

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

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

Report on Examination of  
Basic Financial Statements  
and Additional Information

Year Ended June 30, 2020



# TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

The Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen  
Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts, (the "Town") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town as of June 30, 2020, and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## Other Matters

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and the schedules listed under the required supplementary information section in the accompanying table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated October 27, 2020 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, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on 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.



Roselli, Clark & Associates  
Certified Public Accountants  
Woburn, Massachusetts  
October 27, 2020

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As the management of the Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts (the "Town"), we offer readers of the Town's financial statements this discussion and analysis of the financial activities of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with their review of the basic financial statements, notes to the basic financial statements and required supplementary information.

### **Financial Highlights**

- The Town's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the close of the most recent fiscal year by approximately \$32.1 million (total net position) at June 30, 2020. This represents an increase of approximately \$1.8 million from the prior year. The Town's net position in its governmental activities increased over \$1.1million while its net position in its business-type activities increased approximately \$0.7 million.
- The Town continues to report a deficit in its unrestricted net position in its governmental activities. This deficit exceeded \$0.8 million at June 30, 2020. This deficit is due primarily to the recording of liabilities associated with the net OPEB and pension liabilities, which totaled over \$14.6 million at June 30, 2020 in the aggregate. These liabilities are applied to the Town's unrestricted net position and represent actuarial estimates of future postemployment benefits payable by the Town for retiree medical insurance and pensions.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town's governmental funds balance sheet reported a combined ending fund balance surplus of approximately \$14.7 million, which is approximately \$758,000 greater than the prior year. The Town reported a positive change in fund balance in its capital investment and nonmajor governmental funds of approximately \$699,000 and \$9,000, respectively. These positive changes were offset by an approximate \$31,000 decrease in fund balance in the general fund.
- Of the ending fund balance in the Town's governmental funds, over \$5.7 million is available for spending at the government's discretion as unassigned fund balance. The remainder is earmarked for specific expenditures/purposes.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance for the general fund was approximately 28% of the total general fund expenditures and the total general fund balance was approximately 37% of the total general fund expenditures.
- The Town's total long-term debt in its governmental activities and business-type activities decreased by approximately \$1.0 million in 2020. The Town's total long-term debt was approximately \$5.6 million at June 30, 2020.
- The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public/private enterprise shutdowns affected the Town in a variety of ways. The Town recognized that its revenues from sources such as recreation programs, excise taxes, permits and other usage fees would not trend as anticipated. Payroll reductions were made in several areas and many budgeted expenses were either deferred, reduced, or eliminated entirely in fiscal year 2020.

- The Town received notice from the Commonwealth that it is entitled to approximately \$822,000 through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”). The CARES Act funds are restricted in their use; these funds can only be used for direct expenses related to COVID-19 and cannot be used as “revenue replacement” or other similar, unrestricted purposes.

## **Overview of the Financial Statements**

**Government-Wide Financial Statements** – The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Town’s finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

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

The statement of activities presents information showing how the government’s net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected taxes and earned but unused sick pay).

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Town that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenue (governmental activities) from other functions that are intended to recover all or a significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (business-type activities). The governmental activities of the Town include general government, public safety, highways and streets, sanitation, education, health and human services, culture and recreation, fringe benefits and debt service. The business-type activities of the Town consist of its sewer and water 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. The Town, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town can be divided into three categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds.

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

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

**Governmental Funds** – Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating a government’s near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government’s near-term financing decisions.

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

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

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

**Fiduciary Funds** – Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statement because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Town’s own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is much like that used for proprietary funds.

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

**Other Information** – In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information concerning the Town’s progress in funding its obligation to provide pension benefits and other postemployment benefits to its employees as well as a budget to actual comparison for the current year’s general fund operations.

## Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The condensed comparative statements of net position for the two most recent years are as follows:

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019
Assets:						
Current and other assets	\$ 17,368,432	\$ 16,483,125	\$ 3,074,063	\$ 2,597,346	\$ 20,442,495	\$ 19,080,471
Capital assets, net	18,829,407	18,348,250	15,701,479	16,132,412	34,530,886	34,480,662
Total Assets	<u>36,197,839</u>	<u>34,831,375</u>	<u>18,775,542</u>	<u>18,729,758</u>	<u>54,973,381</u>	<u>53,561,133</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>2,037,601</u>	<u>2,083,736</u>	<u>177,183</u>	<u>181,194</u>	<u>2,214,784</u>	<u>2,264,930</u>
Liabilities:						
Long-term liabilities	15,370,321	15,070,565	5,625,093	6,391,119	20,995,414	21,461,684
Other liabilities	1,528,434	1,461,397	1,264,450	1,106,740	2,792,884	2,568,137
Total Liabilities	<u>16,898,755</u>	<u>16,531,962</u>	<u>6,889,543</u>	<u>7,497,859</u>	<u>23,788,298</u>	<u>24,029,821</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>1,221,858</u>	<u>1,391,553</u>	<u>106,249</u>	<u>121,004</u>	<u>1,328,107</u>	<u>1,512,557</u>
Net Position:						
Net investment in capital assets	17,899,619	17,474,039	10,596,540	10,203,472	28,496,159	27,677,511
Restricted	3,063,229	3,546,919	-	-	3,063,229	3,546,919
Unrestricted	(848,021)	(2,029,362)	1,360,393	1,088,617	512,372	(940,745)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 20,114,827</u>	<u>\$ 18,991,596</u>	<u>\$ 11,956,933</u>	<u>\$ 11,292,089</u>	<u>\$ 32,071,760</u>	<u>\$ 30,283,685</u>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The Town's total net position increased nearly \$1.8 million year-over-year., which was almost entirely driven by change in net position in governmental activities. The net position in governmental activities increased over \$1.1 million while the net position in business-type activities increased nearly \$0.7 million.

The largest portion (approximately \$28.5 million) of the Town's net position reflects its investment in capital assets, less any related debt (netted down by those amounts expected to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth) used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. The Town uses these capital assets to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the Town's investment in its capital assets is reported net of related debt, 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 the Town's net position (approximately \$3.1 million) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of approximately \$0.5 million is referred to as unrestricted net position and may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

The condensed comparative statements of activities for the two most recent fiscal years are as follows:

	Governmental Activities		Business-Type Activities		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Revenues:						
Program revenues:						
Charges for services	\$ 1,211,617	\$ 1,291,087	\$ 2,098,741	\$ 2,006,240	\$ 3,310,358	\$ 3,297,327
Operating grants and contributions	616,871	512,509	-	-	616,871	512,509
Capital grants and contributions	294,608	31,723	-	-	294,608	31,723
General revenues:						
Property taxes	19,441,474	18,307,771	-	-	19,441,474	18,307,771
Excise taxes	1,318,561	1,350,405	-	-	1,318,561	1,350,405
Intergovernmental	1,454,531	1,415,233	-	-	1,454,531	1,415,233
Other	427,499	479,767	-	-	427,499	479,767
Total Revenues	<u>24,765,161</u>	<u>23,388,495</u>	<u>2,098,741</u>	<u>2,006,240</u>	<u>26,863,902</u>	<u>25,394,735</u>
Expenses:						
General government	2,755,926	2,551,808	-	-	2,755,926	2,551,808
Public safety	4,849,910	4,809,242	-	-	4,849,910	4,809,242
Education	11,346,879	10,558,551	-	-	11,346,879	10,558,551
Public works	2,266,253	2,617,635	-	-	2,266,253	2,617,635
Health and human services	559,632	625,965	-	-	559,632	625,965
Culture and recreation	943,455	1,042,740	-	-	943,455	1,042,740
Interest expense	43,465	42,817	-	-	43,465	42,817
Sewer and water services	-	-	2,310,307	2,549,924	2,310,307	2,549,924
Total Expenses	<u>22,765,520</u>	<u>22,248,758</u>	<u>2,310,307</u>	<u>2,549,924</u>	<u>25,075,827</u>	<u>24,798,682</u>
Change in Net Position Before Transfers	1,999,641	1,139,737	(211,566)	(543,684)	1,788,075	596,053
Transfers	<u>(876,410)</u>	<u>(915,630)</u>	<u>876,410</u>	<u>915,630</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>1,123,231</u>	<u>224,107</u>	<u>664,844</u>	<u>371,946</u>	<u>1,788,075</u>	<u>596,053</u>
Net Position:						
Beginning of year	<u>18,991,596</u>	<u>18,767,489</u>	<u>11,292,089</u>	<u>10,920,143</u>	<u>30,283,685</u>	<u>29,687,632</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 20,114,827</u>	<u>\$ 18,991,596</u>	<u>\$ 11,956,933</u>	<u>\$ 11,292,089</u>	<u>\$ 32,071,760</u>	<u>\$ 30,283,685</u>

**Governmental Activities** – Total revenues in fiscal year 2020 in the Town’s governmental activities increased nearly \$1.4 million, or 5.9%, from fiscal year 2019. The Town’s largest revenue source is property taxes, which represented approximately 79% and 78% of total fiscal year 2020 and 2019 revenues, respectively. Property taxes increased approximately \$1.1 million, or 6.2%, in 2020 due to normal statutory property tax increases and new growth. No other revenue source exceeded 10% of total revenues in either fiscal year 2020 or 2019.

Total expenses increased nearly \$517,000, or 2.3%, year-over-year. The Town’s largest expense category is education, which the Town continues to devote substantial resources towards. Education expenses totaled approximately 50% of total annual expenditures, which is slightly higher than its prior year ratio of 48%. In terms of gross dollars, education expenses increased over \$788,000 in fiscal year 2020, which reflected the increase in the Town’s assessment for its regional school district. Public safety, general government and public works expenses represented approximately 21%, 12% and 10% of total annual expenditures in fiscal year 2020; these ratios were consistent with the prior year.

**Business-Type Activities** – User charges represent the majority of the reported revenues in both fiscal years 2020 and 2019. Business-type revenues increased nearly \$93,000 year-over-year, while expenses decreased approximately \$240,000.

## **Governmental Funds Financial Analysis**

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

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

As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Town’s governmental funds balance sheet reported a combined ending fund balance surplus of approximately \$14.7 million, which is an approximate \$758,000 increase from the prior year. The Town reported a positive change in fund balance in its capital investment and nonmajor governmental funds of approximately \$699,000 and \$90,000, respectively. These positive changes were offset by an approximate \$31,000 decrease in fund balance in the general fund. Of the ending fund balance, over \$5.7 million is available for spending at the government’s discretion as unassigned fund balance. The remainder is earmarked for specific expenditures.

