

**Report and Recommendations
of the
Finance Committee
to the
Annual Town Meeting
Chesterfield, Massachusetts**



May 13, 2024

Finance Committee Report and Recommendations

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NEW LOOK!
The Finance Committee has re-designed the Annual Report this year to make it clearer and more understandable. We hope you like the new look.

May 13, 2024

Dear Chesterfield Taxpayers,

Our town operates with a budget of approximately 5 million dollars. These funds come from State and Federal sources, but mostly from all of us who pay taxes in Chesterfield. Every year, the Finance Committee, a group of seven citizens who are appointed by the Town Moderator, in collaboration with the Select Board, create a budget that allows for the operation of the town in the most efficient manner possible with the least tax burden on the taxpayer.

The budget process begins in the fall with a review of last year's process, possible improvements to the process, a look at the upcoming needs of the town, and an assessment of the financial condition of the town's finances. In the spring, the Finance Committee receives the budget requests from each department (such as police, fire, public works, public health, community services and essential government financial and operational oversight), and, using the revenue forecast, balances the budget in collaboration with the Select Board. From this budget, the State determines the tax rate.

Once the budget is finalized and approved by vote of the Finance Committee, it is submitted at Town Meeting to the citizens of Chesterfield who have the final approval of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ultimately, at the Town Meeting it is up to the voters to decide resource levels and distribute those Town resources. In accordance with Massachusetts General Law, the Finance Committee must present a balanced budget to the Town.

The Finance Committee is committed to:

- Providing independent oversight of and safeguarding the financial wellbeing of the town
- Preparing the town for any future needs
- Ensuring that all financial policies in the town are fair and equitable to all
- Providing full disclosure and transparency of the budget process

The report that follows is intended to provide information that will show the upcoming fiscal year's budget, how funds are spent, the plans for capital expenses, the amount in free cash, and the various sources of revenue. We have made recommendations that are aligned with best practices to maintain and strengthen the long-term operational and financial stability of the Town. We continue to build a strong financial foundation from which to move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

The Chesterfield Finance Committee

Larry Cervelli (Co-Chair)
Lee Manchester (Co-Chair)

Marianne Drake
Sarah Hamilton

Carol Jolly
John Folette

Justin West

Finance Committee - Mission Statement

The Chesterfield Finance Committee provides independent oversight of financial matters related to the operation of the Town. They may consider matters relating to the appropriation, the borrowing, and the expenditure of money by the Town and to the Town's indebtedness. They may consider matters of financial relevance related to the administration of its various officers and departments, property valuation and assessments, and other town affairs.

They may make recommendations to the Town, to any Town board, officer, or committee. They also have primary responsibility for preparing the annual Town budget. In making their recommendations they are committed to being objective, to carefully evaluate the impact of any budget request on the overall financial stability of the Town and to provide the residents of Chesterfield with complete and concise information about the purpose and impact of budget proposals.

Report of the Finance Committee Town of Chesterfield

Annual Town Meeting, May 13, 2024

A primary purpose of the Annual Town Meeting is to review and vote on the municipal Budget for the upcoming year, FY 2025. The following report provides the Finance Committee's summary of the most significant factors included in the FY 2025 operating budget and an assessment of the town's fiscal condition.

School Assessments

For the 2025 fiscal year, Chesterfield's assessment from the Hampshire Regional High School (HRHS) is \$492,350, down 8.10% from the FY 2024 assessment (line 132). This continues a pattern of declining assessments from the High School every year since 2020. To some extent this is caused by declining enrollment by Chesterfield students in the High School. We now have the smallest student enrollment among the five towns in the district, and the percentage of students in the school partially determines the percentage of the overall assessment which is assigned to each member town. But this trend also reflects the fact that the overall High School assessment has not increased a great deal over these years because the School Committee has added revenue each year from discretionary accounts, such as the Excess and Deficiency account, and from revolving funds to supplement their annual revenue sources, thus reducing the assessments to the towns. We anticipate that in the coming few years our school assessment may increase dramatically as these discretionary accounts are depleted and can no longer be used to balance the HRHS budget. The Town's assessment from the New Hingham elementary school is \$973,009, an increase over 2024 of \$68,313, or 7.55% (line 131). Chesterfield also gets an assessment from Smith Vocational High School, but since that figure usually remains unavailable as of the printing of this booklet, and can change during the course of the year, we utilize a placeholder estimate in the budget, and estimate on the safe side (line 134).

Salary and Wage Adjustments

For FY 2025 the budget includes a 4.3% Cost of Living Adjustment. This figure is derived from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics New England Inflation Calculation database for our region and is based on a three-year average. The 4.3% increase has been added to all town payroll positions, including both hourly and salaried town employees, except for wage lines where the work is contracted out. The 4.3% increase has also been added to the stipends received by elected town officials. No other salary or stipend adjustments were made this year, as the Finance Committee and Select Board continue to develop an objective town compensation plan based on survey data from fiscally similar towns in our region. One new position was added to the budget this year, a second Transfer Station Attendant, (line 107), funded at \$5,263. This person will work with the Senior Transfer Station Attendant to satisfy OSHA regulations requiring the presence of two staff at sites where power equipment is in use.

