

## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH 63 MAIN STREET SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM NORTHBOROUGH, MA 01532

## **APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

MEETING AGENDA March 8, 2023 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Approval of Minutes
  - February 22, 2023
- 2. <u>Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School FY2024 Budget</u> Presentation
- 3. Police Department FY2024 Budget Presentation
- 4. <u>Planning Director Project Update on Downtown Revitalization,</u> Economic Development and MBTA Zoning
- 5. Next Meeting March 15, 2023
- 6. Any other business to come before the Committee



### APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
63 Main Street
Selectmen's Meeting Room
February 22, 2023
6:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Brenckle

Janice Hight
Tim Kaelin
Rick Nieber
Tony Poteete

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert D'Amico

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 15, 2022 MEETING

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to approve the February 15, 2023 meeting minutes; Mr. Nieber seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

#### K-8 SCHOOLS FY2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION

School Superintendent Greg Martineau presented the K-8 Schools FY2024 Budget, which was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting.

## Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 Budget Goals:

- Recruit, maintain, and support high quality staff:
  - Create a math interventionist position at each elementary school
  - Create health educator positions at the elementary level
  - Re-establish a fifth-grade strings program
  - Create a K-8 maintenance and grounds position
  - Add a special education team chairperson for elementary and middle school levels
  - Increase instructional technology specialists and technology support to create a daily presence at all elementary and middle schools
- ➤ Maintain and improve the District's capital assets:
  - Fund the technology replacement cycle for students and staff
  - Maintain and improve technology assets and infrastructure in classrooms
  - Fund the Fiscal Year 2024-2029 Facilities Capital Plan
  - Implement and expand safety and security measures within school buildings
  - Create and maintain outdoor learning space
- Meet the needs of all learners:
  - Provide updated and evidenced-based mathematics curriculum for middle school
  - Provide updated and evidenced-based ELA curriculum for elementary schools
  - Support class student/teacher ratios in accordance with the Class Size policy I-240.
  - Support culturally responsive classroom practices

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 budget process and the recommended budget increase. The Northborough K-8 School Budget is primarily a level service budget recommended to increase \$1,308,274 or 4.90% to \$28,001,227. He noted that the School Committee voted to recommend the budget on February 1<sup>st</sup> with a budget hearing scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the FY2024 budget includes the following:

•	Out of District & Collaborative Tuitions	\$	389,999
•	Transportation – Special Education	\$	154,852
•	Salary Increases & COLAs	\$	632.519
•	Electricity & Heating	\$	135,500
•	Substitutes – Teachers, Nurses & LOAs	\$	62,850
		\$1	,377,720

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the FY2024 Budget includes the following reductions:

•	Circuit Breaker Tuition Offsets	(\$1,350,309)
•	Circuit Breaker Transportation Offsets	(\$ 110,516)
•	Potential Retirements & LOAs	(\$ 221,189)
•	Salary Increases & COLAs	(\$ 164,154)
•	Reduction of Positions	(\$ 57,113)
•	ESSER III Funds	(\$ 164,520)
•	Special Education Budget Adjustments	(\$ 634,136)
•	Facility Rental Revolving Funds	( <u>\$ 25,000</u> )
		(\$2,726,937)

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the impact of the reductions are as follows:

- Reduction of 2 positions
- Utilization of FY2024 Circuit Breaker funds may impact FY2025 Special Education budget
- Utilization of ESSER III will amend original, approved plan
- Utilization of IDEA Special Education grant for transportation will reduce amount available for other needs
- Utilization of Facility Rental Revolving Account will reduce amount available for emergency facility needs
- Enrollment numbers are subject to change based on new students
- Level Service Budget does not allow for any unforeseen expenditures

Superintendent Martineau noted that the original budget request was a 15% increase. In terms of budget drivers he indicated that approximately half of the 4.9% increase was due to Special Education increases, which the district does not control. He indicated that SPED out of district tuition costs are up \$389,999, or 14% due to the State approved increases.

Mr. Poteete asked for a breakdown of what the increase would be without the SPED costs. Superintendent Martineau indicated that the budget increase if \$1,308,274 - \$389,999 (SPED increase) = \$918,275, which would be a 3.44% increase.

Mr. Brenckle commented that enrollment continues to decline and is dropping 5%, but the budget goes up, which results in a rising cost per pupil each year. Superintendent Martineau responded that the needs following the pandemic are greater and that enrollment has plateaued and is forecast to increase in the next five years.

Mr. Coderre asked what funds were remaining in the School's ESSER Funds (Federal Pandemic Grant). Superintendent Martineau responded that all remaining funds will be used up in the FY2024 budget.

Mr. Kaelin noted that the School Budget was constrained to 1% during the pandemic so it makes sense that there would be a need to make up for prior reductions.

In response to a question regarding class size, Superintendent Martineau stated that he did not anticipate needing additional staff if students move in as there is capacity in most sections.

Looking forward, Superintendent Martineau indicated that costs per student are likely to rise, adding that out of placement SPED costs are escalating 5-10% per year.

#### REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

School Superintendent Greg Martineau presented the Regional High School FY2024 Budget, which was provided to the Committee prior to the meeting. The overall ARHS budget is increasing by \$863,265, or 3.36% to \$26,590,346.

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 key budget variables as follows:

- Collective Bargaining COLAs
- Out of District Special Education Funding
- Special Education Transportation
- Increased Energy Costs
- Cost of Supplies and Materials
- Cost of Services
- Insurance Rates

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 Budget Priorities as follows:

- Prioritize social, emotional, and physical well-being of students and staff, and especially requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Maintain high quality staff, instructional programming and instructional resources, including technology.
- Strive to achieve class size according to school committee policy.
- Prepare all students for high levels of success in college and career readiness.
- Fund the initiatives of the School Improvement Plan and the Vision 2026 Strategic Plan.
- Create and fund a short and long-term Capital Plan for the high school.
- Fund the School Committee approved initiatives that are recommended by the Coalition for Equity.

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 Budget process and Budget Increase for Algonquin Regional High School (ARHS), indicating that it, too, is primarily a level service budget.

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 Budget Drivers:

<ul> <li>Worcester Regional Retirement System</li> </ul>	\$ 93,034
<ul> <li>SPED Out of District Transportation</li> </ul>	124,559
<ul> <li>Utilities – Electricity&amp; Heating</li> </ul>	127,400
<ul> <li>Insurances (Health, Liability, Workers Comp)</li> </ul>	331,776
<ul> <li>Salary Increases &amp; COLAs</li> </ul>	574,602
	\$1,251361

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the FY2024 Budget Off-sets as follows:

•	FFY2023 & FY2024 Circuit Breaker Tuition Reimbursements	(\$1	,104,232)
•	FY2023 Circuit Breaker Transportation Reimbursement	(\$	19,233)
•	Retirements & LOAs	(\$	121,274)
•	Salary Increases & COLAs	(\$	50,000)
•	Special Education Adjustments	(\$	125,000)
•	ESSER III	(\$	163,563)
•	Revolving Accounts – Lost Textbooks	<u>(\$</u>	21,700)
		<u>(\$1</u>	,605,002)

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the impact of the reductions are as follows:

- Utilization of FY2024 Circuit Breaker funds may impact FY2025 Special Education Budget
- Utilization of ESSER III will amend original, approved plan

Superintendent Martineau reviewed the staffing requests that were not included in the FY2024 Budget. The cost savings of the deferred staffing requests is \$182,993.

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the FY2024 Budget for instructional materials, support and positions include the following:

•	Elimination of Student Activity Fee	\$	36,746
•	Addition of a new Internship/Externship Coordinator	\$	100,000
•	USI Online Textbooks	\$	5,000
•	World Language Textbooks	\$	1,675
•	Fine Arts Transportation	<u>\$</u>	20,295
		\$	168,916

Superintendent Martineau indicated that \$21,700 for instructional materials was moved from the FY2024 Budget onto the ESSERIII Grant and Revolving Accounts.

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the total enrollment at ARHS for FY2024 is projected to be 1,181 with 706 from Northborough and 475. In response to a question from Mr. Poteete, Superintendent Martineau indicated that the enrollment for Northborough is 62.59% compared to 37.41% for Southborough.

Superintendent Martineau indicated that because the Chapter 70 Aid and Regional Transportation Aid are still unknown, the current Regional Budget for FY2024 is using FY2023 State Aid figures. The Governor's House 1 Budget is scheduled to be released on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Martineau noted that they are in negotiations for union contracts for FY2024-FY2026. He also indicated that the Region is still waiting to receive its Health Insurance renewal numbers, but is carrying a 7-10% anticipated increase.

Based upon the assumption for State Aid and the latest enrollment projections, the preliminary Operating Assessment for Northborough is projected to increase \$530,000, or 4.13%. Southborough's Assessment is estimated to increase \$318,045, or 3.89%. Superintendent Martineau noted that the Regional School Committee voted to apply \$675,000 from the Excess & Deficiency account (Free Cash) to get to those estimated assessments.

Once the FY2024 State Aid numbers are released, the Assessment will be recalculated. As part of the updated State Aid release the new Minimum Local Contribution (MLC) will be known which will also impact final Assessment amounts.