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Town. At the end of the current fiscal year, the unassigned fund balance of the general fund was approximately \$6.2 million, while total fund balance was over \$8.3 million. As a measure of the general fund’s liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unassigned fund balance represents approximately 28% of total general fund expenditures, while total fund balance represents approximately 37% of that same amount.

The Town’s capital investment fund is restricted for debt service purposes. Its primary source of funding is the transfer of PILOT monies received from the Town’s agreement with ANP Blackstone Energy Company LLC, a power generator. At June 30, 2020, the capital investment fund has a fund balance of approximately \$5.3 million. The release of funds from the capital investment fund requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds by the local legislative body at either the Annual Town Meeting or at a Special Town Meeting.

The Town reports over \$1.1 million as restricted in the nonmajor governmental funds due to constraints placed externally by third-parties. This amount is offset by deficit fund balances in the Town’s capital project funds of approximately \$452,000, which is reported as a deficit in the unassigned fund balance of the nonmajor governmental funds. This deficit was principally due to capital repairs made to the Town Hall roof, which the Town expects to fund through available revenues, grant funds or bond proceeds in future fiscal years.

**Proprietary Funds** – The Town’s proprietary funds provide the same type of information found in the government-wide financial statements, but in more detail. At the end of the year, the net position of the sewer and water enterprise funds were approximately \$12.0 million in the aggregate.

## **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

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

On a budgetary basis, property tax and departmental revenues were approximately \$29,000 and \$32,000 lower than expected, respectively. These decreases were due primarily to the effect COVID-19 had on fourth quarter collections and services.

## **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

**Capital Assets** – As of June 30, 2020, the Town’s investment in capital assets for its governmental and business-type activities approximated \$18.8 million and \$15.7 million, respectively. Governmental and business-type net fixed assets remained consistent with prior year in total as depreciation expense was consistent with capital additions in fiscal year 2020.

Additional information on the Town capital assets can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

**Long-Term Debt** – At the end of the current fiscal year, the Town had total long-term bonded debt outstanding of approximately \$5.6 million. The Town’s total long-term bonded debt decreased by approximately \$1.0 million during the current fiscal year due to scheduled debt payments.

The Town’s bond rating of “AA+” was set by Standard and Poor’s Financial Services LLC in July 2015 and the Town continues to maintain this rating.

Additional information on the Town’s debt can be found in the notes to the financial statements.

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

- Net state aid for fiscal year 2021 is expected to remain relatively consistent with fiscal year 2020, although a state fiscal year 2021 budget had not yet been approved at the time of this report
- The Town had approximately \$2.1 million in certified free cash and approximately \$3.3 million in stabilization funds available to assist in funding its fiscal year 2021 budget.
- The Town’s real estate tax base is made up predominantly of residential taxes, which in 2020 represented approximately 82% of the entire levy. In addition, Chapter 580 of the Acts of 1980, more commonly referred to as Proposition 2 ½, limits the Town’s ability to increase taxes in any one year by more than 2 ½% of the previous year’s tax levy. The Town typically taxes at or near its levy limit annually.
- The Town continues to experience modest new growth in its property tax base.
- Property values within the Town have been steadily increasing. Many neighborhoods’ property values are at all-time highs.

Each of these factors were considered in preparing the Town’s budget for the 2021 fiscal year, which was adopted at Town Meeting in May 2020. The Town is expecting to set its fiscal year 2021 property tax rate in December 2020.

## **Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Town’s finances for all those with an interest in the government’s finances. Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or request for additional financial information should be addressed to the Office of the Town Administrator, 15 Saint Paul Street, Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2020**

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,705,764	\$ 2,408,319	\$ 11,114,083
Investments	7,003,981	-	7,003,981
Receivables, net of allowances:			
Property taxes	1,249,182	-	1,249,182
Excise taxes	221,584	-	221,584
Departmental, user charges and other	187,921	665,744	853,665
Land	4,052,592	152,506	4,205,098
Construction in-progress	-	76,680	76,680
Depreciable capital assets, net	14,776,815	15,472,293	30,249,108
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>36,197,839</b>	<b>18,775,542</b>	<b>54,973,381</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources:</b>			
Other postemployment benefits	617,669	53,711	671,380
Pensions	1,419,932	123,472	1,543,404
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>2,037,601</b>	<b>177,183</b>	<b>2,214,784</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Warrants payable and accrued expenses	665,756	346,904	1,012,660
Accrued payroll and withholdings	30,123	-	30,123
Accrued interest	10,879	94,832	105,711
Bond anticipation note payable	481,480	-	481,480
Noncurrent liabilities:			
Due within one year	340,196	822,714	1,162,910
Due in more than one year	15,370,321	5,625,093	20,995,414
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>16,898,755</b>	<b>6,889,543</b>	<b>23,788,298</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>			
Other postemployment benefits	440,815	38,331	479,146
Pensions	781,043	67,918	848,961
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>1,221,858</b>	<b>106,249</b>	<b>1,328,107</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	17,899,619	10,596,540	28,496,159
Restricted for:			
Federal and state grants	129,355	-	129,355
Gifts and donations	212,436	-	212,436
Revolving funds	1,208,108	-	1,208,108
Other purposes	1,513,330	-	1,513,330
Unrestricted	(848,021)	1,360,393	512,372
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 20,114,827</b>	<b>\$ 11,956,933</b>	<b>\$ 32,071,760</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position		
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>							
General government	\$ 2,755,926	\$ 536,431	\$ 65,913	\$ -	\$ (2,153,582)		\$ (2,153,582)
Public safety	4,849,910	473,294	109,862	-	(4,266,754)		(4,266,754)
Education	11,346,879	21,844	187,391	-	(11,137,644)		(11,137,644)
Public works	2,266,253	125,721	4,054	294,608	(1,841,870)		(1,841,870)
Health and human services	559,632	52,548	201,599	-	(305,485)		(305,485)
Culture and recreation	943,455	1,779	48,052	-	(893,624)		(893,624)
Interest expense	43,465	-	-	-	(43,465)		(43,465)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>22,765,520</b>	<b>1,211,617</b>	<b>616,871</b>	<b>294,608</b>	<b>(20,642,424)</b>		<b>(20,642,424)</b>
<b>Business-Type Activities:</b>							
Sewer	1,124,789	1,005,653	-	-		\$ (119,136)	(119,136)
Water	1,185,518	1,093,088	-	-		(92,430)	(92,430)
<b>Total Business-Type Activities</b>	<b>2,310,307</b>	<b>2,098,741</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>(211,566)</b>	<b>(211,566)</b>
<b>Total Primary Government</b>	<b>\$ 25,075,827</b>	<b>\$ 3,310,358</b>	<b>\$ 616,871</b>	<b>\$ 294,608</b>		<b>(211,566)</b>	<b>(20,853,990)</b>
<b>General Revenues:</b>							
Property taxes					19,441,474	-	19,441,474
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes					1,318,561	-	1,318,561
Grants and contributions not restricted to to specific programs					1,454,531	-	1,454,531
Penalties and interest on taxes					234,679	-	234,679
Unrestricted investment income					192,820	-	192,820
Transfers, net					(876,410)	876,410	-
<b>Total General Revenues and Transfers</b>					<b>21,765,655</b>	<b>876,410</b>	<b>22,642,065</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>					<b>1,123,231</b>	<b>664,844</b>	<b>1,788,075</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>							
Beginning of year					18,991,596	11,292,089	30,283,685
End of year					\$ 20,114,827	\$ 11,956,933	\$ 32,071,760

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEET  
JUNE 30, 2020**

	General Fund	Capital Investment Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,191,101	\$ 912,465	\$ 1,602,198	\$ 8,705,764
Investments	2,661,513	4,342,468	-	7,003,981
Receivables, net of allowances:				
Property taxes	1,249,182	-	-	1,249,182
Excise taxes	221,584	-	-	221,584
Departmental, user charges and other	-	-	187,921	187,921
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,323,380</b>	<b>5,254,933</b>	<b>1,790,119</b>	<b>17,368,432</b>
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 10,323,380</b>	<b>\$ 5,254,933</b>	<b>\$ 1,790,119</b>	<b>\$ 17,368,432</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Warrants payable and accrued expenses	\$ 659,969	\$ -	\$ 5,787	\$ 665,756
Accrued payroll and withholdings	30,123	-	-	30,123
Bond anticipation note payable	-	-	481,480	481,480
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>690,092</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>487,267</b>	<b>1,177,359</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>				
Unavailable revenues - property taxes	1,089,555	-	-	1,089,555
Unavailable revenues - other	221,584	-	185,678	407,262
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>1,311,139</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>185,678</b>	<b>1,496,817</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>				
Restricted	-	-	1,569,074	1,569,074
Committed	1,314,165	5,254,933	-	6,569,098
Assigned	816,439	-	-	816,439
Unassigned	6,191,545	-	(451,900)	5,739,645
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>8,322,149</b>	<b>5,254,933</b>	<b>1,117,174</b>	<b>14,694,256</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 10,323,380</b>	<b>\$ 5,254,933</b>	<b>\$ 1,790,119</b>	<b>\$ 17,368,432</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES  
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION AS OF  
JUNE 30, 2020**