Other Expense Increases

Despite inflationary pressures, most of the Town departments requested fairly modest increases for the FY 2025 budget, but a few lines increased significantly. Information Technology (line 47) increased by \$11,000 as the need for tech support, including remote meeting support, steadily increases. Fire Department turn-out gear has doubled in price (line 89), and the Highland Ambulance assessment (line 91) increased by \$16,553, or 23.3%. The Broadband Debt Service costs show large increases (lines 239 and 240), but these costs will be completely paid for by the Federal Connect America Fund (CAFII) revenue and contributions from the MLP, as shown on the Revenue Forecast page, and thus these costs do not increase the tax levy which supports this budget. Although Chesterfield approved a Debt Exclusion tax override in 2015 to pay for the construction of the Broadband network, this tax increase has not yet been needed as the annual debt service costs have been **covered by Federal grants and MLP** revenue transferred from the MLP's retained earnings to the town's General Fund.

Chesterfield Broadband and the MLP Budget

Included in the FY 2025 budget are the expense and revenue lines for the Municipal Light Plant Enterprise Fund, which was created under state law to manage the Chesterfield Broadband system, which is owned by the town and administered by the MLP. Annual Town Meeting must vote on the MLP budget as well as any transfers from Retained Earnings. The Enterprise Fund's total annual expense line is included in the town budget in the "Public Works" section (line 156), and these expenses are offset by the projected subscription revenue from the MLP operation, which is shown on the Revenue Forecast page. The Enterprise Fund is intended to be completely self-funding and, therefore, has no impact on the Town finances.

Capital Plan

The Capital Plan for FY 2025 has been fully funded in this budget. Our various short-term debt service figures remain little changed on the various pieces of capital equipment that have been purchased in recent years through borrowing. However, due to increased short-term borrowing rates in the last few years, and due to the Town's ample reserves of Free Cash, several articles on this year's ATM warrant will seek approval for the Town to appropriate Free Cash to pre-pay on the outstanding principal for several of these loans, thus saving on future interest charges. The Capital Plan includes a large increase in the amount transferred from annual funds into the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, from \$230,000 to \$250,000 (line 255). This fund will provide a crucial source of support as the Town moves toward design and construction of two new municipal buildings in the next few years. The financing plan for these buildings has been embedded in the Town's Capital Plan since FY 2017, which is approved by voters annually.

Revenue

The FY 2025 budget is partially funded by a property tax levy that will increase by 2.5% from 2024 plus new growth. Taxes collected from new growth (property added to the tax rolls for the first time) have been averaging about \$45,000 per year in recent years. The town's property tax levy is still well below the maximum allowable tax levy set by the state law known as Proposition 2.5 and the town has not sought a tax override since 2015. State aid increased by \$12,584 over last year, including an increase of \$7,653 in Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), a state program that partially makes up for tax revenue that is lost because the state-owned land in town cannot be taxed.

Future needs and Considerations

Chesterfield continues to maintain a solid financial position. In September 2023 our Free Cash balance was certified by the state Department of Revenue at \$1,393,796. Free Cash is accrued from the budgeted funds left unspent at the end of the fiscal year, and from unanticipated revenues, and is certified annually by the State. A total of \$1,468 was appropriated from Free Cash in four articles passed at the Special Town Meeting on January 25, 2024. In addition to Free Cash we have a large balance in Capital Projects Stabilization. The Town faces a need for a new Public Safety building and for a new Town Office building in the near future. The more we can fund up-front on these projects the borrowing costs will be reduced over the long term. Other long-term needs can be anticipated. The Town needs to invest in a new municipal accounting program used by the Town Treasurer, Tax Collector and Accountant. Our current program, Softrite, is over twenty years old and no longer supported. There is a need for an ADA-compliant bathroom to be built at the town library. There is a high probability that our regional school assessments will increase greatly in the next few years. We must be prepared to retain valuable town employees in the face of a tight labor market and inflationary wage and benefit pressures. The FY 2025 budget funds our annual operating costs and also prepares for some of these future needs.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Chesterfield Finance Committee:

Larry Cervelli (Co-Chair) Lee Manchester (Co-Chair)