Mr. Coderre commented on FY2024 State Aid, noting that the State's budget process is late this year due to the change in the administration. The State's revenue consensus hearing that normally takes place in mid-December was held on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The State is using a revenue forecast of 1.6% for their FY2024 Budget. He noted that the Select Board will be reviewing the legislative priorities at their February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, adding that the top legislative priorities include Chapter 90 Transportation Funding, Chapter 70 State Aid, Special Education Circuit Breaker Program and Regional Transportation Reimbursements.

Several additional questions and comments were heard from members of the Committee, including a discussion regarding the increase in the budget line item for substitute teachers and nursing coverage as a result of the School Covid policy. The key for Northborough is to get the minimum aid increased from \$30 per student to \$100. Most new Chapter 70 Education funding is being divided to districts in need and Northborough remains largely a minimum aid community.

Lastly, Superintendent Martineau provided an overview of the events leading up to tonight's presentation on the Athletic Complex project. He reviewed the current conditions of the existing track, stadium field, tennis court and multipurpose fields, which are all beyond their useful life and are not ADA compliant. He also reviewed the expected project timeline, which will soon be moving forward to the permitting and bid preparation phase.

The Algonquin Athletic Complex project includes the following:

Replacement

Track
Stadium field – with turf
Multi-purpose field – with turf
Grandstand – with ADA compliant seating
Stadium lights – with LED

Tennis courts replacement and conversion to

3 pickle ball courts

Renovation

Amenities Building – adding ADA

compliant restrooms

Installation
Amphitheater
Lacrosse wall

Superintendent Martineau indicated that the total estimated project cost is \$7,960,393. The cost to Northborough based on the regional agreement is estimated to be \$4,699,260. Final costs are subject to updated estimates as the design development proceeds. There is a placeholder on this year's Town Meeting Warrant for this project in terms of debt issuance. Superintendent Martineau noted that the Regional School Committee is the authorizing body to approve this project and to move forward with the debt issuance so the Town Meeting vote will be a simple majority. If the project gets approved by both communities the anticipated project start date will be around May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Martineau responded briefly to questions from Committee members on some maintenance details of the Athletic Complex.

Committee members thanked Superintendent Martineau for his presentations this evening.

This concluded the Northborough K-8 and Regional School Budget Presentations.

### **UPDATED FY2024 CAPITAL BUDGET**

Mr. Coderre indicated that the projects included in the revised FY2024 Capital Budget have not changed. The Select Board voted at their February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to release \$1.7 million in ARPA funds to replace the Proctor School roof, but not to fund the Fire Engine replacement and the DPW Tight Tank compliance project with ARPA funds. The only change is that the funding source for the Fire Engine and the DPW Tight Tank is now from General Fund Bonds rather than ARPA Funds. Mr. Coderre reviewed the FY2024 Capital Budget as follows:

REVISED FY2024	CAPITAL BUD	GET 2/16/23	3	
PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT	EXPENDITURE	FUN	DING SOUR	CES
Police		Free Cash	Enterprise Fund Free Cash	General Fund Bonds
Police Cruiser Replacements (3)	190,000	190,000		
Police Station Exterior Repairs & Painting	70,000	70,000		
Police Subtota	1 \$260,000			
Fire				
Engine 1 Replacement	900,000			900,000
Fire Subtota	1 \$900,000			
DPW: Highway Division				
Roadway Improvements/Maintenance	300,000	300,000		
20-Ton Dump Truck w/Spreader&Plow Replace	en 355,000	355,000		
Highway Garage Tight Tank DEP Compliance	475,000			475,000
One-Ton Truck w/Plow Replacement	150,000	150,000		
Highway Subtotal	\$1,280,000			
DPW: Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds				
15-Ton Dump Truck (new addition)	225,000		225,000	
SCADA Phase II (matching grant allocation)	125,000		125,000	
Sewer Enterprise Fund Subtota	1 \$350,000			
Schools K-8:				
Zeh School Back Walkway Entrance Repairs	40,000	40,000		
Schools K-8 Subtota	\$40,000			
TOTAL FY2024 CAPITAL BUDGET	Г \$2,830,000	\$1,105,000	\$350,000	\$1,375,000

In response to questions from Committee members, Mr. Coderre reviewed the proposed FY2024 Free Cash Plan, indicating that the Free Cash certification as of July 1, 2022 is \$2,440,073. The Free Cash plan includes the annual \$175,000 appropriation to the Reserve Account, a contribution of \$500,000 to the FY2024 Operating Budget, a \$200,000 contribution to the Stabilization Fund, and the use of up to \$1,105,000 to pay for various capital projects. Lastly, the plan contemplates leaving approximately \$460,073 in unappropriated Free Cash, which would remain available if needed.

In response to questions from Committee members, Mr. Coderre noted that if the Proctor School roof, fire engine replacement and the DPW tight tank were funded with the issuance of debt, the cost on the average single family tax bill would average about \$61. The issuance of debt at Town Meeting for the fire engine replacement and the DPW tight tank will cost the average single family tax bill approximately \$30 per year for 10 years. Mr. Coderre also explained the purchasing process for the fire engine and its effect on the cost of the bond anticipation notes.

Committee members expressed their disappointment that the Select Board did not fund these projects with ARPA funds, despite the fact that ARPA funding was recommended for all three capital projects by both the Appropriations Committee and the Financial Committee.

#### REVIEW OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Coderre indicated that Town staff is still working on the Town Meeting Warrant summary in preparation for the February 27<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting. He will share the summary with both the Appropriations Committee and the Financial Planning Committee on Friday afternoon, February 24<sup>th</sup> when it is posted within the Selectmen's Meeting Packets.

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday 3/1/2023 7PM	Community Preservation Committee Project Requests; Finance Office and Undistributed Expenses (Employee Benefits & Debt Budgets); Review of ATM Warrant Articles Summary
Wednesday 3//8/2023 7PM	Assabet Valley Regional Technical HS; Police and Fire Budget Presentations; Any Other Presentations, if needed; Discussion regarding Committee Recommendations
Monday 3/27/2023 7PM	Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen – Budget Hearing (Charter 6-5)
Monday 4/24/2023	6pm at ARHS Auditorium
June 2023	Wrap-Up; Year-end Transfers as needed

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Hight moved the Committee vote to adjourn; Mr. Brenckle seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell Executive Assistant

### Documents used during meeting:

- 1. February 22, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- 2. February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- 3. K-8 School Budget Presentation
- 4. Regional High School Budget Presentation
- 5. Updated FY2024 Capital Budget
- 6. Meeting Schedule



Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget July 2023 – June 2024

**Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School District** 

# Topics

- FY24 Budget Overview
- FY24 Budget Drivers
- Staffing Adjustments
- Enrollment Changes
- Statutory Method of Assessment
- Minimum Local Contribution
- FY24 MLC, Transportation, OPEB, Debt Member Community Assessments
- Capital Assessment
- Debt Schedule
- Revenue Plan
- Expenses covered by OOD Tuition
- FY24 Proposed Expenditures



# FY24 Budget Overview

- Operating Budget
  - \$23,475,499 (not including Capital)
  - \$2,811,815 overall increase
  - 12.5% increase
- Capital Budget
  - \$1,812,875 (Eighth debt service payment in FY24)
  - \$55,000 decrease from FY23



# FY24 Budget Drivers

- To close curricular gaps between increasing numbers of ELL and Students with Disabilities in order to maximize student impact.
- To meet the demands of students with increased needs in SEL, Mental Health and Special Education services.
- To maintain appropriate class sizes and co-taught ratios to create the best possible teaching and learning environment for our students.
- With a continued increase in student interest and enrollment, the District's goal is to maintain diversity in the Program of Studies offered.
- Due to inflationary costs, maintain appropriate funding for CTE programs which require the purchase of consumables, equipment and curriculum within their Chapter 74 CTE Programs.
- Meets all contractual obligations and moves us closer to pre-COVID staffing and service levels.

# Staffing Adjustments

- Additions:
  - 1 Librarian
  - 1 Elective Instructor

## **Staffing Changes**

- 2.0 FTE Grant funded position moved back into Operational Budget
  - Director of Education Technology
  - School Adjustment Counselor



# **Enrollment Changes**

	10/1/2022 Final Budget										
CITY ~ TOWN	GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	P.S.	BUDGET	TOTAL	10/1/2021	Diff. FY	724 to 23	City~Town
Berlin	11	13	6	13	1	44	44	37	7	18.92%	Berlin
Hudson	60	44	47	51	3	205	205	203	2	0.99%	Hudson
Marlborough	172	128	113	87	10	510	510	461	49	10.63%	Marlborough
Maynard	17	18	15	18	0	68	68	68	0	0.00%	Maynard
Northborough	16	17	14	15	2	64	64	68	-4	-5.88%	Northborough
Southborough	4	4	5	9	0	22	22	24	-2	-8.33%	Southborough
Westborough	13	15	9	17	4	58	58	49	9	18.37%	Westborough
Boylston	2	4	6	7	1		20	28	-8	-28.57%	Boylston
Clinton	5	17	20	20	0		62	90	-28	-31.11%	Clinton
Shrewsbury	2	15	30	16	1		64	100	-36	-36.00%	Shrewsbury
Other	1	11	11	9	39		71	65	6	9.23%	Other
TOTALS	303	286	276	262	61	971	1188	1193	-5	-0.42%	
10/1/2021	300	292	275	272	54	910	1193				1.00
											ASSA
Change by Grade	3	-6	1	-10	7	61	-5				, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

# Statutory Method of Assessment

- The amounts so apportioned for each municipality shall be certified by the regional school district treasurer to the treasurers of the municipalities within thirty days from the date on which the annual budget is adopted by the regional district school committee
- Two methodologies are available to regional school districts for calculating assessments to member municipalities. These are defined in CMR 41.01
  - Statutory Assessment Methodology
  - Alternative (Agreement) Assessment Methodology
- Statutory Assessment Method: The calculation of members' assessments pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. c. 70 S6. Each such assessment shall be the sum of the following amounts (i) the member's required local contribution to the regional school district as determined by the Commissioner; (ii) the member's share of that portion of the regional school district's net school spending, as defined by M.G.L. c. 70 s. 2, that exceeds the total required local contribution for all members, this share to be allocated pursuant to the assessment provisions of the regional agreement; and (iii) the member's share of costs for transportation, capital project debt service, other capital costs, and all other expenditures not included in the regional school district's net school spending, this share to be allocated pursuant to the assessment provisions of the regional agreement.