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Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$ 14,694,256
Capital assets used in governmental activities in the statement of net position are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.	18,829,407
Certain receivables and revenues are deferred in the governmental funds as they are not current financial resources. These revenues are accrued under the economic resources basis of accounting.	1,496,817
Deferred outflows and inflows of resources to be recognized in future expense are not available resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred outflows of resources - other postemployment benefits	617,669
Deferred outflows of resources - pensions	1,419,932
Deferred inflows of resources - other postemployment benefits	(440,815)
Deferred inflows of resources - pensions	<u>(781,043)</u>
Net effect of reporting deferred outflows and inflows of resources	815,743
Interest is accrued on outstanding long-term debt in the statement of net position but not in the funds until due.	(10,879)
Long-term liabilities not currently due and payable are reported in the statement of net position and not in the funds:	
Net other postemployment benefits liability	(3,330,389)
Net pension liability	(11,299,597)
Compensated absences	(466,109)
Capital lease obligations	(164,422)
Bonds and notes payable	<u>(450,000)</u>
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities	<u>(15,710,517)</u>
Net Position — Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 20,114,827</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	General Fund	Capital Investment Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Revenues :				
Property taxes, net of tax refunds	\$ 19,339,603	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,339,603
Intergovernmental	1,828,736	-	453,564	2,282,300
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	1,295,427	-	-	1,295,427
Licenses and permits	376,873	-	-	376,873
Penalties and interest on taxes	234,679	-	-	234,679
Fines and forfeitures	32,615	-	-	32,615
Departmental and other revenues	186,471	-	684,787	871,258
Contributions and donations	-	-	83,710	83,710
Investment income	89,114	103,704	2	192,820
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>23,383,518</u>	<u>103,704</u>	<u>1,222,063</u>	<u>24,709,285</u>
Expenditures:				
Current:				
General government	2,246,962	-	138,030	2,384,992
Public safety	3,346,262	-	96,447	3,442,709
Education	11,250,111	-	-	11,250,111
Public works	2,571,589	-	303,498	2,875,087
Health and human services	433,210	-	49,849	483,059
Culture and recreation	610,677	-	31,367	642,044
Pension and fringe benefits	1,756,023	-	-	1,756,023
State and county charges	46,712	-	-	46,712
Debt service:				
Principal	159,147	-	-	159,147
Interest	35,258	-	-	35,258
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<u>22,455,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>619,191</u>	<u>23,075,142</u>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures</b>	<u>927,567</u>	<u>103,704</u>	<u>602,872</u>	<u>1,634,143</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Transfers in	1,968,297	2,050,604	-	4,018,901
Transfers out	(2,927,014)	(1,454,959)	(513,338)	(4,895,311)
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<u>(958,717)</u>	<u>595,645</u>	<u>(513,338)</u>	<u>(876,410)</u>
<b>Change in Fund Balances</b>	<u>(31,150)</u>	<u>699,349</u>	<u>89,534</u>	<u>757,733</u>
Fund Balances:				
Beginning of the year	8,353,299	4,555,584	1,027,640	13,936,523
End of the year	<u>\$ 8,322,149</u>	<u>\$ 5,254,933</u>	<u>\$ 1,117,174</u>	<u>\$ 14,694,256</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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Change in Fund Balances — Total Governmental Funds \$ 757,733

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is capitalized and depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Capital asset activity in the current fiscal year included:

Capital asset additions	1,620,032	
Depreciation expense	<u>(1,138,875)</u>	
Net effect of reporting capital activity		481,157

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds. 55,876

The issuance of long-term debt provides current financial resources to the governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the financial resources of governmental funds. Neither has any effect on net position. Also, the governmental funds report the effect of issuance costs, premiums, discounts and similar items when debt is first issued; whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the statement of activities. Differences in the treatment of long-term debt transactions in the current fiscal year included:

Repayments of long-term debt	159,147	
Repayments of capital lease obligations	<u>87,233</u>	
Net effect of reporting long-term debt activity		246,380

Some revenues/expenses reported in the statement of activities do not provide/require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as revenues/expenses in the governmental funds:

Net other postemployment benefits liability	(21,642)	
Net pension liability	(405,660)	
Compensated absences	5,165	
Accrued interest	<u>4,222</u>	
Net effect of reporting long-term liabilities		<u>(417,915)</u>

Change in Net Position — Governmental Activities \$ 1,123,231

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2020**

	Business-Type Activities		
	Sewer	Water	Total
<b>Assets:</b>			
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 856,221	\$ 1,552,098	\$ 2,408,319
User charges receivable	333,871	331,873	665,744
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,190,092</b>	<b>1,883,971</b>	<b>3,074,063</b>
<b>Noncurrent Assets:</b>			
Land	-	152,506	152,506
Construction in-progress	-	76,680	76,680
Depreciable capital assets, net	7,255,637	8,216,656	15,472,293
<b>Total Noncurrent Assets</b>	<b>7,255,637</b>	<b>8,445,842</b>	<b>15,701,479</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>8,445,729</b>	<b>10,329,813</b>	<b>18,775,542</b>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources:</b>			
Other postemployment benefits	20,142	33,569	53,711
Pensions	46,302	77,170	123,472
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>66,444</b>	<b>110,739</b>	<b>177,183</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
Warrants and accounts payable	327,124	19,780	346,904
Accrued interest	56,134	38,698	94,832
Compensated absences	2,824	4,889	7,713
Current portion of long-term debt	515,113	299,888	815,001
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>901,195</b>	<b>363,255</b>	<b>1,264,450</b>
<b>Noncurrent liabilities:</b>			
Compensated absences	11,295	19,554	30,849
Net other postemployment benefits liability	108,600	180,999	289,599
Net pension liability	368,465	614,109	982,574
Long-term debt	3,082,530	1,239,541	4,322,071
<b>Total Noncurrent Liabilities</b>	<b>3,570,890</b>	<b>2,054,203</b>	<b>5,625,093</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>4,472,085</b>	<b>2,417,458</b>	<b>6,889,543</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources:</b>			
Other postemployment benefits	14,374	23,957	38,331
Pensions	25,470	42,448	67,918
<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<b>39,844</b>	<b>66,405</b>	<b>106,249</b>
<b>Net Position:</b>			
Net investment in capital assets	3,657,994	6,938,546	10,596,540
Unrestricted	342,250	1,018,143	1,360,393
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,244</b>	<b>\$ 7,956,689</b>	<b>\$ 11,956,933</b>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Business-Type Activities		
	Sewer	Water	Total
Operating Revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 1,005,653	\$ 1,093,088	\$ 2,098,741
Operating Expenses:			
Payroll and personnel costs	134,103	355,440	489,543
Operating costs	617,808	435,479	1,053,287
Depreciation	223,412	328,324	551,736
Total Operating Expenses	975,323	1,119,243	2,094,566
Operating Income (Loss)	30,330	(26,155)	4,175
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):			
Interest expenses	(149,466)	(66,275)	(215,741)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(149,466)	(66,275)	(215,741)
Loss Before Transfers	(119,136)	(92,430)	(211,566)
Transfers:			
Transfers in	680,214	206,690	886,904
Transfers out	-	(10,494)	(10,494)
Total Transfers	680,214	196,196	876,410
Change in Net Position	561,078	103,766	664,844
Net Position:			
Beginning of the year	3,439,166	7,852,923	11,292,089
End of the year	\$ 4,000,244	\$ 7,956,689	\$ 11,956,933

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Business-Type Activities		
	Sewer	Water	Total
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
Receipts from user charges	\$ 980,639	\$ 1,080,052	\$ 2,060,691
Payments to employees	(120,103)	(330,939)	(451,042)
Payments to vendors	(395,146)	(480,783)	(875,929)
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	465,390	268,330	733,720
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financial Activities:			
Transfers in	680,214	206,690	886,904
Transfers out	-	(10,494)	(10,494)
Net Cash Provided By Noncapital Financing Activities	680,214	196,196	876,410
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:			
Acquisition and construction of capital assets	(9,504)	(111,299)	(120,803)
Principal repayments on long-term debt	(515,113)	(309,888)	(825,001)
Interest payments	(154,607)	(71,052)	(225,659)
Net Cash Used In Capital and Related Financing Activities	(679,224)	(492,239)	(1,171,463)
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	466,380	(27,713)	438,667
Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
Beginning of the year	389,841	1,579,811	1,969,652
End of the year	\$ 856,221	\$ 1,552,098	\$ 2,408,319
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities:			
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 30,330	\$ (26,155)	\$ 4,175
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities:			
Depreciation expense	223,412	328,324	551,736
Changes in assets, deferred outflows (inflows) of resources and liabilities:			
Receivables and other current assets	(25,014)	(13,036)	(38,050)
Warrants payable and other current liabilities	222,662	(45,304)	177,358
Accrued and deferred benefits payable	14,000	24,501	38,501
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	\$ 465,390	\$ 268,330	\$ 733,720

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2020**

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	<u>OPEB Trust</u>	<u>Agency Funds</u>
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 952,917
Investments in SRBT	<u>1,487,897</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,487,897</u>	<u>\$ 952,917</u>
Liabilities:		
Warrants and accounts payable	-	\$ 69,912
Agency liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>883,005</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 952,917</u>
Net Position:		
Restricted for other postemployment benefits	<u>1,487,897</u>	
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,487,897</u>	

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**FIDUCIARY FUNDS**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**  
**JUNE 30, 2020**

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	<u>OPEB Trust</u>
Additions:	
Employer contributions	\$ 349,809
Investment income:	
Interest and dividends	35,008
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	956
Less investment management fees	<u>(7,851)</u>
Total net investment income	<u>28,113</u>
Other income	<u>132</u>
Total Additions	<u>378,054</u>
Deductions:	
Benefits to retirees	<u>99,809</u>
Total Deductions	<u>99,809</u>
Change in Net Position	278,245
Net Position:	
Beginning of the year	<u>1,209,652</u>
End of the year	<u>\$ 1,487,897</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

# TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS

## NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

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

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

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

The Town, which is located in Worcester County, is approximately thirty-seven miles southwest of Boston and thirty miles southeast of Worcester. The Town was incorporated as a town in 1845.

The Town operates under an open town meeting form of government with a five-member elected Board of Selectmen and an appointed Town Administrator who manages the Town’s daily executive and administrative duties. Selectmen serve staggered three-year terms. The Town provides governmental services for the territory within its boundaries, including police and fire protection, public education from kindergarten to grade twelve through a regional school district, library, sewer and water services, street maintenance, parks and recreational facilities. The sewer and water services are self-funded and reported as business enterprises.

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

#### **B. Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. 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.

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

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

- 1) The total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of an individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10% of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type, and
- 2) The total assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental fund or enterprise fund are at least 5% of the corresponding element for all governmental and enterprise funds combined.

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

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

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting as are proprietary funds. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the fiscal year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider are met.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment is offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include: 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as general revenues. The effect of material interfund activity has been removed from the government-wide financial statements.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when susceptible to accrual (i.e. measurable and available). Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for interest on general long-term debt, which is recognized when payment is due, certain compensated absences, claims and judgments which are recognized when the obligations are expected to be liquidated with current expendable available resources.