Sarah Hamilton Justin West Marianne Drake Carol Jolly John Follet

Funding Sources for Proposed Warrant Articles

Article Number	Beginning Balance	Free Cash	Capitol Projects Stabilization	School Bldg. Maintenance Fund	OPEB Trust Fund	Raise & Appropriate	Borrowing	Designated Funds
	STM 1/25/24 (4 Articles)	\$ (1,468)						
1	Winter Expenses	\$ (13,060)						
2	Winter Wages	\$ (3,586)						
4	Transfer to General Fund	\$ (100,000)						
5	Transfer to Cap. Stab. Fund	\$ (100,000)	\$ 100,000					
8	Transfer to MLP	\$ (80,889)						\$ 80,889
11	Close Account/Police Vests	\$ (1,900)						
14	Raise for Capital Stabilization		\$ 250,000			\$ (250,000)		
15	Raise for School Stabilization			\$ 30,000		\$ (30,000)		
16	Borrow for Rescue Truck						\$ 250,000	
17	Compactor	\$ (16,175)						
18	Prepaid Debt	\$ (39,838)						
19	Prepaid Debt	\$ (39,000)						
20	Prepaid Debt	\$ (9,983)						
21	Raise for OPEB				\$ 5,000	\$ (5,000)		
22	MLP Transfer for Debt Service					\$ (59,580)		\$ (59,580)
26	Raise General Budget					\$ (4,223,237)		
28	Oploid Settlement	\$ (7,430)						\$ 7,430
29	Cemetery Stone Wall	\$ (25,000)						
30	Cemetery Tree Removal	\$ (10,000)						
31	Cemetery Parking	\$ (6,500)						
32	Historic Eddy Plaque	\$ (3,000)						
33	Historic Properties Survey	\$ (2,000)						\$ (5,000)
	Septic Betterment Fund							
	TOTAL ADDED/EXPENDED	\$ (459,829)	\$ 350,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 5,000	\$ (4,567,817)	\$ 250,000	\$ 23,739
	FUND BALANCE	\$ 933,967	\$ 1,448,189	\$ 326,533	\$ 55,000	\$ (4,567,817)	\$ 250,000	\$ 23,739

**Town of Chesterfield
Annual Town Meeting
May 13, 2024**

ARTICLES RELATING TO PRIOR FISCAL YEARS

WINTER EXPENSES

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$13,060.39** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to account 001-423-5700-0000 - Highway Winter Expenses; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: This amount covers emergency winter spending (for salt, sand, gravel, etc.) over the amount budgeted for FY24.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 1.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$3,585.66** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to account 001-423-5110-0000 - Highway Winter Wages; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: This amount covers emergency winter spending (for wages) over the amount budgeted for FY24.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 2.

RESCINDING OF BORROWING FOR BROADBAND BUILD

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will rescind **\$760,000** of the broadband network debt authorized at the Special Town Meeting that was held on June 30, 2015 (Article 1); or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: The Town authorized the borrowing of \$1,510,000 for the Town's share of the cost of construction, installation, and startup of a broadband network. It was not necessary to borrow the entire amount because of other funding sources.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 3.

RETURNING OF FUNDS FROM THE BROADBAND BUILD

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$100,000** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to return unexpended funds, as voted at the Special Town Meeting held on February 4, 2020 (Article 2) to the General Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: These funds, \$100,000, were voted to be taken from the General Stabilization Fund at the Special Town Meeting on 2/4/2020 (Article 2) to help pay the costs associated with the Broadband Drop Policy to connect the Town's broadband network from the street to premises. This article will return the unexpended funds back to the source from which they were taken.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 4.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$100,000** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to return unexpended funds, as voted at the Special Town Meeting held on February 4, 2020 (Article 3) to the Capital Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: These funds, \$100,000, were voted to be taken from the Capital Stabilization Fund at the Special Town Meeting on 2/4/2020 (Article 3) to help pay the costs associated with the Broadband Drop Policy to connect the Town's broadband network from the street to premises. This article will return the unexpended funds back to the source from which they were taken.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 5.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$49,995** from the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations Retained Earnings to the Town of Chesterfield General Fund to pay the activation fees to the Town as previously agreed; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: MLP (Municipal Light Plant)

MLP Note: This is to transfer to the Town of Chesterfield the activation fees collected by the MLP during the initial subscription period to help offset the cost of providing free drops to subscribers.

MLP Recommendation: The MLP recommends passage of this article.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: **The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 6.**

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$49,422.76** from the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations Retained Earnings to the Town of Chesterfield General Fund for reimbursement of seed money expended as voted at the Annual Town Meeting held on May 13, 2019 (Article 14); or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: MLP

MLP Note: This is to transfer to the Town of Chesterfield funds in repayment of funds advanced to the MLP to cover initial operational costs.