# What is the MLC?

- Establishing local ability to pay
- The Foundation Budget is a shared municipal responsibility
- Each Community has a different target local share, or ability to pay, based on its property values and residents' incomes
- Statewide based on 50% Property Wealth and 50% Local Income Wealth
- Known as the Aggregate Wealth Model
- The Maximum Local Contribution is set at 82.5% of foundation budget, which means that the formula would fund a minimum of 17.5% of foundation through state aid, even for the wealthiest communities



# Minimum Local Contribution

- House 1 Governor's Budget Released: February 24, 2023
- Once Budget is released the chapter 70 and minimum local contribution numbers are released on this website:
  - http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/chapter70/
  - Select (next fiscal year) "Preliminary Chapter 70 aid and Net School Spending Requirements"
  - The select the Complete Formula Spreadsheet
    - Summary Tab (see on next sheet)



# Minimum Local Contribution Cont.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education FY24 Chapter 70 Summary

801 Assabet Valley

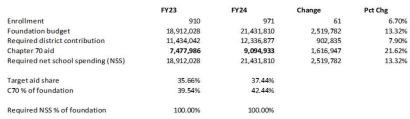
#### Aid Calculation FY24 Comparison

Comparison	to	FY2

	100 AND 100 AN
1 Chapter 70 FY23	7,477,986
Foundation Aid	
2 Foundation budget FY24	21,431,810
3 Required district contribution FY24	12,336,877
4 Foundation aid (2-3)	9,094,933
5 Increase over FY23 (4 - 1)	1,616,947
Minimum Aid	
6 Minimum \$30 per pupil increase	29,130
7 Minimum aid amount	
(if line 6 - line 5 > 0, then line 6 - line 5, otherwise 0)	0
Subtotal	
8 Sum of 1,5,7	9,094,933
Minimum Aid Adjustment	
9 Minimum aid adjustment	8,117,934
10 Aid adjustment increment	
(if line 9 - line 8 > 0, then line 9 - line 8, otherwise 0)	0
Non-Operating District Reduction to Foundation	
11 Reduction to foundation	0
FY24 Chapter 70 Aid	

#### Note on Minimum Aid Adjustment on lines 9 and 10:

The minimum aid adjustment is the sum of (a) the greater of foundation aid or base aid determined based on the FY21 base and incremental rates, inflated to FY24, and (b) foundation enrollment multiplied by \$30. The aid adjustment increment (line 10) is the line 9 amount less the line 8 amount if the difference is positive. Otherwise, the increment is zero.





MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education



# Minimum Local Contribution Cont.

# Regional District Members Tab

# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of School Finance

### FY24 Chapter 70

#### Regional District Enrollment and Contributions by Member City or Town

The table below presents the minimum required local contribution for each member to the selected regional district.

Note: A city or town might belong to more than one regional district (e.g., a regional district and a vocational district) and therefore be required to contribute to multiple districts. See the *regional allocation* tab for a full list of minimum required contributions for each city or town.

Foundation enrollments are presented as whole numbers. The change column reflects differences prior to rounding.

801 Assabet Valley

Foundation Enrollment in Regional District

**Required Minimum Contribution to Regional District** 

Department of Elementary

LEA	Member	FY23	FY24	Change	FY23	FY24	Change
							•
	Total	910	971	61	11,434,042	12,336,877	902,835
28	Berlin	37	44	7	556,668	678,363	121,695
141	. Hudson	203	205	2	2,661,747	2,805,455	143,708
170	Marlborough	461	510	49	4,911,960	5,337,903	425,943
174	Maynard	68	68	0	998,856	1,022,532	23,676
213	Northborough	68	64	-4	1,143,066	1,136,082	-6,984
276	Southborough	24	22	-2	402,741	389,549	-13,192
321	Westborough	49	58	9	759,004	966,993	207,989



# FY24 MLC, Transportation, Debt and OPEB

Minimum Local Contribution	Berlin	Hudson	Marlborough	Maynard	Northborough	Southborough	Westborough	Total
Toward Foundation	678,363	2,805,455	5,337,903	1,022,532	1,136,082	389,549	966,993	12,336,877
Above Minimum Assessment Req'd	Berlin	Hudson	Marlborough	Maynard	Northborough	Southborough	Westborough	Total
Net Busing	24,769	115,400	287,093	38,279	36,027	12,384	32,650	546,603
OPEB Trust Fund	2,266	10,556	26,262	3,502	3,296	1,133	2,987	50,000
Total	27,035	125,956	313,355	41,781	39,323	13,517	35,636	596,603
Long Term Debt/Service	66,170	369,827	890,484	205,036	126,176	33,357	121,825	1,812,875
FY 2024 Assessment Total Due	771,568	3,301,238	6,541,742	1,269,349	1,301,581	436,423	1,124,454	14,746,355
School Enrollment								
Assabet Valley RVSD	43	202	500	68	62	22	54	951
LPN/Cosmo Students	1	3	10	-	2	-	4	20
Total	44	205	510	68	64	22	58	971
	<del></del>							
Percentage	4.5%	21.1%	52.5%	7.0%	6.6%	2.3%	6.0%	100.0%
		D 1 . 1	1 51	24 202				۸cc

\*Assessments are based on the Governor's Budget released on February 24, 2023. Assessments are subject to change.



# Capital Assessment

- FY24 amount due is for principal and interest. The District borrowed \$27m in FY16. As required a principal payment of \$1,100,000 and an interest payment of \$712,875 (savings of \$55K from last year) is due on July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024.
- The District also secured a \$2m BAN which will have a principal of \$115,200 and interest of approximately \$4,000 due in November of 2023.
- Assessment is per three-year enrollment average at time of project approval



# FY24 Capital Assessment

Town	Three-Year Average	Amo	unt
Berlin	3.65%	\$ 66,170	(\$2,007)
Hudson	20.40%	\$ 369,827	(\$11,220)
Marlboro	49.12%	\$ 890,484	(\$27,016)
Maynard	11.31%	\$ 205,036	(\$6,221)
Northborough	6.96%	\$ 126,176	(\$3,828)
Southborough	1.84%	\$ 33,357	(\$1,012)
Westborough	6.72%	\$ 121,825	(\$3,696)
Total		\$1,812,875	(\$55,000)