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

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

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

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

Capital Investment Fund – is used to pay debt service costs of the Town. The Town is required to contribute annually 90% of the payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, monies it receives under an agreement with ANP Blackstone Energy Company LLC, a power generator. The release of funds from the capital investment fund requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds by the local legislative body at either the Annual Town Meeting or at a Special Town Meeting. Furthermore, monies may be expended from the capital investment fund for emergency purposes by a vote of the Selectmen and approval by the Director of Accounts of the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

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

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

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

The proprietary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liabilities are incurred.

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

The Town reports its sewer and water enterprise fund operations as major proprietary funds.

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

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

Agency Funds – are used to account for funds received for and paid to other funds, individuals or organizations such as those held on deposit or escrow by the Town for various purposes including planning board deposits.

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

Deposits and Investments – The Town’s cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition. The Town reports its investments at fair value. When actively quoted observable prices are not available, the Town generally uses either implied pricing from similar investments or valuation models based on net present values of estimated future cash flows (adjusted as appropriate for liquidity, credit, market and/or other risk factors).

The Town categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by GAAP. This hierarchy is based on valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset or liability. The three levels of the hierarchy are as follows:

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

The remaining investments not categorized under the fair value hierarchy as shown as being valued at either amortized cost or at net asset value (“NAV”). These are investments in nongovernmental entities for which readily determinable fair value is not available, such as member units or an ownership interest in partners’ capital to which a proportionate share of net assets is attributed. Investments at NAV are commonly calculated by subtracting the fair value of liabilities from the fair value of assets.

Receivables – Real estate and personal property taxes are assessed on January 1 every year. Bills are sent quarterly and are due on August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1, or thirty days subsequent to the mailing date. Interest accrues on delinquent taxes up to the statutory percentage rate per annum. Property taxes levied are recorded as receivables in the fiscal year of the levy.

User charges receivables represent amounts billed for sewer and water usage. Sewer and water charges are billed semi-annual and are subject to penalties and interest if not paid by the respective due date.

Real estate taxes, sewer and water user fees are secured through a lien process in the second quarter of the following fiscal year and are considered 100% collectible. Accordingly, an allowance for uncollectible accounts for these receivables is not reported. All personal property tax, excise tax and other departmental receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts, which are comprised of those outstanding amounts greater than five years old, if material.

*Inventories and Prepaid Items* – Inventories, which are not material to the basic financial statements, are considered to be expenditures at the time of purchase. Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and may be recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and governmental fund financial statements.

*Capital Assets* – Capital assets, which include land, buildings and improvements, machinery and equipment, vehicles and infrastructure (e.g. roads, sewer and water mains and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at the estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Net interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets of business-type activities, if material, is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

Capital assets (excluding land and construction in-process) are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Building and improvements	20 to 50 years
Infrastructure	20 to 50 years
Machinery and equipment	5 to 10 years
Vehicles	5 to 7 years

In the case of buildings, building improvements and infrastructure, all purchases and construction costs exceeding \$25,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition or construction if their expected lives are greater than two years. In the case of machinery, equipment and vehicles, all purchases exceeding \$5,000 are capitalized at the date of acquisition if their expected lives are greater than two years. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

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

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

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

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

Compensated Absences – The Town permits employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick-pay benefits. Amounts related to these benefits are accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental fund financial statements only if they have matured.

Long-Term Debt – Long-term debt is reported as liabilities in the government-wide and proprietary funds statement of net position. Bond premiums and discounts, in addition to issuance costs, if material, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds using the effective interest method. Bond anticipation notes payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

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

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources – In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Town reports items related to its net pension and OPEB liabilities as deferred outflows of resources in both its government-wide and business-type activities, which it expects to amortize into pension expense within the next six years.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Town reports items related to its net pension and OPEB liabilities as deferred inflows of resources in both its government-wide and business-type activities, which it expects to amortize into these personnel benefit expenses over the next five years, which will result in reductions in reported pension expense. In its governmental fund financial statements, the Town reports unavailable revenues as deferred inflows of resources within the governmental funds balance sheet. Unavailable revenues are derived from two sources – property taxes and other, which includes motor vehicle excise taxes and departmental revenues. The Town expects to recognize these items into revenue in the period(s) that these amounts become available.

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

Net position is reported as restricted when amounts are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for a specific use. Net position has been restricted for (1) state and federal grants, (2) gift and donation funds, (3) revolving funds and (4) other purposes.

*Fund Equity* – The Town presents fund balances in its governmental funds using classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent in which the Town is required to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent.

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

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

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

*Committed* represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Town's highest level of decision-making authority, which consists of the Town Meeting members through Town Meeting Votes. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Town Meeting removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (through Town Meeting Votes) it employed previously to commit those amounts.

*Assigned* represents amounts that are constrained by the Town's intent to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed. The authority for assigning fund balance is expressed by the Town Meeting, Board of Selectmen or their designee.

*Unassigned* represents amounts that have not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the Town's governmental funds, primarily its general fund.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) as they are needed. When unrestricted resources (committed, assigned and unassigned) are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use committed resources first, then assigned, and then unassigned as they are needed. The Town has not established financial policies with respect to maintaining minimum fund balance amounts.

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

	General	Capital Investment Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total
Restricted:				
General government	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 576,227	\$ 576,227
Public safety	-	-	795,778	795,778
Other purposes	-	-	197,069	197,069
Committed:				
General government	379,126	-	-	379,126
Public safety	13,827	-	-	13,827
Education	75,000	-	-	75,000
Public works	592,572	-	-	592,572
Other purposes	25,040	-	-	25,040
Subsequent year's articles	228,600	-	-	228,600
Capital investments	-	5,254,933	-	5,254,933
Assigned:				
Public works	208,395	-	-	208,395
Other purposes	201,977	-	-	201,977
Subsequent year's budget	406,067	-	-	406,067
Unassigned:				
General stabilization	3,260,353	-	-	3,260,353
Unrestricted	2,931,192	-	(451,900)	2,479,292
	<u>\$ 8,322,149</u>	<u>\$ 5,254,933</u>	<u>\$ 1,117,174</u>	<u>\$ 14,694,256</u>

Stabilization Funds – The Town maintains a general stabilization fund, which may be used for any municipal purpose upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. The balance of the fund is reported as unassigned fund balance in the general fund. The Town also maintains a capital investment fund, which is used for capital outlays and debt service purposes upon a two-thirds vote of the Town Meeting. The balance of the capital investment fund is reported as a committed fund balance in a separately reported major governmental fund.

Encumbrances – The Town's encumbrance policy regarding the general fund is to (1) classify encumbrances that arise from the issuance of purchase orders resulting from normal, approved purchasing activity as assigned, and (2) classify encumbrances that result from an action of the Town Meeting as committed. Encumbrances of funds already restricted or committed are included within the classification of those fund balances and not reported separately.

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

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, there were no instances where expenditures exceeded appropriations.

The Town incurred deficits of \$451,900 for a town hall roof construction project, which is reported in the nonmajor governmental funds. This deficit will be funded through available revenues, grant funds or bond proceeds in future fiscal years.

## **F. Use of Estimates**

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, deferred inflows and disclosure for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

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

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

A cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the balance sheet as *cash and cash equivalents*. The deposits and investments of trust funds are held separately from those of other funds.

State laws and regulations require the Town to invest funds only in preapproved investment instruments which include but are not necessarily limited to bank deposits, money markets, certificates of deposit, U.S. obligations, repurchase agreements, and State Treasurer's investment pool. In addition, the statutes impose various limitations on the amount and length of investments and deposits. Repurchase agreements cannot be for a period of over ninety days, and the underlying security must be a United States obligation. During the fiscal year, the Town did not enter into any repurchase agreements.

*Custodial Credit Risk: Deposits* – In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Town's deposits may not be returned to it. The Town does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk relative to cash holdings. At June 30, 2020, \$1,797,473 in Town deposits were uninsured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or other depository insurance and was therefore exposed to custodial credit risk.

*Custodial Credit Risk: Investments* – In the case of investments, this is the risk that in the event of the invested party not being able to provide required payments to investors, ceasing to exist, or filing of bankruptcy, the Town may not be able to recover the full amount of its principal investment and/or investment earnings. According to the Town's investment policy, the Town mitigates this risk through diversification, the prudent selection of investment instruments and choice of depository.

All of the Town's investments, while held by a counterparty, are registered in the Town's name and are therefore not exposed to custodial credit risk. Furthermore, the Town's investments are held in accounts insured by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, or SIPC, and excess SIPC.

*Fair Value Measurements: Investments* – The following table presents the Town’s investments carried at fair value on a recurring basis at June 30, 2020:

Investments by Fair Value Level	June 30, 2020	Fair Value Measurements Using		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Debt securities:				
U.S. Treasuries notes	\$ 1,604,213	\$ 1,604,213	\$ -	\$ -
U.S. Government agency obligations	1,141,069	-	1,141,069	-
Corporate fixed income	3,472,458	-	3,472,458	-
Total debt securities	6,217,740	1,604,213	4,613,527	-
Equity securities	784,252	784,252	-	-
Mutual funds	1,989	-	1,989	-
Total investments by fair value level	7,003,981	\$ 2,388,465	\$ 4,615,516	\$ -
Investments measured at NAV:				
SRBT	1,487,897			
Total investments at fair value	\$ 8,491,878			

The State Retirees Benefit Trust Fund (“SRBT”) investment is administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Pension Reserve Investment Management Board, or PRIM. The determination of the fair value of these investments is very subjective and the period-end values are reported to the System as NAV. Investments in the SRBT funds are generally more liquid than investments in private equity and real estate holdings, but generally cannot be resold to third parties. The Town may liquidate its investments in the SRBT funds at any time with less than thirty days’ notice.

*Concentration of Credit Risk: Investments* – The Town maintains a number of individual investments whose individual balances exceed 5% of the Town’s reported investment value, as illustrated in the following table:

Security Name	Amount	Concentration
		Percentage
U.S Treasury notes	\$ 1,604,213	18.9%
HCST OPEB Master Trust	1,487,897	17.5%

*Interest Rate Risk: Investments* – This is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. In general, the longer the maturity of an investment, the more sensitive it is to changes in market interest rates. According to the Town’s investment policy, the Town mitigates this risk through diversification, the prudent selection of investment instruments and choice of depository. The Town further mitigates this risk by keeping investment maturities within ten years.