MLP Recommendation: The MLP recommends passage of this article.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: **The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 7**

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to Transfer the sum of **\$80,889.06** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, to the Chesterfield Broadband Enterprise Fund for the reimbursement of revenues credited to the General Fund in FY22; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board & MLP

Select Board & MLP Note: In FY22, as the MLP was beginning to receive subscription revenue and prior to the establishment of the Broadband Enterprise Fund, the revenue that came to the MLP went into the Town's General Fund. This article transfers to the Broadband Enterprise Fund the money owed by the Town for the unexpended Broadband revenue left in the Town's General Fund at the conclusion of FY22.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: **The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 8.**

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$24,744.71** from the Broadband Capital Project account to the Town of Chesterfield General Fund, to reimburse the Town for funds that were taken out of the General Fund for interest payments and pole bonds for the Broadband project; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: This reimburses the Town for funds spent out of the General Fund on behalf of the Broadband Network construction project.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 9.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will return the excess funds of **\$14,185.40** from the Broadband Capital Project account to the Town of Chesterfield General Fund, to close out the Broadband project; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: The construction portion of the Broadband project is now complete, and this article transfers unexpended monies not used for construction or drops back to the General Fund.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 10.

CLOSING OF OVERDRAWN ACCOUNT

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$1,900** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, in order to close out overdrawn accounts or accounts deemed uncollectible for FY24; or take any other action relative thereto.

Account: 240-210-5780-000: Police Vest Grant Expenses -\$1,900

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: The Town received a grant in FY20 for \$3,400 for police department vests under a previous Police Chief. The vests were purchased at that time. Reimbursement was supposed to come from the Federal Government to the Town first after paperwork was submitted showing the purchase and then the State would cover the rest of the expenses. It appears that the grant paperwork was not submitted for reimbursement by the previous Police Chief. There was a payment made to the Town for \$1,500 that was applied to this grant leaving a balance of \$1,900 uncollected from the grant. This money would balance the account line.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 11.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to close the following accounts and return the funds to the General Fund; or take any other action relative thereto:

Item Description	Account Number	Warrant Article #	Town Meeting Date/Year	Amount Authorized	Amount Remaining
Historic Property Surveys	001-691-5300-9000	9 10	5/15 5/14	1,000 1,000	1,810.10
Cemetery Repairs – Ireland St/Gate	001-491-5240-9000	3	6/2011	32,500	5,193.63
Cemetery Repairs	001-491-5240-9002	10	5/2016	10,500.00	8,920.36
Cemetery Survey Burial Plots	001-491-5300-9001	9	5/2016	2,350.00	1,839.00
Repair Cemetery Headstones	001-491-5240-9004	14	5/2017	4,000.00	1,600.00
S. Bonney Memorial Stone	001-491-5840-9000	15	5/2017	1,000.00	107.61
Mt Cemetery Stone Wall Rebuild	001-491-5840-9002	22	5/2023	7900.00	50.00
Bridge Academy Wages	001-210-5110-9003	2	3/30/23	10,000	2,094.30
Bridge Academy Expenses	001-210-5700-9003	2	3/30/23	5,650	4,056.02

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: Monies voted at Town Meetings are not always spent in their entirety. This article returns unspent funds to the Town’s General Fund.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 12

ARTICLES RELATING TO FISCAL YEAR 2025

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan recommended by the Capital Improvement Planning Committee; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: *The Capital Improvement Plan is written to anticipate the capital needs of the Town for the next 6 years. Each year the Town votes on the Plan for the next Fiscal Year. The Plan can be found in the Finance Committee booklet.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 13. The Capital Plan can be found on page 30 of this booklet.*

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$250,000**, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, for the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: *This money is being set aside for future capital projects.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 14.*

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000**, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, for the School Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: *This money is being set aside for future school capital projects.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 15.*

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (**\$250,000.00**), in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by

this meeting, for the purpose of paying the costs of acquiring a rescue truck for the Fire Department, including original equipment, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority, for a period of ten (10) years or less, and to issue bonds and notes therefore, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: This vehicle will replace the 2004 Rescue Truck. This has been on the Capital Improvement Plan for several years.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 16.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$16,175** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, to purchase a compactor minus the power unit for the Transfer Station; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Board of Health Note: This article would fund a new trash compactor, which is in the Capital Improvement Plan. The board had previously purchased a new power unit.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 17.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$39,838** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, to pay off the remaining debt due on the 2017 10-Wheel Dump Truck; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: This payment would pay off the debt two years early. This represents final payment due.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 18.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$39,000** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, to pay off the remaining debt due on the 2024 Fire Chief Truck; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: This payment would pay off the debt three years early. This represents final payment due.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 19.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$9,983** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan approved by this meeting, to pay off the remaining debt due on the 2021 All-Wheel Drive Police Cruiser; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Capital Improvement Planning Committee Note: This payment would pay off the debt one year early. This represents final payment due.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 20

OPEB (OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS) LIABILITY TRUST FUND

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Liability Trust Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Finance Committee Note: The OPEB Liability Trust Fund appropriates monies toward the Town's unfunded liability for health benefits of both current and future retired employees.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 21

MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT (MLP)

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$59,580** from the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations Retained Earnings to the Town of Chesterfield General Fund, to offset principle on the debt to construct the Broadband Network, effective for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024, provided that these funds shall be accounted for separately

and further that the Town shall provide an annual statement of activity relative to those funds, or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: MLP