			BOND		BOND	ANNUAL							
FISCAL	REPAY	COUPON	PRINCIPAL	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	DEBT	Berlin	Hudson	Marlboro	Maynard	Northboro	Southboro	Westboro
YEAR	YEAR	RATE	OUTSTANDING	PAYMENT		SERVICE	3.65%	20.40%	49.12%	11.31%	6.96%	1.84%	6.72%
2016	0	0.00%	\$27,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2017	1	5.00%	\$25,900,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,660,563	\$2,760,563	\$100,761	\$563,155	\$1,355,988	\$312,220	\$192,135	\$50,794	\$185,510
2018	2	5.00%	\$24,800,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,042,875	\$2,142,875	\$78,215	\$437,147	\$1,052,580	\$242,359	\$149,144	\$39,429	\$144,001
2019	3	5.00%	\$23,700,000	\$1,100,000	\$987,875	\$2,087,875	\$76,207	\$425,927	\$1,025,564	\$236,139	\$145,316	\$38,417	\$140,305
2020	4	5.00%	\$22,600,000	\$1,100,000	\$932,875	\$2,032,875	\$74,200	\$414,707	\$998,548	\$229,918	\$141,488	\$37,405	\$136,609
2021	5	5.00%	\$21,500,000	\$1,100,000	\$877,875	\$1,977,875	\$72,192	\$403,487	\$971,532	\$223,698	\$137,660	\$36,393	\$132,913
2022	6	5.00%	\$20,400,000	\$1,100,000	\$822,875	\$1,922,875	\$70,185	\$392,267	\$944,516	\$217,477	\$133,832	\$35,381	\$129,217
2023	7	5.00%	\$19,300,000	\$1,100,000	\$767,875	\$1,867,875	\$68,177	\$381,047	\$917,500	\$211,257	\$130,004	\$34,369	\$125,521
2024	8	5.00%	\$18,200,000	\$1,100,000	\$712,875	\$1,812,875	\$66,170	\$369,827	\$890,484	\$205,036	\$126,176	\$33,357	\$121,825
2025	9	5.00%	\$17,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$657,875	\$1,757,875	\$64,162	\$358,607	\$863,468	\$198,816	\$122,348	\$32,345	\$118,129
2026	10	5.00%	\$16,000,000	\$1,100,000	\$602,875	\$1,702,875	\$62,155	\$347,387	\$836,452	\$192,595	\$118,520	\$31,333	\$114,433
2028	11	3.00%	\$14,900,000	\$1,100,000	\$558,875	\$1,658,875	\$60,549	\$338,411	\$814,839	\$187,619	\$115,458	\$30,523	\$111,476
2029	12	3.00%	\$13,800,000	\$1,100,000	\$525,875	\$1,625,875	\$59,344	\$331,679	\$798,630	\$183,886	\$113,161	\$29,916	\$109,259
2030	13	3.13%	\$12,700,000	\$1,100,000	\$492,188	\$1,592,188	\$58,115	\$324,806	\$782,083	\$180,076	\$110,816	\$29,296	\$106,995
2031	14	3.13%	\$11,600,000	\$1,100,000	\$457,813	\$1,557,813	\$56,860	\$317,794	\$765,198	\$176,189	\$108,424	\$28,664	\$104,685
2032	15	3.25%	\$10,500,000	\$1,100,000	\$422,750	\$1,522,750	\$55,580	\$310,641	\$747,975	\$172,223	\$105,983	\$28,019	\$102,329
2033	16	3.50%	\$9,400,000	\$1,100,000	\$385,625	\$1,485,625	\$54,225	\$303,068	\$729,739	\$168,024	\$103,400	\$27,336	\$99,834
2034	17	3.50%	\$8,300,000	\$1,100,000	\$347,125	\$1,447,125	\$52,820	\$295,214	\$710,828	\$163,670	\$100,720	\$26,627	\$97,247
2035	18	3.63%	\$7,200,000	\$1,100,000	\$307,938	\$1,407,938	\$51,390	\$287,219	\$691,579	\$159,238	\$97,992	\$25,906	\$94,613
2036	19	4.00%	\$6,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$266,000	\$1,366,000	\$49,859	\$278,664	\$670,979	\$154,495	\$95,074	\$25,134	\$91,795
2037	20	4.00%	\$5,000,000	\$1,100,000	\$222,000	\$1,322,000	\$48,253	\$269,688	\$649,366	\$149,518	\$92,011	\$24,325	\$88,838
2038	21	4.00%	\$4,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$180,000	\$1,180,000	\$43,070	\$240,720	\$579,616	\$133,458	\$82,128	\$21,712	\$79,296
2039	22	4.00%	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$140,000	\$1,140,000	\$41,610	\$232,560	\$559,968	\$128,934	\$79,344	\$20,976	\$76,608
2040	23	4.00%	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$1,100,000	\$40,150	\$224,400	\$540,320	\$124,410	\$76,560	\$20,240	\$73,920
2041	24	4.00%	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$60,000	\$1,060,000	\$38,690	\$216,240	\$520,672	\$119,886	\$73,776	\$19,504	\$71,232
2042	25	4.00%	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$20,000	\$1,020,000	\$37,230	\$208,080	\$501,024	\$115,362	\$70,992	\$18,768	\$68,544
				\$27,000,000	\$13,552,625	\$40,552,625	\$1,480,171	\$8,272,736	\$19,919,449	\$4,586,502	\$2,822,463	\$746,168	\$2,725,136

# **DEBT SCHEDULE**

# Revenue Plan

		Appro	oved Revenues	Upd	ated Revenues
			FY2023		FY2024
STATE	AID: Chapter 70 Aid	\$	7,477,986	\$	9,094,933
Mem	ber Community				
	num Local Contributions (MLC)				
	Berlin	\$	556,668	\$	678,363
	Hudson	\$	2,661,747	\$	2,805,455
	Marlborough	\$	4,911,960	\$	5,337,903
	Maynard	\$	998,856	\$	1,022,532
	Northborough	\$	1,143,066	\$	1,136,082
	Southborough	\$	402,741	\$	389,549
	Westborough	\$	759,004	\$	966,993
Total	Member Contributions	\$	11,434,042	\$	12,336,877
based	l on DESE Formula				
Assah	et District:				
1.000	E & D Revenue	\$	300,000	\$	500,000
	Interest Income	\$	25,000	\$	100,000
	Medicaid Reimbursement	\$	80,000	\$	80,000
	E-rate Reimbursement	\$	15,000	\$	-
		\$	420,000	\$	680,000
ΤΟΤΔΙ ΕSΤΙΜΔΤΙ	ED FOUNDATION REVENUES:	Ś	19,332,028	Ś	22,111,810
		Ť	15,002,020	*	
STATE	REIMBURSEMENTS:				
JIAIL	Reg Sch Transportation	\$	667,889	\$	767,086
*Men	nber Community Assessments:				
	Berlin	\$	92,929	\$	93,205
	Hudson	\$	516,849	\$	495,783
	Marlborough	\$	1,225,897	\$	1,203,839
	Maynard	\$	256,747	Ś	246,817
	Northborough	\$	175,494	Ś	165,499
	Southborough	\$	50,424	\$	46,874
	Westborough	\$	158,301	Ś	157,461
		\$	2,476,642	\$	2,409,478
TOTAL ESTIMATI	ED NON-FOUNDATION REVENUES:	Ś	3,144,531	Ś	3,176,564
. J.ALLOIIVIAII	IS COMBANON REVENUES.	<del>,</del>	5,1-1,551	7	3,1,0,304
TOTAL ESTIMATI	ED REVENUES:	\$	22,476,559	\$	25,288,374



# Expenses covered by OOD Tuition

Category	FY23 Projections	FY24 Budget
	,	
Legal Services	250,000	-
Health Insurance	2,250,000	2,000,000
Electricity	500,000	500,000
MA State Retirement	500,000	-
	3,500,000	2,500,000



# FY24 Proposed Expenditures by Function

Function	Function Description	FY23 Adjusted Budget	FY24 Preliminary Budget
	·		
1000	Administration	1,398,325	1,626,492
2000	Instruction	13,874,432	15,082,169
3200	Medical Health	179,824	180,984
3300	Pupil Transportation	1,194,456	1,313,689
3510	Athletics	557,086	597,100
3520	Other Student Activities	89,503	112,500
3600	Security Services	72,613	74,000
4000	Operation and Maintenance	1,830,798	2,002,665
5100	District Contribution of Retirement	250,000	750,000
5150	Separation Costs	86,775	190,000
5200	Insurance of Active Employees	143,700	643,700
5250	Insurance of Retirees	384,766	400,000
5260	All Other Insurances	260,205	297,000
7000	Capital/Fixed Assets	111,000	55,000
8000	Short/Long Term Debt	1,983,075	1,928,075
9000	Tuition to Collaboratives	60,000	35,000
		22,476,559	25,288,374



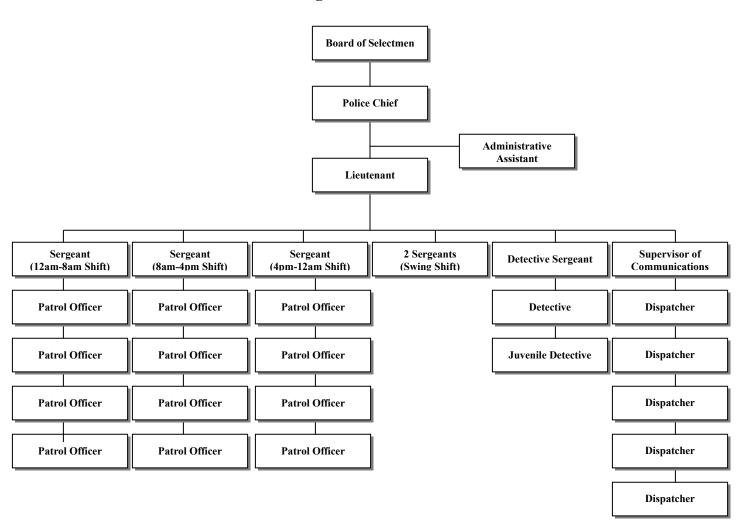


### **Police Department Mission Statement**

The Northborough Police Department will provide residents and visitors to the Town of Northborough the highest level of public safety which preserves a quality of life that makes this community a desirable place within which to live, visit or work, by:

- Emphasizing a pro-active, preventative and problem-solving approach to policing; protecting people and property; preserving the peace, order and dignity of individuals, and providing fair and equitable enforcement of all laws.
- Establishing community-wide partnerships around issues of public safety and fostering the trust and confidence of the citizenry while working on solutions to root causes of problems.
- Instituting a process of integrity and responsiveness that provides timely investigations and dispositions of all complaints of employee conduct.