At June 30, 2020, the Town had the following investment maturities:

Investments	Fair Value	Time Until Maturity (in years)		
		Less than 1	1 to 5	6 to 10
Debt securities:				
U.S. government obligations and notes	\$ 2,745,282	\$ 862,624	\$ 1,692,362	\$ 190,296
Corporate fixed income	<u>3,472,458</u>	<u>800,895</u>	<u>2,671,563</u>	<u>-</u>
Total debt securities	<u>6,217,740</u>	<u>\$ 1,663,519</u>	<u>\$ 4,363,925</u>	<u>\$ 190,296</u>
Other investments:				
Equity securities	784,252			
Mutual funds	1,989			
SRBT	<u>1,487,897</u>			
Total Investments	<u>\$ 8,491,878</u>			

*Credit Risk: Investments* – The following table summarizes the credit ratings issued by Standard and Poor’s Financial Services LLC, or S&P, for the Town’s debt securities at June 30, 2020. Credit ratings are not available for the Town’s investments in equity securities, mutual funds or the SRBT.

S&P Rating	U.S. Government Obligations	Corporate Fixed Income	Total
AAA	\$ -	\$ 654,324	\$ 654,324
AA+	2,745,282	-	2,745,282
AA-	-	847,168	847,168
A+	-	244,937	244,937
A	-	341,737	341,737
A-	-	1,096,472	1,096,472
BBB+	-	221,426	221,426
BBB	-	66,394	66,394
	<u>\$ 2,745,282</u>	<u>\$ 3,472,458</u>	<u>\$ 6,217,740</u>

**B. Receivables**

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

	<u>Gross</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Allowance for</u> <u>Uncollectibles</u>	<u>Net</u> <u>Amount</u>
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 436,938	\$ -	\$ 436,938
Tax liens	812,244	-	812,244
Excise taxes	362,584	(141,000)	221,584
Ambulance	447,028	(261,350)	185,678
Title V	<u>2,243</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,243</u>
	<u>\$ 2,061,037</u>	<u>\$ (402,350)</u>	<u>\$ 1,658,687</u>

Receivables as of year-end of the Town’s business-type funds consisted entirely of user charges. No allowances for uncollectible accounts were reported at June 30, 2020 in either the sewer or water enterprise funds.

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

	<u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Nonmajor</u> <u>Governmental</u> <u>Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Real estate and personal property taxes	\$ 277,311	\$ -	\$ 277,311
Tax liens	812,244	-	812,244
Excise taxes	221,584	-	221,584
Ambulance	<u>-</u>	<u>185,678</u>	<u>185,678</u>
	<u>\$ 1,311,139</u>	<u>\$ 185,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,496,817</u>

### C. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 was as follows:

Governmental Activities:	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 4,052,592	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,052,592
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	14,211,287	5,375	-	14,216,662
Infrastructure	17,168,236	1,187,335	-	18,355,571
Machinery and equipment	3,808,483	82,300	-	3,890,783
Vehicles	<u>1,873,361</u>	<u>345,022</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,218,383</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>37,061,367</u>	<u>1,620,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,681,399</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(6,923,343)	(324,627)	-	(7,247,970)
Infrastructure	(11,826,901)	(418,267)	-	(12,245,168)
Machinery and equipment	(2,626,407)	(216,477)	-	(2,842,884)
Vehicles	<u>(1,389,058)</u>	<u>(179,504)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,568,562)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(22,765,709)</u>	<u>(1,138,875)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,904,584)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>14,295,658</u>	<u>481,157</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,776,815</u>
Total Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 18,348,250</u>	<u>\$ 481,157</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18,829,407</u>
	Beginning			Ending
Business-Type Activities - Combined	Balances	Increases	Decreases	Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 152,506	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 152,506
Construction in-progress	<u>-</u>	<u>76,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,680</u>
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>152,506</u>	<u>76,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>229,186</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	2,344,780	-	-	2,344,780
Infrastructure	22,340,135	-	-	22,340,135
Machinery and equipment	961,018	44,123	-	1,005,141
Vehicles	<u>102,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>102,522</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>25,748,455</u>	<u>44,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,792,578</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(953,884)	(48,744)	-	(1,002,628)
Infrastructure	(8,012,198)	(454,218)	-	(8,466,416)
Machinery and equipment	(699,945)	(48,774)	-	(748,719)
Vehicles	<u>(102,522)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(102,522)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(9,768,549)</u>	<u>(551,736)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(10,320,285)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>15,979,906</u>	<u>(507,613)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,472,293</u>
Total Business-Type Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 16,132,412</u>	<u>\$ (430,933)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,701,479</u>

Business-Type Activities: Sewer	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 1,169,780	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,169,780
Infrastructure	9,549,796	-	-	9,549,796
Machinery and equipment	142,145	9,504	-	151,649
Vehicles	<u>27,522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,522</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>10,889,243</u>	<u>9,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,898,747</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(500,634)	(25,244)	-	(525,878)
Infrastructure	(2,760,712)	(194,223)	-	(2,954,935)
Machinery and equipment	(130,830)	(3,945)	-	(134,775)
Vehicles	<u>(27,522)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(27,522)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,419,698)</u>	<u>(223,412)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,643,110)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>7,469,545</u>	<u>(213,908)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,255,637</u>
Total Sewer Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 7,469,545</u>	<u>\$ (213,908)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 7,255,637</u>
Business-Type Activities: Water	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Capital assets not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 152,506	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 152,506
Construction in-progress	<u>-</u>	<u>76,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,680</u>
Total capital assets not being depreciated	<u>152,506</u>	<u>76,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>229,186</u>
Capital assets being depreciated:				
Buildings and improvements	1,175,000	-	-	1,175,000
Infrastructure	12,790,339	-	-	12,790,339
Machinery and equipment	818,873	34,619	-	853,492
Vehicles	<u>75,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>14,859,212</u>	<u>34,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,893,831</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings and improvements	(453,250)	(23,500)	-	(476,750)
Infrastructure	(5,251,486)	(259,995)	-	(5,511,481)
Machinery and equipment	(569,115)	(44,829)	-	(613,944)
Vehicles	<u>(75,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(75,000)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,348,851)</u>	<u>(328,324)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,677,175)</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>8,510,361</u>	<u>(293,705)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,216,656</u>
Total Water Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 8,662,867</u>	<u>\$ (217,025)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,445,842</u>

Depreciation expense in governmental activities was charged to functions/programs as follows:

General government	\$ 122,042
Public safety	210,463
Education	96,768
Public works	577,751
Health and human services	9,164
Culture and recreation	<u>122,687</u>
	<u>\$ 1,138,875</u>

**D. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers**

Interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 are summarized as follows:

Transfers Out	Transfers In				Total	
	General Fund	Capital Investment Fund	Sewer Fund	Water Fund		
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 2,050,604	\$ 669,720	\$ 206,690	\$ 2,927,014	(1)
Capital Investment Fund	1,454,959	-	-	-	1,454,959	(2)
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	513,338	-	-	-	513,338	(3)
Water	-	-	10,494	-	10,494	(4)
	<u>\$ 1,968,297</u>	<u>\$ 2,050,604</u>	<u>\$ 680,214</u>	<u>\$ 206,690</u>	<u>\$ 4,905,805</u>	

- (1) The Town's local governing body approved the funding of \$2,050,604 to the capital investment fund. Additionally, the general fund paid debt service for the sewer and water funds of \$669,720 and \$206,690, respectively.
- (2) Transfers to general fund to fund capital articles.
- (3) Budgeted transfers from receipts reserved funds of \$400,000. Additionally, the Town closed a number of special revenue funds to the general fund.
- (4) The water enterprise paid the OPEB costs of the sewer enterprise.

**E. Temporary Debt**

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

Current Operating Costs – Prior to the collection of revenues, expenditures may be financed through the issuance of revenue or tax anticipation notes.

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

Temporary notes are general obligations of the Town and carry maturity dates that are limited by state law. Temporary notes activity for fiscal year 2020 was as follows:

Type	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
BAN	2.45%	matured	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ (500,000)	\$ -
BAN	1.80%	9/11/2020	-	481,480	-	481,480
			<u>\$ 500,000</u>	<u>\$ 481,480</u>	<u>\$ (500,000)</u>	<u>\$ 481,480</u>

The BAN was issued to finance municipal building complex repairs.

## F. Long-Term Obligations

The Town issues general obligation bonds and notes as well as capital leases to provide funds for the acquisition and construction of major capital facilities. General obligation bonds and notes have been issued for both governmental and business-type activities. Additionally, the Town incurs various other long-term obligations relative to associated personnel costs.