MLP Note: *This article would transfer funds from the MLP Retained Earnings (funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2024) to the General Fund of the Town to help reduce the principle owed on the debt for the construction of the Broadband Network. Funds for this transfer come only from income generated by the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations (MLP).*

MLP Recommendation: *The MLP Board recommends passage of this Article by a vote of 4-0.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 22.*

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$200,000** from the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations Retained Earnings to the Municipal Light Plant Equipment Special Purpose Stabilization Fund, effective for fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2024; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: MLP

MLP Note: *This article would provide continued funding for the Special Purpose Stabilization Fund for the replacement of broadband equipment as it ages. Funds for this transfer come only from income generated by the Chesterfield Broadband Networks Operations (MLP).*

MLP Recommendations: *The MLP Board recommends passage of this Article by a vote of 4-0.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 23.*

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will appropriate from receipts of the Chesterfield Municipal Light Department, money for the operation and maintenance of the Municipal Light Department for the 12-month period commencing July 1, 2024, pursuant to sections 57 and 57A of Chapter 164 of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: MLP

MLP Manager's Note: *The MLP's Broadband Operational Budget is included in the Finance Committee's line-item budget, which can be seen in the Report and Recommendations of the Finance Committee. The full MLP budget may be reviewed at www.townofchesterfieldma.com on the MLP page. Please note that, although the Broadband MLP budget is included in the Town budget, it is funded wholly from subscription receipts and does not require Town funds to operate.*

MLP Recommendations: *The MLP Board approved this budget by a vote of 4-0.*

Select Board Recommendation: *Recommended by a vote of 3-0.*

Finance Committee Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 24.*

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for Fiscal 2025, as provided in Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Finance Committee Note: These salaries and hourly rates reflect a 4.3% cost-of-living adjustment.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 25.

<i>Moderator</i>	<i>\$231</i>
<i>Select Board (3)</i>	<i>\$6,571</i>
<i>Board of Assessors (3)</i>	<i>\$1,934</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>\$29,363</i>
<i>Tax Collector</i>	<i>\$29,363</i>
<i>Town Clerk</i>	<i>\$29,363</i>
<i>Planning Board (7)</i>	<i>\$580</i>
<i>Regional School Committee (5)</i>	<i>\$579</i>
<i>Constables</i>	<i>\$17.38 hr.</i>
<i>Tree Warden (Admin Work)</i>	<i>\$18.49 hr.</i>
<i>Tree Warden (Tree Work)</i>	<i>\$21.74 hr.</i>
<i>Board of Health (3)</i>	<i>\$925</i>

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds now in the Treasury, a sum of money for the **Fiscal 2025 budget** for Town General Fund expenditures; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Finance Committee Note: The purpose of this article is to improve the general operating budget for the Town. It can be found in the Finance Committee Booklet on page 25.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 26.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to Section 53E½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws to establish the following limitations on expenditures from the Revolving Funds established by Article 17 of the Town of Chesterfield General By-laws, entitled, “Departmental Revolving Funds;” or take any other action relative thereto.

Revolving Account	Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limit
Board of Health (BOH)	\$3,000, but in no event may it exceed the current balance
Planning Board	\$5,000, but in no event may it exceed the current balance
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$3,000, but in no event may it exceed the current balance
Dog Control Revolving Fund	\$3,000, but in no event may it exceed the current balance
Wetlands Protection	\$3,000, but in no event may it exceed the current balance

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: Revolving funds enable departments and boards to take in monies (such as fees) from residents and expend those funds as needed.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 27.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT STABILIZATION FUND

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$7,430.43** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, to the Town’s Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Select Board

Select Board Note: At the January 25, 2024 Special Town Meeting, this Stabilization Fund was created. The money received by the Town from the Opioid Settlement as of that date was \$7,430.43. That amount is sitting in Free Cash and must now be transferred into the Stabilization Fund for the purposes that the settlement dictates.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 28.

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Note: The next three articles continue the multi-year preparation for burials in the donated parcel in the rear of the Ireland Street Cemetery.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$25,000** from Free Cash, now in the Treasury, to build a stone wall at the Ireland Street Cemetery; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Cemetery Commission

Cemetery Commission Note: This article would fund the construction of a dry laid stone wall along the rear property line of the Ireland Street Cemetery using mostly existing stone and including extra wall stone and 3/4" stone.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 29.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$10,000** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to fund tree removal at the Ireland Street Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Cemetery Commission

Cemetery Commission Note: This article would fund the removal of trees along the access road at the Ireland Street Cemetery. Climbing work will be required due to a limited work area.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 30

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$6,500** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to fund the construction of a parking area at the Ireland Street Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Cemetery Commission

Cemetery Commission Note: This article would fund the construction of a 20' x 36' parking area in the rear section of the Ireland Street Cemetery. Stone posts and chain are included in this cost.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 31