### **Organizational Chart**



## **Police Department**



## Police Department FY2023 Initiatives and Accomplishments

- 1. In FY2023, the Police Department continued to serve the community with the following initiatives:
  - R.U.O.K.: A free, daily telephone call to check on the welfare of senior citizens and shut ins.
  - Free Child Safety Seat Installations provided by our trained and certified Police Officer installer.
  - Provided support for: the Applefest Celebration, Memorial Day Parade, Recreation Department functions, numerous road races, and fundraising events.
- 2. Continued the communications working group comprised of key stakeholders (Police, Fire, DPW) to improve the communications center functions. The group met during the fiscal year to discuss topics including policies and procedures; communications center modernization improvements, and staff workload demands.
- 3. Maintained our aggressive crime prevention patrols specifically targeting high risk businesses and municipal property as part of our security check program.
- 4. Maintained an aggressive traffic enforcement program aimed at increasing roadway safety. This is the single most requested police service by our residents and the Department completed nearly 5,000 traffic enforcement actions.
- 5. Continued participation in the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Program to ensure that we maintain best practices, policies, and procedures in accordance with national professional standards.
- 6. Continued implementation of our professional development and recognition program. This on-going voluntary program facilitates professional development and career guidance. Achievements are recognized through the issuance of uniform insignia indicating achievement of minimum standards and demonstration of competencies in identified areas.
- 7. The Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) program began its fourth year. Our partnership with C4RJ continues to see referrals for low level crimes and juvenile issues as opposed to filing criminal complaints in district courts.



### Police Department FY2024 Goals and Initiatives

- 1. Continue to maintain and improve services and programs identified in the FY2023 accomplishments.
- 2. Maintain grant funding for the Jail Diversion/Co-responder program instituted in FY2020. The program allows the department to effectively handle persons with mental health issues and substance abuse disorders by partnering with a mental health provider to respond to calls with officers.
- 3. Continue to expand the community policing/community outreach efforts by expanding programs such as "Coffee with a Cop," open house days, increased bike patrols and continued participation in programs in partnership with the senior center staff.
- 4. Continue emphasis and improvement of our school intruder response program (A.L.I.C.E.) imitated drills and provide training within the school system.
- 5. Seek grants or other funding for an ATV patrol vehicle to increase presence on the Town's trail system and provide additional mode of officer transportation for Applefest events such as the parade and fireworks.
- 6. Implementation of voice recognition system. This system will reduce the amount of time an officer is off patrol and out of service because the officer no longer needs to return to the station to process reports.
- 7. Increase public outreach, agency transparency, community engagement, and candidate recruitment through webpage and social media enhancement by contracting with a public relations partner. Currently, the department's social media presence is limited due to the lack of staff and the ability to monitor and post in real time, particularly about important and timely community messages and notifications. This partnership will increase social media presence and following by improving website design and user friendliness.
- 8. Implement a comfort dog program. Comfort dogs provide support services for victims and witnesses of traumatic events and people in crisis. Comfort dogs also facilitate community engagement and improve officer-public interaction.

### **Significant Budget Changes or Initiatives**

Overall, the FY2024 Police Department Budget is increasing 5.21% or \$158,173. An Officer who had been on administrative leave for an extended period is anticipated to return in FY2024. Given the time that passed, the department was forced to backfill the position during the three-year vacancy. As a result, the FY2024 budget reflects an increase of one full-time Patrol Officer not previously budgeted for. Should any staff separate during FY2024, the staffing levels will be reassessed for possible reduction. The wages and benefits for that officer account for approximately \$90,000 of the \$158,061 increase. Without the inclusion of the additional officer, the FY2024 Police budget would increase 2%. The departmental budget as presented includes contractual wage increases for Police Patrol and Non-Union personnel. The Sergeant's Contract has not yet been settled and costs to settle are contained in the FY2024 Personnel Budget.



### **Police Programs and Services**

**Chief of Police** 

## Administration & Community Services

- > Record Keeping
- > Human Resources
- > Training
- > Police Accreditation
- Program

  Kid Care
  Identification
  Program
- > Community outreach
- Street opening permits
- Raffle/bazaar permits
- > Facilities oversight
- > Admin. Sgt. Court prosecution
- > Firearms licensing
- > A.S.H.R. (Active Shooter Hostile Event Response Training)

#### **Patrol Division**

- Emergency 911 Response
- > Traffic Enforcement
- > Crime Prevention
- > Drunk Driving Enforcement
- > Domestic Violence Prevention
- Juvenile Services
- > D.A.R.E . Program
- > Child safety seat installations
- > Seasonal bicycle patrols
- > House Check Program
- > Bank Security Check Program
- School Visit Program

#### **Detective Division**

- > Investigative Services
- > Court Prosecution
- > Drug Investigation
- > Employee background investigations
- > Liquor control issues
- High School Resource Officer
- > Licensing/
  Inspectional services:
  auto dealers; liquor
  licenses; massage
  parlors; sex offender
  registry; vice
  investigations
  (prostitution, human
  trafficking,
  narcotics); solicitor
  permits; domestic
  violence follow-up &
  outreach

## Communications / Dispatch

- > Emergency 911 for Police / Fire / EMS
- **➣** Fire Arm ID Cards
- > RUOK? Elderly check program
- > Department receptionist
- > After hours point of contact for Town services
- > Fire alarm system operator
- Contact for Utility companies
- Clerical duties
- > Accident report processing



Position	FY 2020 FTE	FY 2021 FTE	FY 2022 FTE	FY 2023 FTE	FY 202 FTE
Fosition	rie	FIE	FIE	FIE	FIE
Chief of Police	1	1	1	1	1
Lieutenant	1	1	1	1	1
Sergeant	6	6	6	6	6
Patrol Officers	14	14	14	14	14
Supervisor of Communications	1	1	1	1	1
Dispatcher	6	6	6	6	6
Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	1	1
Custodian	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0

<sup>\*</sup>Personnel Explanation:

Full Time Equivalents based upon 40 hrs per wk (30hrs/40hrs = .75 FTE).

- ➤ In FY2024, funds for the Custodian salary will be moved to the Facilities budget. The full-time staff will be reflected in the Facilities budget personnel chart and will no longer be reflected partially in the Police and Public Buildings budgets.
- > The FY2024 budget authorizes 22 sworn Officers in the Department, including the Chief of Police.

## **Police Department**



	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	SIX MONTHS	PROPOSED
POLICE DEPARTMENT						
Personnel Services						
51100 Police Chief Salary	127,388	130,122	132,725	136,731	62,243	140,849
51120 Administrative Assistant Salary	62,209	63,204	64,477	66,428	30,230	68,141
51150 Sergeant Salaries	458,780	466,254	483,067	467,379	216,595	461,101
51160 Patrol Officer Salaries	791,437	803,079	730,438	872,847	316,997	963,737
51170 Dispatcher Salaries	346,204	359,746	338,883	417,078	192,604	445,488
51180 Special Officers	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
51200 Detective Pay	9,846	8,918	7,245	13,151	3,622	13,673
51210 Lieutenant Salary	100,650	97,845	98,551	103,959	47,325	107,090
51300 General Overtime	91,243	152,176	141,447	130,653	78,971	130,653
51310 Dispatcher Overtime	49,165	51,844	96,450	29,960	34,736	29,960
51320 Christmas Overtime	2,424	2,547	2,814	3,655	0	3,390
51330 Dispatcher Christmas Overtime	1,287	1,165	1,597	1,065	0	1,548
51400 Longevity pay	8,875	9,075	9,075	10,925	8,775	9,425
51410 Dispatcher Longevity Pay	1,200	1,200	1,675	1,825	1,825	2,225
51420 Holiday Pay	52,208	51,700	55,382	56,484	21,920	63,883
51430 Dispatcher Holiday Pay	16,268	16,844	18,119	17,902	7,620	20,630
51440 Shift Differential	10,149	10,133	9,332	8,509	3,146	13,156
51450 Court Time	4,709	1,879	1,260	10,500	0	10,500
51460 Quinn Bill Educational Incentive	263,659	261,904	249,173	296,621	123,821	298,480
51470 Dispatcher EMD Stipend	0	0	5,000	7,000	0	9,100
51920 Uniforms	36,792	44,492	52,139	30,250	9,860	31,425
51930 In-service Training	11,219	10,196	18,737	8,000	7,617	10,000
51940 Fitness Incentive	19,100	20,600	22,400	26,800	10,500	28,000
51950 Roll Call	0	0	0	3,400	0	3,400
51960 Dispatcher Differential	0	0	0	3,650	0	7,300
51965 Officer In Charge Pay	1,664	1,250	1,871	0	516	0
51970 Part-time Custodian	27,466	28,125	21,544	29,321	13,567	0
SUBTOTAL	2,493,942	2,594,298	2,563,726	2,759,093	1,192,491	2,878,154



## **Police Department**

**Section 3-7** 

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2023	FY2024
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	SIX MONTHS	PROPOSED
POLICE DEPARTMENT						
Expenses	•					
52110 Utilities	33,324.36	34,604	37,617	37,500	16,443	53,000
52690 Radio Equipment Maintenance	4,905.71	4,108	7,221	7,000	2,438	7,000
52800 Contractual Services	33,600.73	52,648	35,896	41,000	25,875	54,800
53110 Printing	933.43	222	270	700	487	700
53190 Training	13,202.76	16,518	20,026	20,000	4,993	25,000
53410 Telephone	17,908.62	17,403	17,643	17,990	6,992	17,990
53420 Postage	2,255.43	0	250	600	39	600
53430 Radio Line Rentals	4,545.60	6,952	6,290	6,552	4,927	11,340
53720 Computer Services	34,360.29	35,546	52,602	60,008	33,100	62,532
54290 Office Supplies	2,870.37	5,057	671	3,000	402	3,500
54490 Repairs & Maintenance	14,559.65	10,464	11,358	24,000	3,741	7,500
54590 Custodial Supplies	4,872.65	3,339	3,094	4,000	2,045	4,000
54850 Vehicle Maintenance	35,651.86	23,160	23,575	20,000	13,401	25,000
55970 Special Investigations	0.00	0	0	0	0	500
55980 Field Supplies	15,522.16	14,971	25,174	10,000	3,383	12,000
57810 Unclassified	2,025.17	2,034	2,589	2,000	1,934	3,000
58690 New Equipment	47,907.17	21,333	15,593	20,000	8,422	25,000
SUBTOTAL	268,446	248,358	259,869	274,350	128,622	313,462
	г г					
TOTAL: POLICE	2,762,388	2,842,656	2,823,595	3,033,443	1,321,113	3,191,616

## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH



63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532-1994 (508) 393-5040 Phone (508) 393-6996 Fax

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Appropriations Committee

FROM: Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Planning Director Project Updates

DATE: March 7, 2023

Planning Director Laurie Connors will be attending your March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to provide updates on the following projects:

- 1. Downtown revitalization and visioning initiatives the previously distributed memo dated February 23, 2023 is attached for your reference.
- 2. New MBTA multi-family zoning requirements in compliance with Section 3A Guidelines in MGL, Chapter 4A <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities</a>. A presentation is included in the packet, as well as a copy of the Action Plan submitted by the Planning Department outlining how the Town plans to comply with the new legislation.
- 3. A brief Economic Development memo detailing recent commercial, industrial and residential activity is included for review and discussion.