The following reflects the current year activity in the Town's long-term liability:

Description of Issue	Beginning Balances	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balances	Due Within One Year
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General obligation bonds	\$ 605,000	\$ -	\$ (155,000)	\$ 450,000	\$ 155,000
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	4,147	-	(4,147)	-	-
Capital lease obligations	251,655	-	(87,233)	164,422	91,974
Compensated absences	471,274	10,111	(15,276)	466,109	93,222
Net OPEB liability	3,087,189	1,448,450	(1,205,250)	3,330,389	-
Net pension liability	10,991,935	3,502,763	(3,195,101)	11,299,597	-
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 15,411,200</u>	<u>\$ 4,961,324</u>	<u>\$ (4,662,007)</u>	<u>\$ 15,710,517</u>	<u>\$ 340,196</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities:</i>					
<i>Sewer</i>					
General obligation bonds	\$ 1,951,000	\$ -	\$ (398,000)	\$ 1,553,000	\$ 398,000
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	2,161,756	-	(117,113)	2,044,643	117,113
Compensated absences	14,053	66	-	14,119	2,824
Net OPEB liability	100,669	47,233	(39,302)	108,600	-
Net pension liability	358,433	114,220	(104,188)	368,465	-
Total Business-Type Activities: Sewer	<u>4,585,911</u>	<u>161,519</u>	<u>(658,603)</u>	<u>4,088,827</u>	<u>517,937</u>
<i>Water</i>					
General obligation bonds	849,000	-	(237,000)	612,000	227,000
Notes from direct borrowings and placements	1,000,317	-	(72,888)	927,429	72,888
Compensated absences	23,165	1,278	-	24,443	4,889
Net OPEB liability	167,782	78,720	(65,503)	180,999	-
Net pension liability	597,388	190,368	(173,647)	614,109	-
Total Business-Type Activities: Water	<u>2,637,652</u>	<u>270,366</u>	<u>(549,038)</u>	<u>2,358,980</u>	<u>304,777</u>
Total Business-Type Activities	<u>\$ 7,223,563</u>	<u>\$ 431,885</u>	<u>\$ (1,207,641)</u>	<u>\$ 6,447,807</u>	<u>\$ 822,714</u>

Long-term general obligation bonds and notes outstanding at June 30, 2020 are as follows:

Description	Interest Rate	Beginning Balance	Additions	Retirements	Ending Balance
<i>Governmental Activities:</i>					
General obligation bonds	2.00 - 5.00%	\$ 605,000	\$ -	\$ (155,000)	\$ 450,000
MCWT note	0.00%	4,147	-	(4,147)	-
Total Governmental Activities, net		<u>\$ 609,147</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (159,147)</u>	<u>\$ 450,000</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Sewer:</i>					
General obligation bonds	3.25 - 5.00%	\$ 1,951,000	\$ -	\$ (398,000)	\$ 1,553,000
USDA notes	4.15 - 4.25%	2,161,756	-	(117,113)	2,044,643
Total Business-Type Activities: Sewer		<u>4,112,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(515,113)</u>	<u>3,597,643</u>
<i>Business-Type Activities - Water:</i>					
General obligation bonds	2.00 - 5.50%	\$ 849,000	\$ -	\$ (237,000)	\$ 612,000
USDA notes	4.75 - 5.00%	1,000,317	-	(72,888)	927,429
Total Business-Type Activities: Water		<u>1,849,317</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(309,888)</u>	<u>1,539,429</u>
Total Business-Type Activities		<u>\$ 5,962,073</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (825,001)</u>	<u>\$ 5,137,072</u>

Debt service requirements on long-term debt at June 30, 2020 are as follows:

Year Ended June 30,	Governmental Activities			
	General Obligation Bonds			
	Principal	Interest		
2021	\$ 155,000	\$ 16,458		
2022	150,000	9,825		
2023	145,000	3,262		
	<u>\$ 450,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,545</u>		
Year Ended June 30,	Business-Type Activities: Combined			
	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2021	\$ 625,000	\$ 66,344	\$ 190,001	\$ 131,150
2022	475,000	47,640	190,001	122,637
2023	475,000	30,101	190,001	114,125
2024	405,000	14,450	190,001	105,615
2025	185,000	3,700	190,001	97,103
2026 - 2030	-	-	949,967	357,831
2031 - 2035	-	-	428,675	189,269
2036 - 2040	-	-	371,370	104,672
2041 - 2045	-	-	272,055	33,662
	<u>\$ 2,165,000</u>	<u>\$ 162,235</u>	<u>\$ 2,972,072</u>	<u>\$ 1,256,064</u>

Business-Type Activities: Sewer				
Year Ended June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2021	\$ 398,000	\$ 52,247	\$ 117,113	\$ 85,198
2022	335,000	39,520	117,113	80,287
2023	335,000	26,163	117,113	75,378
2024	300,000	13,400	117,113	70,469
2025	185,000	3,700	117,113	65,560
2026 - 2030	-	-	585,543	254,156
2031 - 2035	-	-	329,375	149,558
2036 - 2040	-	-	272,105	89,785
2041 - 2045	-	-	272,055	33,662
	<u>\$ 1,553,000</u>	<u>\$ 135,030</u>	<u>\$ 2,044,643</u>	<u>\$ 904,053</u>

Business-Type Activities: Water				
Year Ended June 30,	General Obligation Bonds		Direct Borrowings and Placements	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2021	\$ 227,000	\$ 14,097	\$ 72,888	\$ 45,952
2022	140,000	8,120	72,888	42,350
2023	140,000	3,938	72,888	38,747
2024	105,000	1,050	72,888	35,146
2025	-	-	72,888	31,543
2026 - 2030	-	-	364,424	103,675
2031 - 2035	-	-	99,300	39,711
2036 - 2040	-	-	99,265	14,887
2041 - 2045	-	-	-	-
	<u>\$ 612,000</u>	<u>\$ 27,205</u>	<u>\$ 927,429</u>	<u>\$ 352,011</u>

Authorized and Unissued Debt – At June 30, 2020, the Town had the following authorized and unissued deb:

Project	Amounts
Building upgrades	\$ 275,000
Water treatment plant	5,000,000
	<u>\$ 5,275,000</u>

## G. Capital Lease Obligations

The Town is party to noncancellable leases for the purchase of three police cars and HVAC systems. For financial reporting purposes, these leases are accounted for as capital leases. The future minimum lease payments on these capital lease obligations and the net present value of these minimum lease payments as of June 30, 2020 are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ended June 30,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2021	\$ 99,661
2022	38,241
2023	<u>38,241</u>
Total minimum lease payments	176,143
Less amount representing interest	<u>(11,721)</u>
Present value of minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 164,422</u>

Assets acquired with capital leases were as follows at June 30, 2020:

<u>Asset Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police cars	\$ 173,244
HVAC system	601,276
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(187,260)</u>
Net carrying value	<u>\$ 587,260</u>

## G. PILOT Program

ANP Blackstone Energy Company LLC (“ANP”) is a power generation company located in the Town. PILOT agreements between municipalities and power providers are permitted under the provisions of the electric deregulation legislation enacted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1997. ANP and the Town entered into a PILOT agreement effective July 1, 2006. Under the terms of the PILOT agreement, ANP is required to make quarterly payments to the Town in lieu of property taxes for a period of fourteen consecutive years.

The PILOT payments cannot be reduced on account of depreciation; however, the PILOT payments are increased for inflation. Furthermore, the annual PILOT payment may be adjusted if ANP makes any capital improvements to its facilities or retires any property from its facilities subsequent to July 1, 2006. The adjustment to the PILOT will be determined in accordance with the provisions of the agreement at a rate of \$15.47 per \$1,000.

In fiscal year 2020, the Town received \$2,278,449 from ANP in PILOT payments, which is reported as property taxes in these basic financial statements.

This PILOT agreement expired on June 30, 2020 and was renewed for another ten-year term through an October 2, 2019 agreement between the parties. Under the terms of the new PILOT agreement, which will commence effective July 1, 2020 (fiscal year 2021), ANP agreed to make PILOT payments in the annualized amount of \$2,700,000 plus annual growth. The first payment under this new agreement is due August 1, 2020 and the final payment is due August 1, 2030.

### III. Other Information

#### A. Retirement System

Pension Plan Description – The Town contributes to the Worcester Regional Retirement System (the “Retirement System”), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The Retirement System was established under Chapter 32 of Massachusetts General Laws (“MGL”). The Retirement System is administered by the Worcester Regional Retirement Board (the “Retirement Board”). Stand-alone financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 were issued and are available by submitting a request to the Retirement System at 23 Midstate Drive, Suite 106, Auburn, Massachusetts 01501.

Current membership in the Retirement System for all ninety-nine employers as of December 31, 2019 was as follows:

Active members	7,024
Inactive members entitled to, but not receiving benefits	2,247
Inactive members (or beneficiaries) currently receiving benefits	<u>3,802</u>
	<u>13,073</u>

Benefit Terms – Membership in the Retirement System is mandatory for all full-time employees and nonseasonal, part-time employees who, in general, regularly work more than twenty hours per week. Members of the Retirement System do not participate in the federal Social Security retirement system.

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

The most common benefits paid by the Retirement System include normal retirement, disability retirement and survivor benefits.

Normal retirement generally occurs at age 65. However, participants may retire after twenty years of service or at any time after attaining age 55, if hired prior to April 2, 2012 or at any time after attaining age 60 if hired on or after April 2, 2012. Participants with hire dates subsequent to January 1, 1978 must have a minimum of ten years’ creditable service in order to retire at age 55. Participants become vested after ten years of service. Benefits commencing before age 65 are provided at a reduced rate. Members working in certain occupations may retire with full benefits earlier than age 65.

Ordinary disability retirement is where a participant is permanently incapacitated from a cause unrelated to employment. Accidental disability retirement is where the disability is the result of an injury or illness received or aggravated in the performance of duty. The amount of benefits to be received in such cases is dependent upon several factors, including the age at which the disability retirement occurs, the years of service, average compensation and veteran status.

Survivor benefits are extended to eligible beneficiaries of participants whose death occurs prior to or following retirement.

Cost-of-living adjustments granted to members of Massachusetts retirement systems granted between 1981 and 1997 and any increases in other benefits imposed by the Commonwealth during those years have been the financial responsibility of the Commonwealth. Beginning in 1998, the funding of cost-of-living amounts became the responsibility of the participating units like the Retirement System.

The Retirement System may be amended or terminated in whole or in part at any time by the Massachusetts Legislature, provided that no such modification, amendment or termination shall be made that would deprive a current member of superannuation pension rights or benefits provided under applicable laws of Massachusetts, if such member has paid the stipulated contributions specified in sections or provisions of such laws. There were no significant changes to the Retirement System's benefit terms in calendar year 2019.

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

The Town contributed \$840,143 to the Retirement System in fiscal year 2020, which equaled the actuarially determined contribution requirement for the fiscal year. The Town's contributions as a percentage of covered payroll was approximately 22% in fiscal year 2020.

Net Pension Liability – At June 30, 2020, the Town reported a liability of \$12,282,171 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of January 1, 2018 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. These figures were updated by the independent actuary to December 31, 2019. There were no material changes to the Retirement System's benefit terms since the actuarial valuation. The Retirement System changed several actuarial assumptions used in the latest valuation update; the most notable assumption change was a reduction in the discount rate to 7.65% from 7.75%.

The Town's proportion of the net pension liability is based on a projection of the Town's long-term share of contributions to the Retirement System relative to the projected contributions of all employers. The Town's proportion was approximately 1.38% at December 31, 2019 and 1.32% at December 31, 2018.