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$3,000** from Free Cash now in the Treasury to fund the placement of a granite marker with a brass plaque at the site of Samuel Eddy's home on River Road; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Historical Commission

Historical Commission Note: Samuel Eddy was awarded the Medal of Honor for his brave actions in the last large battle of the Civil War just prior to Lee's surrender at Appomattox. He remained Hampshire County's only recipient of this award until 2019. He was buried at Mount Cemetery after his death in 1909.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 32.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$2,000 from Free Cash now in the Treasury to fund the surveying of historic properties; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Historical Commission

Historical Commission Note: This funding continues one of the ongoing main responsibilities of the Historical Commission of documenting historical resources on surveys (319 to date) that are available to the public online at the Mass Historical Commission web site.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

Finance Committee Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of article 33.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION GENERAL BYLAW AMENDMENT

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws, Article 4, Section 1, for Conservation Commission, by adding “and three associate members” after the word members; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Conservation Commission

Select Board Note: The Conservation Commission has requested this change to the Bylaw Article 4, Section 1: To read: A Conservation Commission of five members and three associate members for overlapping three-year terms, as provided by Section 8C of M.G.L., Chapter 40.

Select Board Recommendation: Recommended by a vote of 3-0.

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to have Cemetery Commission be elected rather than appointed by the Select Board by voting as follows; or to take any other action relative thereto.

1. To see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 114 Sections 22 through 26 which reads as follows:

Section 22

A town which accepts this and the four following sections or has accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws may, at any town meeting, elect by ballot a board of cemetery commissioners consisting of three persons. If such board is first chosen at a meeting

other than an annual town meeting, one member for one year from the day following that fixed for the last preceding annual town meeting, one member for two years and one member for three years from said day, and annually thereafter one member shall, at the annual town meeting, be elected by ballot for term of three years. Such boards shall choose a chairman, and a clerk who may be a member of the board.

Section 23

Said board shall have the sole care, superintendence and management of all public burial grounds in its town, may lay out any existing public burial grounds in its town or any land purchased and set apart by said town for such cemeteries, in lots or other suitable subdivisions, with proper paths and avenues, may plant, embellish, ornament and fence the same and erect therein such suitable edifices and conveniences and make such improvements as it considers convenient; and, subject to the approval of the town, may make such regulations consistent with law, as it deems expedient.

Section 24

Said board may, by deed made and executed in such manner and form as it may prescribe, convey to any person the sole and exclusive right of burial in any lot in such cemeteries and of erecting tombs, cenotaphs and other monuments or structures thereon upon such terms and conditions as its regulations prescribe. Such deeds and all subsequent deeds of such lots made by owners thereof shall be recorded in the office of the city or town clerk in books kept for that purpose upon the payment of the fee provided by clause (78) section thirty-four of chapter two hundred and sixty-two and said records shall be open to the public at all reasonable times.

Section 25

A town in which cemetery commissioners are chosen may receive gifts or bequests for maintaining cemeteries or cemetery lots, which shall be paid into the town treasury and, with the accounts thereof, shall be kept separate from the other money and accounts of said town. The town treasurer shall invest all such funds in accordance with the stipulations, if any, accompanying them; otherwise, he shall invest them as ordered by said commissioners and pay the income therefrom upon their order or with their approval. The proceeds of sales of lots or rights of burial in such cemeteries shall be paid into the town treasury and be appropriated to reimburse the town for the cost of the land, its care, improvement and embellishment, or the enlargement of the cemetery.

Section 26

Said board shall not incur debts or liabilities for purposes other than aforesaid nor to an amount exceeding the amount of the funds subject to their order, and it shall annually make a written report to said town of its official acts, of the condition of such cemeteries, and render an account of its receipts and expenditures for the same and of the funds subject to its order.

- 2. To authorize the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to establish rules and regulations for the cemeteries as it deems expedient.**
- 3. To rescind the Town's vote of 5/3/76 to have its selectmen appoint a cemetery committee of three members.**
- 4. To repeal the portion of the Bylaw provision in General Bylaws, Article 4, Section 1, which requires the Select Board to appoint:**

A Cemetery Commission of three members, for overlapping three-year terms, as provided by sections 21-23 of the M.G.L. Chapter 41.

5. **To rescind the Town's vote of 5/15/1975, wherein the Town voted to:**
Authorize the Board of Selectmen to establish rules and regulations for the control of the town-owned cemeteries.
6. **To repeal the Bylaw provision in General Bylaws, Article 5, Section 8, which states:**
The Select Board shall have the authority to establish rules and regulations for town-owned cemeteries.

Submitted by: This petition has been submitted by Emma Dee Cinner, Richard Roberts and Deanne Ursia.