Although much of this information has been previously provided under separate cover, the Planning Director run through the highlights and will be available to answer any questions.

John W.	Coderre	



## TOWN OF NORTHBOROUGH PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Town Hall Offices • 63 Main Street • Northborough, MA 01532 • 508-393-5040 x7 • 508-393-6996 Fax

February 23, 2023

John Coderre, Town Administrator Town Hall Offices 63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532

Dear Mr. Coderre,

This memo is aimed at providing you with a status update of our efforts to date regarding the downtown revitalization project:

### **Completed**

- 1. At the April 2022 Town Meeting, \$150,000 was allocated for the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) to conduct a design study of the downtown to help focus ideas and develop a clear vision for the area.
- 2. After conducting a competitive procurement process, the Town hired a consultant team led by Weston & Sampson Engineers to undertake the effort at the cost of \$140,000. The contract was signed in October 2022 and the kick-off meeting with the Master Plan Implementation Committee occurred on October 20, 2022. Since that time, the consultant team met monthly with the MPIC, soliciting information and updating them on work completed to date. The preliminary timeline for completion of the project was 8 months.
- 3. Once complete, the Downtown Revitalization Strategy & Design Report will include a community-based vision established using broad-based public participation. The scope emphasizes completion of an existing conditions analysis, identification of redevelopment opportunities, market study and analysis, zoning analysis, development of the "Downtown Vision", and the use of graphics to illustrate design concepts and articulate the vision. The consultant will also create a transportation strategy resulting in a multi-modal circulation pattern and parking scheme that encourages enhanced activity in downtown Northborough.
- 4. The consultant prepared a short survey, which was distributed at Applefest and via the municipal website during fall 2022. Ultimately, 636 survey responses were received and analyzed. The attached Powerpoint presentation dated December 15, 2022 briefly summarizes the survey findings.
- 5. Committee members and the Planning Director undertook a site walk of the focus area with the consultant team on September 28, 2022.
- 6. The consultant team conducted interviews with key stakeholders that were identified by the MPIC and the Planning Director.

- 7. Community Meeting #1, which was held at the High School library on January 26, 2023, gathered public input about the types of uses and amenities people want to see in 4 distinct study areas. Attendees were asked to place stickers on study area maps that corresponded to uses such as housing, restaurants, outdoor dining, pocket parks, flexible gathering spaces, and parking. Attendees were also asked to identify the downtown amenities they would most like to see in Northborough Center including art, seating, lighting, landscaping, wayfinding signage, and bike facilities. Community Meeting #1 was very well attended with between 70 and 80 participants.
- 8. The consultant team held a second workshop with the downtown business community at the Public Library on February 7, 2023. Attendance was much smaller with approximately 12 participants. Business owners were asked to comment on their top goals for the project, the biggest challenges and opportunities facing downtown Northborough from a business perspective, the current business mix, and top things that they would like to change about the downtown. The attached Powerpoint presentation dated February 16, 2023 briefly summarizes the workshop findings.

#### **Underway**

- 1. The Town asked the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to undertake traffic counts along Main Street, at the intersections of Church Street, Hudson Street and South Street. Once received, Weston & Sampson will perform a capacity analysis of the intersections. The goal of the analysis is to determine the impact on traffic operations if the lanes along Main Street were reduced to provide room for bicycle facilities, wider sidewalks, and on-street parking. It is anticipated that this analysis will be completed in March 2023. Note that because this constitutes an amendment of the original project scope, the completion timeline was expanded by approximately 1 month and the project cost increased by \$8,000 to a total of \$148,000.
- 2. Depending upon the results of the capacity analysis, the Town and Weston & Sampson Engineers may approach MassDOT about a future road diet on Main Street in the area of the downtown.
- 3. Two more community workshops are envisioned for spring 2023. Community Event #2 will highlight four redevelopment scenarios, development programs and capital budget data. Community event #3 will present the selected revitalization scenario and offer the public the opportunity to express thoughts and ask questions.
- 4. The consultant team will draft the Downtown Revitalization and Design Report, which shall include an implementation strategy with suggested phasing of the project. Actions will be identified by priority, responsible party and preliminary cost. The Draft Plan will be posted on the municipal website for public comments. After the comment period ends, the consultant team will meet with the MPIC and town staff to review the comments and make decisions about potential revisions.
- 5. Upon completion of the Final Report, the consultant team will give a final presentation to a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and MPIC, summarizing final results and recommendations.

#### Next Step

6. It is expected that project implementation will consist of zoning changes as well as infrastructure improvements (sidewalk widening and construction, crosswalk improvements, roadway layout modifications, drainage/water/sewer improvements, parking improvements, and a variety of streetscape improvements including installation of pedestrian-scale lighting, seating, landscaping, wayfinding signage, and public art). To minimize disruption to the downtown and the budget, the project will be divided into multiple years and phases.

- 7. Municipal staff and the MPIC will work together to identify a Phase I project using as-yet undefined criteria. Potential criteria may include project need, project impact, redevelopment readiness (i.e. will coincide with redevelopment project on private property), availability of local funds to pay for design, and ability of the project to attract grant funding for construction. It is anticipated that just the design and permitting of a Phase I project will cost approximately \$250,000 and take 1 year to complete. An important part of the design process will include public outreach. If American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant funds are used to fund design of a Phase I project, it is likely that design can begin in fall 2023 and wrap up in fall 2024.
- 8. During the design process, municipal staff will identify and begin applying for grants for construction. Potential funding sources include the MassWorks Grant, Complete Streets Construction Grant, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant, Commonwealth Places Programs, and the Housing Choice Grant. In order to qualify for these programs, the Town must allocate local funds as match prior to the grant application due dates. I anticipate needing a minimum of \$500,000 in local matching funds to fund a Phase I project costing approximately \$2 million. Again, the scope and cost of a Phase I Project is still to be determined. Note that failure of the Town to create and adopt a by-right multi-family zoning district in accordance with recently approved changes to The Zoning Act (see <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/multi-family-zoning-requirement-for-mbta-communities</a>) by December 31, 2024 will make the Town ineligible for at least two of the State grants noted above.
- 9. Once design and permitting of the Phase I project is complete and funding has been secured, the Town will procure construction services from eligible contractors. To maximize interest and minimize costs, the goal will be to go out to bid in early January 2025 for a construction start in April 2025. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately 9 months to complete, weather permitting, with submission of as-built plans anticipated in January 2026. This construction schedule coincides well with the ARPA funding schedule, which mandates that ARPA funds must be fully expended by December 31, 2026.
- 10. I anticipate that the downtown revitalization project will consist of a total of 3-4 phases. Each phase will take approximately 2 years from the start of design to the completion of construction. Improvements made to Route 20 will need to be included on the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which could take several years. Design and any property takings will likely be the Town's responsibility with construction financed and undertaken by MassDOT.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any follow up questions and comments. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Laurie Connors
Planning Director

**Enclosures** 

CC: Board of Selectmen

Master Plan Implementation Committee

## Compliance Under Section 3A of the Zoning Act

Presented to the Northborough Appropriations Committee: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