Fiduciary Net Position – The elements of the Retirement System's basic financial statements (that is, all information about the Retirement System's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fiduciary net position) can be found in the Retirement System's full financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, which can be obtained by contacting the Retirement Board.

The Retirement System's fiduciary net position was determined using the accrual basis of accounting. The Retirement System's accounting records are maintained on a calendar-year basis in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, or PERAC. Contributions from employers and employees are recognized in the period in which they become due pursuant to formal

commitments, statutory or contractual requirements. Benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recorded when incurred, regardless of the timing of payment. Investments are reported at fair value; fair value is determined as the price one would receive in an orderly transaction between market participants at a measurement date.

Pension Expense – The Town recognized \$1,281,078 in pension expense in the statement of activities in fiscal year 2020.

Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources – At June 30, 2020, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 36,067	\$ 73,587
Changes of assumptions	686,476	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	337,350
Changes in proportion and differences between Town contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>820,861</u>	<u>438,024</u>
	<u>\$ 1,543,404</u>	<u>\$ 848,961</u>

The net deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are expected to be recognized as a benefit in the Town’s pension expense (benefit) as follows:

<u>Year Ended June 30,</u>	
2021	\$ 18,758
2022	342,761
2023	268,517
2024	(44,231)
2025	<u>108,638</u>
	<u>\$ 694,443</u>

Actuarial Valuation – The measurement of the Retirement System’s total pension liability is developed by an independent actuary. The latest actuarial valuation was performed as of January 1, 2018. The significant actuarial assumptions used in the actuarial valuation included:

Inflation:	2.4% per year
Amortization method:	Payment increases 4.0% per year
Remaining amortization period:	17 years, except for 2002 and 2003 ERI (10 years) and 2010 ERI (4 years)
Asset valuation method:	Market value
Salary increases:	Group 1: 4.25%-6.00%, based on service Group 4: 4.75%-7.00%, based on service
Investment rate of return:	7.65%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation (previously 7.75%)

Mortality rates: Based on the RP-2000 Mortality Table (base year 2009) with full generational mortality improvement using Scale BB

Disabled life mortality: For disabled lives, the mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Mortality Table (base year 2012) with full generational mortality improvement using Scale BB

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 returns (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in the Retirement System’s target allocation as of December 31, 2019 are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return
Global equity	39%	4.68%
Fixed income	23%	1.90%
Private equity	13%	8.50%
Real estate	10%	3.70%
Timber/natural resources	4%	4.30%
Hedge funds	11%	3.40%

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.65%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed plan member contributions were made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made in accordance with Sections 22D and 22F of Chapter 32 of MGL. Based on those assumptions, the Retirement System’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity Analysis – The following presents the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current discount rate of 7.65% as well as the Town’s proportionate share of the net pension liability using a discount rate that is 1% or higher than the current rate:

Current Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability At		
	1% Decrease	Current Rate	1% Increase
7.65%	\$ 14,987,447	\$ 12,282,171	\$ 9,997,643

**B. Other Postemployment Benefits**

The Town administers a single-employer defined benefit healthcare plan (the “OPEB Plan”). The OPEB Plan provides health and life insurance benefits (other postemployment benefits) to current and future retirees, their dependents and beneficiaries in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 32B of MGL.

Specific benefit provisions and contribution rates are established by collective bargaining agreements, state law and Town ordinance. All benefits are provided through the Town’s premium-based insurance program. The OPEB Plan does not issue a stand-alone financial report and is presented as a fiduciary fund in the Town’s financial statements. OPEB Plan disclosures can be found in this footnote disclosure.

Employees Covered by Benefit Terms – The following employees were covered by the benefit terms as of June 30, 2020:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries receiving benefits	12
Active employees	<u>69</u>
	<u>81</u>

Contributions – The contribution requirements of OPEB Plan members and the Town are established and may be amended by the Town. Retirees contribute 50% of the calculated health insurance contribution and 100% of the cost of life insurance. The remainder of the cost is funded by the Town. The Town currently contributes enough money to the OPEB Plan to satisfy current obligations on a pay-as-you-go basis plus additional contributions in varying amounts annually. The costs of administering the OPEB Plan are paid by the Town. For the year ended June 30, 2020, the Town’s average contribution rate was approximately 7% of covered payroll.

Net OPEB Liability – The Town’s net OPEB liability was determined using an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2018 and a measurement date of June 30, 2020. The components of the net OPEB liability of the Town at June 30, 2020 were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 5,107,885
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>(1,487,897)</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 3,619,988</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	29.1%

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

Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Contributions	Annual Town contributions of \$250,000
Inflation	2.4% (previously 2.6%)
Investment rate of return	7.3%, compounded annually, net of fees
Discount rate	7.3%, compounded annually, net of fees (previously 7.5%)
Healthcare cost trend rates	8.0% for 2018, decreasing 0.5% per year to an ultimate rate of 3.9% in 2075
Pre-retirement Mortality	RP-2000 Employees Mortality Table, base year 2009, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale BB.
Post-retirement Mortality	RP-2000 Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, base year 2009, projected with generational mortality improvement using scale BB

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rates of Return
Global equity	39%	4.68%
Core fixed income	15%	0.59%
Value-added fixed income	8%	4.40%
Private equity	13%	8.50%
Real estate	10%	3.70%
Timberland	4%	4.30%
Portfolio completion strategies	11%	3.40%

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.3%, which represents the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB Plan investments to the extent that the OPEB Plan’s assets are sufficient to pay benefits; and a tax-exempt, high-quality municipal bond rate to the extent that the conditions for use of the long-term expected rate of return are not met.

Changes in the Net OPEB Liability – The following table summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the year ended June 30, 2020:

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB	Plan Fiduciary	Net OPEB
	Liability	Net Position	Liability
	(a)	(b)	(a) - (b)
Balances at June 30, 2019	\$ 4,565,292	\$ 1,209,652	\$ 3,355,640
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	220,181	-	220,181
Interest	355,168	-	355,168
Changes in benefit terms	(120,825)	-	(120,825)
Changes in assumptions	187,878	-	187,878
Employer contributions	-	349,809	(349,809)
Net investment income	-	28,245	(28,245)
Benefit payments	(99,809)	(99,809)	-
Net changes	<u>542,593</u>	<u>278,245</u>	<u>264,348</u>
Balances at June 30, 2020	<u>\$ 5,107,885</u>	<u>\$ 1,487,897</u>	<u>\$ 3,619,988</u>

Sensitivity Analyses – The following presents the Town’s net OPEB liability as well as what the Town’s net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1.0% lower and higher than the current discount rate:

Current Discount Rate	Net Pension Liability At		
	1% Decrease	Current Rate	1% Increase
7.30%	\$ 4,570,010	\$ 3,619,988	\$ 2,872,242

The following presents the Town’s net OPEB liability as well as what the Town’s net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1.0% lower and higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

Current Trend Rate	Net Pension Liability At		
	1% Decrease	Current Rate	1% Increase
8% Year 1 Decreasing to 3.9%	\$ 2,703,773	\$ 3,619,988	\$ 4,831,938

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB – For the year ended June 30, 2020, the Town recognized OPEB expense of \$373,333. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB at June 30, 2020 were reported as follows:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 479,146
Changes of assumptions	604,853	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB Plan investments	<u>66,527</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 671,380</u>	<u>\$ 479,146</u>

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

<u>Year Ended June 30,</u>	
2021	\$ 26,669
2022	26,669
2023	31,869
2024	27,456
2025	11,534
Thereafter	<u>68,037</u>
	<u>\$ 192,234</u>

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

Investment Policy – The OPEB Plan does not have a formal investment policy at this time. The OPEB Plan invests its funds in permissible investments as stipulated by the Commonwealth.

Investment Rate of Return – For the year ended June 30, 2020, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was approximately 1.96%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

### C. Risk Financing

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft, damage, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; natural disasters; and various employee benefits including health, worker's compensation, and unemployment compensation. The Town essentially transfers its risk through payment of its annual assessment, which is adjusted according to the Town's experience history. All insurance except is carried through conventional, commercial carriers. The amount of claim settlements has not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the previous three years.

### D. Commitments and Contingencies

General – The Town is party to certain legal claims, which are subject to many uncertainties, and the outcome of individual litigation matters is not always predictable with assurance. Although the amount of liability at June 30, 2020, cannot be determined, management believes that any resulting liability, if any, should not materially affect the basic financial statements of the Town at June 30, 2020.

Appellate Tax Board – The Town has pending cases filed with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (“ATB”). The Town cannot estimate at this time the amount of previously assessed property taxes (and interest) that may be refunded to these taxpayers, if any. Furthermore, the Town cannot determine the likelihood of the taxpayers' success at the ATB. Therefore, no such loss provision has been made in the Town's basic financial statements.

Grant Compliance – Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal and state governments. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The Town expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Arbitrage – The Town is subject to certain Federal arbitrage laws in accordance with long-term borrowing agreements. Failure to comply with the rules could result in the payment of penalties. The Town expects the amount if any, in these situations, to be immaterial.

COVID-19 – In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the breakout of the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) a pandemic. Resulting in travel restrictions, business closures and disruptions to municipal operations negatively affecting the Town's financial condition in a variety of ways. While this disruption is currently believed to be temporary, there is uncertainty around its duration.

Currently, the Commonwealth has committed to level-fund fiscal year 2021 state aid; however, the Commonwealth has not yet approved its fiscal year 2021 budget, which adds a level of uncertainty to this earlier commitment. While the Town expects that this matter may negatively impact its fiscal year 2021 results of operations and financial position, the related financial impact cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

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

##### **A. Current Year Implementations**

None.