Select Board Note: Two similar Citizens' Petitions submitted by Eileen McGowan and Emma Dee Cinner were voted on at the May 15, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. The first asked the Town to accept MGL chap 114, sect 22-26. The other asked that the authority for establishing cemetery rules and regulations be given to the Cemetery Commission. The first article failed, and the second was voted to be taken off the table.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote on a non-binding petition to strongly recommend that the Procurement Officer become a Certified Public Purchasing Official (CPPO) by taking the free online courses offered by the by the Massachusetts Inspector Generals' Office and designed to provide public employees with a better understanding of the complexities of Massachusetts procurement law and best practices; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Emma Dee Cinner

ANY OTHER MATTER

ARTICLE 37: To take up any other matter which may legally be brought before this meeting.

NOTES

Budget Revenue and Expenses Snapshot

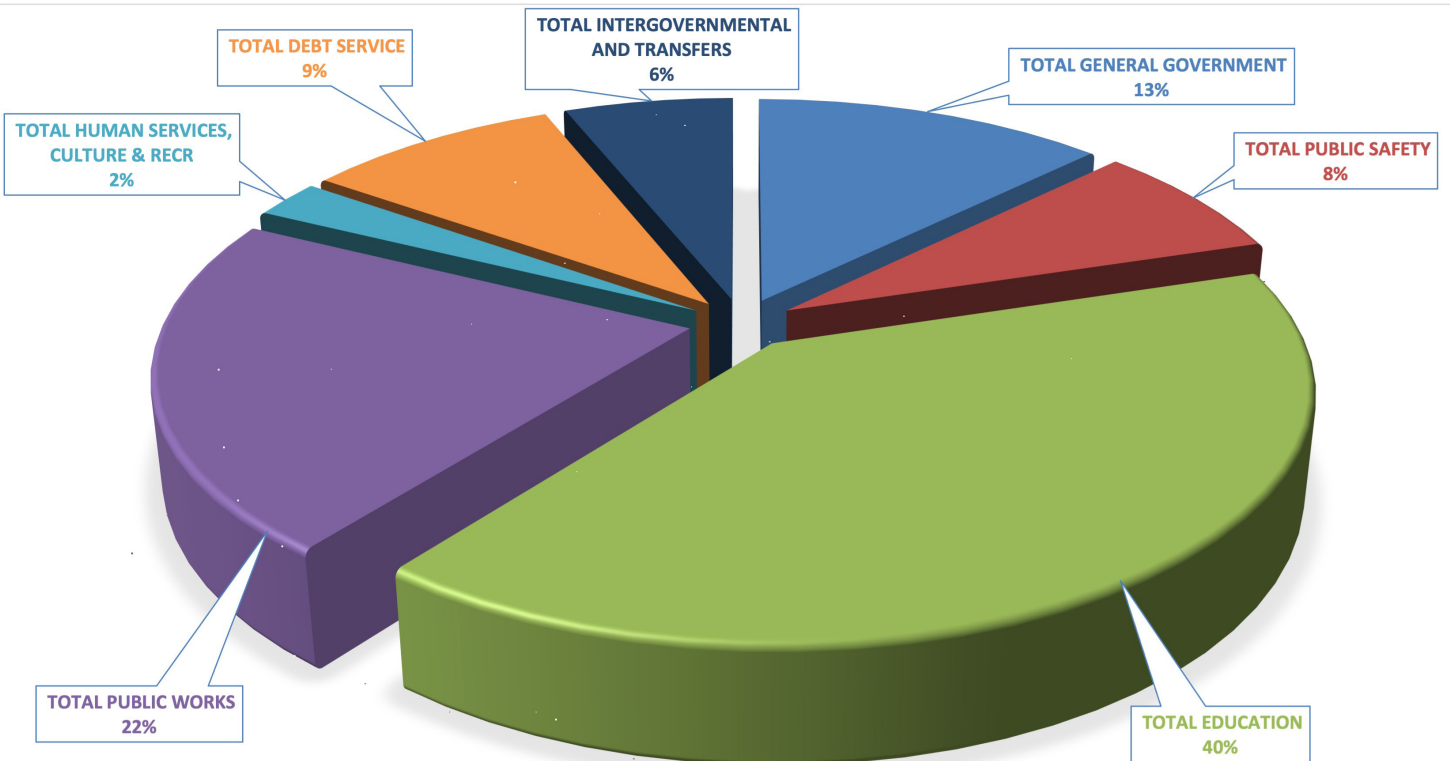
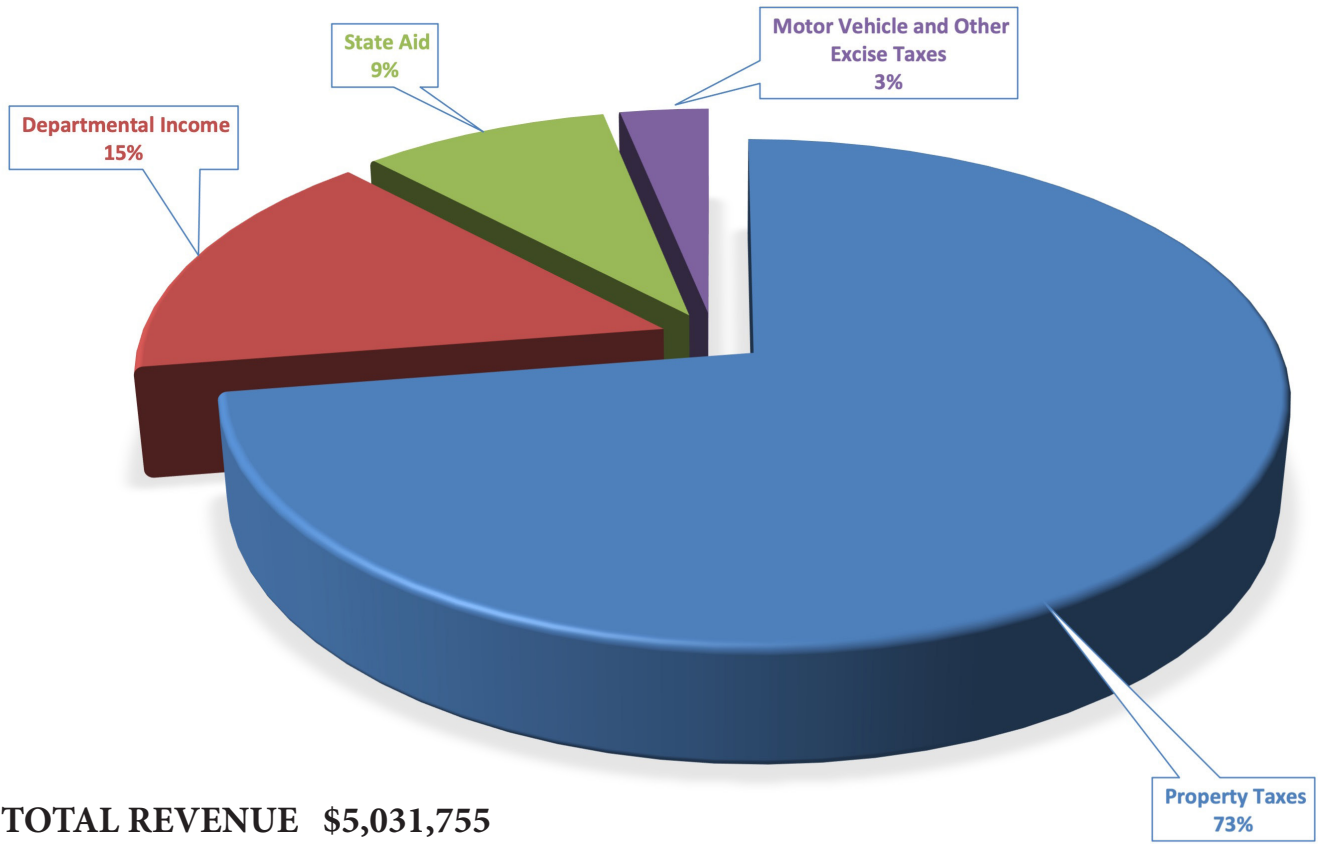
Budget Expenses by Category

