</u>	<u>12,882</u>
Change in Net Position	222,985	(5,882)	217,103
Net Position, at Beginning of Year	<u>1,204,016</u>	<u>41,472</u>	<u>1,245,488</u>
Net Position, at End of Year	<u>\$ 1,427,001</u>	<u>\$ 35,590</u>	<u>\$ 1,462,591</u>

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION COMBINING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Golf Fund	Landfill Fund	Total Nonmajor Enterprise Funds
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 999,425	\$ --	\$ 999,425
Payments to employees	(412,775)	--	(412,775)
Payments to vendors	(422,789)	(8,294)	(431,083)
	<u>163,861</u>	<u>(8,294)</u>	<u>155,567</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities			
	<u>163,861</u>	<u>(8,294)</u>	<u>155,567</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities			
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(58,636)	--	(58,636)
Principal payments on bonds and loans	(32,525)	--	(32,525)
	<u>(91,161)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(91,161)</u>
Net Cash (Used in) Capital and Related Financing Activities			
	<u>(91,161)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>(91,161)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Investment income	10,470	2,412	12,882
	<u>10,470</u>	<u>2,412</u>	<u>12,882</u>
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities			
	<u>10,470</u>	<u>2,412</u>	<u>12,882</u>
Net Change in Cash and Short-Term Investments			
	<u>83,170</u>	<u>(5,882)</u>	<u>77,288</u>
Cash and Short Term Investments, Beginning of Year			
	<u>350,536</u>	<u>41,472</u>	<u>392,008</u>
Cash and Short Term Investments, End of Year			
	<u>\$ 433,706</u>	<u>\$ 35,590</u>	<u>\$ 469,296</u>

See independent auditors' report.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION COMBINING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS NONMAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Golf Fund	Landfill Fund	Enterprise Funds
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net			
Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities			
Operating income (loss)	\$ 212,515	\$ (8,294)	\$ 204,221
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:			
Depreciation	54,732	--	54,732
Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows:			
Deferred outflows - related to pension	7,340	--	7,340
Deferred outflows - related to OPEB	4,841	--	4,841
Accounts payable	10,008	--	10,008
Net pension liability	(38,917)	--	(38,917)
Net OPEB liability	2,663	--	2,663
Deferred inflows - related to pension	(77,952)	--	(77,952)
Deferred inflows - related to OPEB	(11,369)	--	(11,369)
	<u>\$ 163,861</u>	<u>\$ (8,294)</u>	<u>\$ 155,567</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>\$ 163,861</u>	<u>\$ (8,294)</u>	<u>\$ 155,567</u>

See independent auditors' report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

To the Board of Selectmen
Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts (the Town), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 15, 2024.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Town's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Marcum LLP

Greenfield, MA
July 15, 2024

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

2023-001 Improve Controls Over Cash Reconciliations (Material Weakness)

Criteria or Specific Requirement

The reconciliation of cash is a critical internal control procedure necessary to ensure that the Town's balances are properly reported and controlled.

Condition and Context

The Town has difficulty performing timely reconciliations. Although cash was reconciled timely throughout fiscal year 2023, the Town fell behind on cash reconciliation during fiscal year 2024. As of audit fieldwork in April 2024, cash was only reconciled between the Treasurer and Accountant through the month of August 2023.

Cause and Effect or Potential Effect

The Town has not established adequate procedures to reconcile bank accounts between the individual balance statements and the general ledger. This increases the risk that undetected errors or irregularities may occur or go undetected.

Recommendation

We recommend the Town formally reconcile cash between the Accountant and Treasurer on a monthly basis.

2023-002 Improve Controls Over Receivables (Material Weakness)

Criteria or Specific Requirement

The reconciliation of receivables is a critical internal control procedure necessary to ensure that the Town's balances are properly reported and controlled.

Condition and Context

Per inquiry, receivables were only reconciled between the Collector and the Accountant at the end of the fiscal year. In addition, we also noted that the Collector does not keep detailed support of outstanding balances for each month during the fiscal year. Collector detail is only maintained at year end, for the month of June.

Cause and Effect or Potential Effect

The Town has not established adequate procedures to reconcile receivables between the Collector's balances and the general ledger. This increases the risk that undetected errors or irregularities may occur or go undetected.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)

2023-002 Improve Controls Over Receivables (Material Weakness) (Continued)

Recommendation

We recommend the Town establish procedures to reconcile receivable balances between the general ledger and Tax Collector at least on a quarterly basis. We recommend the Collector retain detailed receivable balances for each month throughout the year as support for the reconciliation process.