##### **B. Future Year Implementations**

In January 2017, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. The objective of the Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how these activities should be reported. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019 (fiscal year 2021). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In June 2017, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 87, *Leases*. This Statement redefines the manner in which long-term leases are accounted and reported. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021 (fiscal year 2022). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In June 2018, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred Before the End of a Construction Period*. This statement establishes accounting requirements for interest costs incurred before the end of a construction period. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2020 (fiscal year 2022). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In August 2018, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interest – An Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 61*. The objective of this Statement is to improve the consistency and comparability of reporting a government's majority equity interest in a legally separate organization and to improve the relevance of financial statement information for certain component units. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019 (fiscal year 2021). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In May 2019, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*. The objective of this Statement is to standardize the reporting of conduit debt obligations by issuers by clarifying the existing definition of conduit debt obligation, among other matters. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2021 (fiscal year 2023). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In March 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*. The objective of this Statement is to address accounting and financial reporting implications that result from the replacement of an interbank offered rate. As amended, the provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021 (fiscal year 2023). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In March 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*. The objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issued related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022 (fiscal year 2024). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In May 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*. The objective of this Statement is to address accounting for subscription-based information technology arrangements to government end users based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, as amended. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2022 (fiscal year 2024). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

In June 2020, the GASB issued GASB Statement No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans – An Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 84, and a Supersession of GASB Statement No. 32*. The objective of this Statement is to (1) increase consistency and comparability related to the reporting of fiduciary component units in circumstances in which a potential component unit does not have a governing board and the primary government performs the duties that a governing board typically would perform; (2) mitigate costs associated with the reporting of certain defined contribution pension plans, defined contribution OPEB plans, and employee benefit plans other than pension plans or OPEB plans (other employee benefit plans) as fiduciary component units in fiduciary fund financial statements; and (3) enhance the relevance, consistency, and comparability of the accounting and financial reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 deferred compensation plans that meet the definition of a pension plan and for benefits provided through those plans. The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2021 (fiscal year 2023). The Town is currently evaluating whether adoption will have a material impact on the financial statements.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
PENSION PLAN**

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

*(dollar amounts are in thousands)*

Year Ended June 30,	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2020	1.380%	\$ 12,282	\$ 3,806	322.7%	47.4%
2019	1.318%	11,948	4,022	297.1%	43.1%
2018	1.320%	10,736	3,862	278.0%	46.4%
2017	1.200%	10,083	3,730	270.3%	42.0%
2016	1.200%	8,521	3,312	257.3%	44.5%
2015	1.660%	9,865	3,185	309.7%	47.9%

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

*(dollar amounts are in thousands)*

Year Ended June 30,	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2020	\$ 840	\$ 840	\$ -	\$ 3,806	22.1%
2019	734	734	-	4,022	18.2%
2018	666	666	-	3,862	17.2%
2017	584	584	-	3,730	15.7%
2016	540	540	-	3,312	16.3%
2015	655	655	-	3,185	20.6%

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

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PLAN**

**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN NET OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS**

	Year Ended June 30,			
	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total OPEB Liability:				
Service cost	\$ 220,181	\$ 195,449	\$ 187,932	\$ 180,704
Interest	355,168	324,648	292,512	261,970
Changes in benefit terms	(120,825)	-	-	-
Differences between actual and expected experience	-	(580,232)	-	-
Changes in assumptions	187,878	524,763	-	-
Benefit payments	(99,809)	(65,050)	(53,912)	(31,436)
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	542,593	399,578	426,532	411,238
Total OPEB Liability:				
Beginning of year	4,565,292	4,165,714	3,739,182	3,327,944
End of year (a)	\$ 5,107,885	\$ 4,565,292	\$ 4,165,714	\$ 3,739,182
Plan Fiduciary Net Position:				
Contributions	\$ 349,809	\$ 315,050	\$ 303,912	\$ 281,436
Net investment income	28,245	60,878	78,173	58,003
Benefit payments	(99,809)	(65,050)	(53,912)	(31,436)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	278,245	310,878	328,173	308,003
Plan Fiduciary Net Position:				
Beginning of year	1,209,652	898,774	570,601	262,598
End of year (b)	\$ 1,487,897	\$ 1,209,652	\$ 898,774	\$ 570,601
Net OPEB Liability — End of Year	\$ 3,619,988	\$ 3,355,640	\$ 3,266,940	\$ 3,168,581
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	29.13%	26.50%	21.58%	15.26%
Covered payroll	\$ 4,945,245	\$ 4,554,444	\$ 3,979,614	\$ 3,700,975
Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	73.20%	73.68%	82.09%	85.61%

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

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS PLAN**

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

	Year Ended June 30,			
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 434,247	\$ 402,438	\$ 378,151	\$ 434,893
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>(349,809)</u>	<u>(315,050)</u>	<u>(303,912)</u>	<u>(281,436)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ 84,438</u>	<u>\$ 87,388</u>	<u>\$ 74,239</u>	<u>\$ 153,457</u>
Covered payroll	\$ 4,945,245	\$ 4,554,444	\$ 3,979,614	\$ 3,700,975
Contribution as a percentage of covered payroll	7.07%	6.92%	7.64%	7.60%

Notes to Schedule:

Valuation date	July 1, 2018
Asset valuation method	Market value of the assets as of the reporting date
Actuarial cost method	Individual entry age normal
Inflation	2.40% per annum
Investment rate of return	7.3% compounded annually, net of fees
Municipal bond rate	2.21% as of June 30, 2020
Single equivalent discount rate	7.3% compounded annually, net of fees
Healthcare cost trend rates	8.0% for 2018, decreasing 0.5% per year to 5.5%; grading down to an ultimate trend rate of 3.9% in 2075
Pre-retirement mortality	RP-2000 Employees Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale BB and a base year 2009
Post-retirement mortality	RP-2000 Health Annuitant Mortality Table projected generationally with Scale BB and a base year 2009

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS**

	Year Ended June 30,			
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Annual money-weighted rate of return, net of investment expenses	1.96%	5.50%	9.79%	12.37%

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

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Budgetary Amounts	Encumbrances	Actual Budgetary Adjusted	Positive (Negative) Variance
	Original Budget	Final Budget				
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Property taxes, net of tax refunds	\$ 19,279,060	\$ 19,279,060	\$ 19,249,878		\$ 19,249,878	\$ (29,182)
Intergovernmental	1,730,502	1,730,502	1,828,736		1,828,736	98,234
Motor vehicle and other excise taxes	1,190,000	1,190,000	1,295,427		1,295,427	105,427
Licenses and permits	175,000	175,000	376,873		376,873	201,873
Penalties and interest on taxes	100,000	100,000	234,679		234,679	134,679
Fines and forfeitures	35,000	35,000	32,615		32,615	(2,385)
Departmental and other revenues	207,000	207,000	174,699		174,699	(32,301)
Investment income	8,000	8,000	13,357		13,357	5,357
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>22,724,562</b>	<b>22,724,562</b>	<b>23,206,264</b>		<b>23,206,264</b>	<b>481,702</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
General government	3,028,481	3,007,973	2,249,325	\$ 462,337	2,711,662	296,311
Public safety	3,585,380	3,582,375	3,346,262	35,392	3,381,654	200,721
Education	11,243,942	11,328,942	11,250,111	75,000	11,325,111	3,831
Public works	3,363,223	3,389,462	2,571,589	800,967	3,372,556	16,906
Health and human services	480,538	490,438	433,210	26,880	460,090	30,348
Culture and recreation	744,050	735,750	610,677	51,435	662,112	73,638
Pension and fringe benefits	1,815,982	1,797,982	1,595,624	43,926	1,639,550	158,432
State and county charges	46,712	46,712	46,712	-	46,712	-
Debt service	1,075,813	1,071,088	1,070,815	-	1,070,815	273
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>25,384,121</b>	<b>25,450,722</b>	<b>23,174,325</b>	<b>\$ 1,495,937</b>	<b>24,670,262</b>	<b>780,460</b>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>						
Transfers in	1,929,273	1,929,273	2,039,882		2,039,882	110,609
Transfers out	(2,329,270)	(2,329,270)	(2,295,471)		(2,295,471)	33,799
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>	<b>(399,997)</b>	<b>(399,997)</b>	<b>(255,589)</b>		<b>(255,589)</b>	<b>144,408</b>
<b>(Deficiency) Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>(3,059,556)</b>	<b>(3,126,157)</b>	<b>\$ (223,650)</b>		<b>\$ (1,719,587)</b>	<b>\$ 1,406,570</b>
<b>Other Budgetary Items:</b>						
Prior year encumbrances	2,069,162	2,069,162				
Free cash	990,394	1,056,995				
<b>Total Other Budgetary Items</b>	<b>3,059,556</b>	<b>3,126,157</b>				
<b>Net Budget</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>				

See notes to required supplementary information.

See accompanying independent auditors' report.

**TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020**

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An annual budget is legally adopted for the general fund. Financial orders are initiated by the Town Administrator, recommended by the Town Finance Committee and approved at the Annual Town Meeting each spring. At the close of each fiscal year, unencumbered appropriation balances lapse and revert to unassigned fund balance.

The Town’s general fund is prepared using the Uniform Municipal Accounting System basis of accounting as prescribed by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, which is not GAAP. The “actual” results column of the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Equity – Budgetary Basis is presented on a budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison with the budget. A complete reconciliation is provided below:

	Basis of Accounting Differences	Fund Perspective Differences	Total
Revenues — Budgetary Basis			\$ 23,206,264
Revenue recognition	\$ 101,497	\$ -	101,497
Stabilization revenue	-	75,757	75,757
Revenues — GAAP Basis	<u>\$ 101,497</u>	<u>\$ 75,757</u>	<u>\$ 23,383,518</u>
Expenditures — Budgetary Basis			\$ 23,174,325
OPEB transfer recognition	\$ -	\$ 229,550	229,550
Debt service transfers	-	(876,410)	(876,410)
Enterprise funds indirect costs	(71,514)	-	(71,514)
Expenditures — GAAP Basis	<u>\$ (71,514)</u>	<u>\$ (646,860)</u>	<u>\$ 22,455,951</u>
Net Transfers and Other Sources — Budgetary Basis			\$ (255,589)
OPEB transfer recognition	\$ -	\$ 229,550	229,550
Stabilization transfers	-	15,317	15,317
Revenue recognition	(71)	-	(71)
Debt service transfers	-	(876,410)	(876,410)
Enterprise funds indirect costs	(71,514)	-	(71,514)
Net Transfers and Other Sources — GAAP Basis	<u>\$ (71,585)</u>	<u>\$ (631,543)</u>	<u>\$ (958,717)</u>



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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**

The Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen  
Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts (the "Town"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 27, 2020.

**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) to determine the 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 first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or, significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town's financial statements are free of 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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roselli, Clark & Associates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roselli, Clark & Associates  
Certified Public Accountants  
Woburn, Massachusetts  
October 27, 2020