By Laurie Connors, Planning Director





## Confronting the Housing Crisis

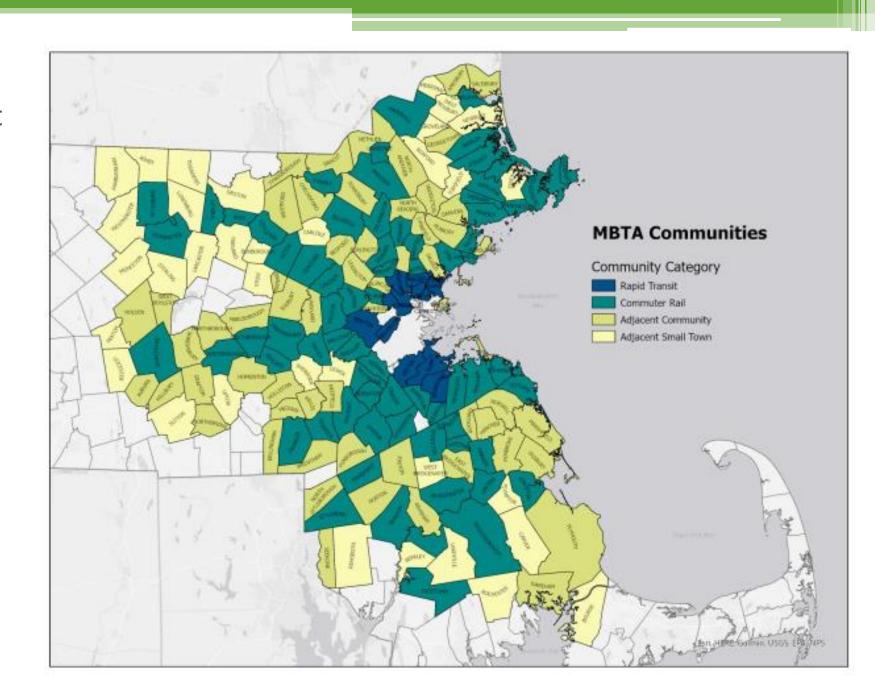
- Massachusetts has some of the highest, and fastest growing home prices and rents in the nation;
- The state has a shortage of an estimated 200,000 housing units;
- Low- and middle-income households such as young families, workers, and seniors, are facing increased financial pressure to pay housing costs;
- Lack of housing production is an impediment to community development and a competitive disadvantage to our economy and job growth;
- Municipalities play a key role, through zoning and permitting, in determining whether or not housing is constructed.

## Background on Chapter 40A, Section 3A

- House No. 5250, An Act Enabling Partnerships for Growth (also known as the Economic Development Bill) passed Massachusetts Legislature in December 2020 and was signed by Governor Baker in January 2021;
- Bill included a range of housing provisions including lowering the threshold for Town Meeting vote for certain zoning provisions;
- Section 18 of the Economic Development Bill includes Section 3A which encourages designated MBTA communities to adopt zoning districts where multi-family zoning is permitted by-right, plus meet other requirements set forth in the statute.

## 175 municipalities are subject to this new law

 Northborough is classified as an "MBTA adjacent community" because it abuts a rapid transit community, bus service community, or commuter rail community



## Allowing Multi-family Housing "As of Right" within a District of "Reasonable Size"

- Create district where multi-family housing is allowed "by-right" at a minimum density of 15 units/acre;
- District must contain at least 50 acres of land. Overlay districts are ok, but one part of the district must contain at least 25 contiguous acres and no part can contain less than 5 contiguous acres of land;
- Site plan approval may be required, but it cannot be used to deny a project or impose conditions that make a project infeasible or impractical to build.

## Examples of ~15 Units Per Acre:









**Source:** The Urbanist illustrating new mixed-housing-type subdivision at ~15 units per acre



Westwood, MA



Norfolk, MA



Lexington, MA



Sudbury, MA

Credit: Amy Dain

## Determining "Reasonable Size"

#### **Minimum Multi-Family Unit Capacity**

- The district's multi-family capacity must be equal to or greater than 10% of Northborough's total housing stock (Northborough 2020 housing units = 5,897 x 10% = 589 multi-family units)
- 50 acres x 15 units/acre = 750 multi-family units
- Existing multifamily units, for example those within Avalon Northborough, located within the district's boundaries count towards both units and density
- When communities estimate how many units could be constructed on each parcel of developable land within the district, the estimate should take into account the amount of developable land, height limitations, lot coverage limitations, maximum floor area ratio, set backs, and parking space requirements, and other restrictions or limitations in other bylaws



### **Location of Districts**

## MBTA communities with <u>no</u> land area within 0.5 miles of a transit station

The multi-family district should, if feasible, be located in an area with reasonable access to a transit station based on existing street patterns, pedestrian connections, and bicycle lanes, or in an area that otherwise is consistent with Massachusetts sustainable development principles--- for example, within Northborough Center or in a location with existing underutilized facilities that could be redeveloped into new multi-family housing

## Determining Suitability for Families with Children

The multi-family district zoning cannot include units with age restrictions and cannot place and limits or restrictions on:

- Size of units
- Number of bedrooms
- Size of bedrooms
- Number of occupants



### **Additional Considerations**

- Affordability:
  - Up to 10% (at 80% area median income) in all districts, in all communities
  - Up to 20% for a zoning district approved under MGL chapter 40R or that otherwise goes through a DHCD approval process OR if local affordability requirements predate the enactment of Section 3A.
- Mixed use projects may be allowed as of right in a multi-family zoning district, as long as multi-family housing is separately allowed as of right.

# The Draft Guidelines are NOT:

- ➤ A production mandate, requirement to build new units, or production target. There is no requirement nor expectation that a multi-family district will be built out to its full capacity
- ➤ Related to Chapter 40B which allows developers to bypass local zoning in communities with less than 10% affordable housing



What are the consequences if Northborough does not comply with the new legislation?

Communities that do not meet compliance deadlines will **not be eligible to apply** for funds from these State programs:

- MassWorks Infrastructure Program
- Housing Choice Initiative
- Local Capital Projects Fund
- DHCD may, at its discretion, take non-compliance into consideration when making other discretionary grant awards

## Compliance Timeline:

Transit Category (# munis)	Action Plan Submission Deadline (if applicable)	District Compliance Submission Deadline
Rapid Transit (12)	January 31, 2023	December 31, 2023
Commuter Rail (69)	January 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Adjacent (59)	January 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
Adjacent Small Town (35)	January 31, 2023	December 31, 2025

## **Next Steps**

#### Technical assistance:

- Mass Housing Partnership: Northborough secured a technical assistance grant that will pay for the services of Barrett Planning Group through June 30, 2023. They will assist the Planning Board with identifying potential areas suitable for a 3A District, evaluating a proposed district for compliance with the location, size and minimum unit capacity, and public education.
- <u>CMRPC and DLTA</u>: CMRPC has been allocated District Local Technical
   Assistance funding for 2022 to help designated MBTA Communities within the region be well-positioned to meet Section 3A compliance.

Develop as-of-right multi-family zoning district for Town Meeting vote (target April 2024)

# Thank you for listening! Questions???

- Laurie Connors, Planning Director
- 508-393-5019
- <u>lconnors@town.northborough.ma.us</u>

#### **Action Plan for MBTA Communities**

#### Description Area

Please read the Section 3A Guidelines before attempting to complete this form. Please note: Action Plan Forms must be submitted by a municipal official with authority to act on behalf of the municipality on matters of zoning, such as the municipal CEO or planning director.

#### Section 1: Identification

#### **Description Area**

municipal CEO

The Section 3A Guidelines establish zoning metrics that apply uniquely to each MBTA community based on its local transit stations, existing housing stock, population, and developable land. This section of the Action Plan helps to identify the transit stations that determined each community's category. Appendix 1 of the Section 3A Guidelines lists each community's category and minimum multi-family unit capacity requirement.

1.1 MBTA Community Name	Northborough
1.2. Community Category	Adjacent community
1.3. Multifamily Unit Capacity Requirement	750
1.4. Does this municipality have any MBTA rapid transit stations within its boundaries?	No
1.5. Does this municipality have any MBTA commuter rail stations within its boundaries?	No
1.6. Does this municipality have any other MBTA transit stations that are located outside of its municipal boundaries that may have "developable station area" within them?	No
1.7. Please provide the name of the person filling out this form	Laurie Connors
1.7a. Title	Planning Director
1.7b. Email Address	Iconnors@town.northborough.ma.us
1.7c. Phone Number	(508) 393-5019
1.8 Please provide the name of the	John Coderre

1.8b Mailing address of municipal CEO	Town Offices	
	63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01527	
1.8c Email address of municipal CEO	jcoderre@town.northborough.ma.us	
1.9. Please briefly describe other members of the core team developing the multi-family zoning district.	Northborough's bylaw development team consists of the Planning Director and the Planning Board. We are getting assistance from the Central MA Regional Planning Commission and Barrett Planning Group, LLC. Consulting services provided by Barrett Planning Group, LLC are funded by a MHP technical assistance grant.	
Section 2: Housing Overview		
2.1. Does this municipality have any established housing related goals or strategies from municipal planning documents, such as a Housing Production Plan, Master Plan, or Economic Development Plan?	Yes	
2.1a. Please briefly describe any relevant strategies, goals, or objectives, and the work that has been done to date.	The 2020 Master Plan contains a number of housing-related goals, including the need to 1) maintain and encourage a diversity of housing options to increase housing affordability and choice for all ages and to ensure that at least 10% of the Town's housing inventory continues to be deemed affordable under state guidelines; 2) Promote housing types that accommodate future growth in the community while maintaining and enhancing the existing character of residential neighborhoods; and 3) pursue a housing strategy that balances demand with the Town's capacity to provide services and infrastructure.	
2.2. Is this municipality currently working on any other planning for housing?	Yes	
2.2a. Please briefly describe the housing work underway.	The Town is currently under contract with a consultant team led by Weston & Sampson Engineers to create a downtown revitalization strategy and design report for Northborough Center. A key component of this effort includes planning for infill development consisting of multi-family housing and mixed-use development.	

#### **Section 3: Preliminary Zoning Strategies**

3.1. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following zoning strategies is this community most likely to use for compliance? (Select all that apply)

c. A new 40R or other overlay zoning district

3.1c. Please briefly describe the potential district and location. Optional: Attach any supporting documents that show planning work the community has already done for this district(s).

The Town is evaluating three sites for inclusion in the new overlay district-a 25-acre privately owned site off of Route 20, which is located near Northborough Crossing, a large open-air shopping center, and Avalon Northborough, a master planned community set on 42 acres that contains 382 apartments. The other two sites are located within Northborough Center. The White Cliffs Mansion site contains 7 acres of land, and the Hudson Street/Blake Street/Main Street location contains approximately 18 acres. The Town is in talks with two potential developers of the Route 20 property (see attached presentation) and the White Cliffs property. If rezoned, it is likely that the property located off of Route 20, 333 Southwest Cutoff, would be developed into apartments with a minimum of 10% of units allocated to low-income housing. The White Cliffs Mansion property, on the other hand, would be developed into 100% affordable housing. Attached are GIS maps depicting the three proposed locations of the overlay district.

## 3.2. What non-housing characteristics are important for this community to consider in its 3A zoning district?

For all sites, we want to ensure that the new housing blends with the character of and complements the surrounding commercial and residential uses. The Northborough Center locations are key to our downtown revitalization efforts as the new housing will provide a customer base for existing and future businesses. It will also infuse life and vitality into the downtown. It will include adaptive reuse of existing historic buildings- the White Cliffs Mansion is a town-owned property built in 1884 that has been vacant since 2014, the current Town Hall is the 100-year-old former high school, and a mill building located at 56 Hudson Street has potential to be reused for multi-family development when the current office/industrial uses have run their course. The balance of the new housing within the downtown location will be infill development on underutilized lots. The goal of the revitalization project is to comply with Complete Streets principles and create a more pedestrian and bike-friendly downtown that better serves the needs of Northborough's residents.

For the 333 Southwest Cutoff site located off of Route 20, the primary consideration will be to create a multi-generational, walkable neighborhood. Residents will enjoy easy access to Routes 20 and 9, and the retail/restaurant opportunities afforded by Northborough Crossing and other businesses located along these corridors. This will be a redevelopment of the New England Baseball Complex, a multi-sport outdoor complex featuring 3 lighted baseball fields. Amenities of the new residential development, including pocket parks, beautiful landscaping, sidewalks, bike facilities, and outdoor patios where people can gather, are desired to serve the needs of residents within the development. Although this property is currently served by municipal water and sewer, the Town is interested in extending sewer service beyond the property to Route 9. There are a number of Northborough businesses along Route 9, including a restaurant and two motels, that are currently plaqued by failing septic systems.

#### **Section 4: Action Plan Timeline**

Description Area	This section creates a framework to input preliminary plans for a zoning adoption process. On the table below, please use Column 1 (from the left) to describe a task, Column 2 to input a start date, and Column 3 to input a finish date. Every community must provide a timeline for the below-listed tasks.  Additional space is provided for any other tasks that a community wishes to list. DHCD will review proposed timelines for feasibility before approving an Action Plan. Public outreachDeveloping zoning Applying DHCD's compliance model to test for density and unit capacityHolding planning board hearings Holding legislative sessions and adopt compliant zoning Submit District Compliance application to DHCD
Description Area	Task
Description Area	Start
Description Area	Finish
Short Answer	Public outreach
	Mar 01, 2023
	Apr 30, 2024
Short Answer	Develop zoning
	Feb 15, 2023
	Nov 30, 2023
Short Answer	Applying compliance model
	May 01, 2023
	Nov 30, 2023
Short Answer	Hold Planning Board public hearing
	Jan 02, 2024
	Feb 28, 2024
Short Answer	2024 Annual Town Meeting to adopt new zoning
	Apr 15, 2024
	Apr 30, 2024
Short Answer	Submit District Compliance application to DHCD

Jul 31, 2024

like to share about the compliance process, please use this space to provide it.

If there is any other feedback you would One of the most challenging aspects of this planning process is to identify a path towards compliance that will not immediately overwhelm municipal services. For a medium-sized, centrally-located community like Northborough, there is a significant amount of development pressure. It is very likely that this zoning will result in the immediate development of multi-family housing. Northborough already has a significant amount of multi-family housing and is Chapter-40B compliant. Creation of 750 additional units within a 2 to 5-year timeframe will severely impact our community's ability to absorb impacts of that development and to provide municipal services at current levels and standards. In my opinion, phased compliance would have been preferable (i.e creation of a 25-acre zone within 2 years and creation of a second 25-acre zone within 7 years) and would better ensure the successful and orderly absorption of the new development.

> Also- note that the program only allows me to upload one file. I wanted to upload 3 maps showing the potential multi-family overlay locations.

TO: John W. Coderre, Town Administrator

FROM: Laurie Connors, Planning Director

RE: Development Update

DATE: March 7, 2023

The following industrial, commercial and residential projects have either recently been approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals or Planning Board; are under construction; or have recently been completed.

#### **Institutional**

79 Bartlett Street (Algonquin Regional High School)— *Under review by the Planning Board* 

- 199.7 acres
- Replacement of two existing athletic fields, a track, 9 tennis courts, spectator seating, lighting and construction of associated improvements at the athletic complex
- Town sewer
- Residential C District/Industrial District

#### **Industrial and Commercial**

0 and 301 Bartlett Street - Appeal remanded back to the Planning Board, under review

- 66.1 acres
- 150,900 sf distribution center/industrial warehouse with loading dock area for approximately 33 truck bays
- Town water & sewer
- Industrial District

455 Whitney Street – Special permits approved by Zoning Board of Appeals, Groundwater special permit & site plan approval under review by Planning Board

- 2.03 acres
- 4,500 sf addition to be used as storage/warehouse space
- Town water & sewer
- Industrial District

#### 180, 186 & 200 Bartlett Street – Approved

- 6.71 acres
- Two existing buildings will be reused as a training center, contractor's yard and for trailer and small equipment maintenance. Existing automotive repair use will continue.
- Town water
- Industrial District

#### 100 Bearfoot Road – *Approved*

- 4.4 acres
- Two building additions permitted with a combined 22,080 sf of warehouse space and 4,800 sf of office space, parking and associated improvements
- Town water
- Industrial District

#### 14 Belmont Street (Lexus of Northborough) – Approved

- 2,740 building addition, new service lane and associated improvements to the existing parking area
- Highway Business District

#### 1 Lyman Street - Approved

- 4 acres
- Demolition of existing structures and construction of a 20,232 sf building with 6,000 sf office space, 17,000 sf of warehouse space, and one loading dock
- Town water
- Industrial District

#### 261 Main Street – *Approved*

- Additional 7,000 sf two-story building approved for commercial use
- Business East District

#### 5 Goddard Road – Recently completed and occupied

- 2.3 acres
- 9,424 sf building to be used as contractor's garage and office space
- Town sewer
- Industrial District

#### 172 Bearfoot Road – *Under construction*

- 61,906 sf
- Two new buildings (4,000 sf each) to be used by contractors
- Town water
- Industrial District

#### 1000-9116 Shops Way – *Under construction*

- Homegoods and Marshalls to split the space previously occupied by Pottery Barn
- Sierra to occupy 4 vacant spaces adjacent to the Paper Store & TJ Maxx
- Industrial District

#### 56 Hudson Street – *Under construction*

- 1.71 acres
- Partial demolition of existing building and reconstruction in same footprint
- Reconfigure loading dock on Hudson Street
- Town water and sewer
- Downtown Neighborhood District

#### 90 West Main Street – *Under construction*

- 1.15 acres
- Existing two-family home will be demolished and replaced with vertical mixeduse building (first floor occupancy by home remodeling/design build company and top floor will have 3 multi-family dwelling units)
- Town water & sewer
- Downtown Business District

#### 440-442 West Main Street – Prepping for occupancy

- .92 acres
- 4,600 sf office building to be added to site containing Jay Christopher Hair Salon
- Business West District

#### 50 Southwest Cutoff – Recently completed and occupied

- 2.75 acres
- Two new buildings (7000 sf and 9600 sf) to be used by contractors
- Town water
- Business West and Residential C

#### Residential

#### 39 & 43 King Street – Approved

- 2.1-acre site
- 66 units of assisted living
- Business West District

#### 75 Ridge Road – *Approved*

- 3.6-acre site
- 3 new single-family homes served by common driveway
- Residential C District

#### 297 Crawford Street – *Approved*

- 39.3 acres
- One residential parcel was divided into 4 lots
- Residential A/Residential B District

#### 85 & 95 West Street – Approved

- 17.31 acres
- One residential parcel was divided into 5 lots
- Residential B District

#### 40 & 44 Lawrence Street – Denial is under appeal

- 1.57 acres
- Demolition of garage and construction of new single-family home
- Residential C District

#### 222 West Main Street – Appeal dropped by Applicant

- Three single-family homes constructed
- Two two-family homes under appeal

#### 223 & 227 South Street - One under construction, one not built

- 2.64 acres
- Two single-family homes
- Residential C District

#### 172 Howard Street (Clark Woods Subdivision) - Under construction

- 5 lot subdivision of which 2 are existing lots with homes
- 3 single-family homes fully constructed and occupied
- Residential B District

#### 87 Hudson Street – *Under construction*

- 38,083 square foot lot
- Demolition of single-family home and construction of new duplex
- Residential C District

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Cc Planning Board Zoning Board of Appeals