General Government	\$602,702
Public Safety	\$359,473
Education	\$1,919,025
Public Works	\$1,030,075
Human Services, Culture and Recreation	\$117,542
Debt Service	\$436,004
Intergovernmental	\$4,603
Insurance	\$277,331
Transfers	\$285,000

Revenue Sources by Category

Property Taxes	\$3,645,612
Departmental Income	\$776,104
State Aid	\$445,039
Motor Vehicle and other Excise Taxes	\$160,000
Septic Betterment Fund	\$5,000

FY 2025 ESTIMATED REVENUES and PROPOSED BUDGET BY CATEGORY
Estimated Revenue by Source



TOTAL EXPENSES \$5,031,755

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET SUMMARY - FY 2025**

	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved FY 2024	Forecast/Proposed FY 2025
State and Local Revenue				
Property Taxes	\$ 3,336,087	\$ 3,304,601	\$ 3,497,302	\$ 3,645,612
Departmental Income	\$ 344,817	\$ 643,086	\$ 717,137	\$ 776,104
State Aid	\$ 343,983	\$ 352,379	\$ 432,455	\$ 445,039
Motor Vehicle and Other Excise Taxes	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000
Total Local Revenue	\$ 4,184,887	\$ 4,460,066	\$ 4,806,894	\$ 5,026,755
Other Financing Sources				
Septic Betterments	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Federally Owned Land				
Free Cash				
Total Other Financing Sources	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000
Total Revenue	\$ 4,194,887	\$ 4,470,066	\$ 4,816,894	\$ 5,031,755
Expenditures				
General Government	\$ 321,303	\$ 394,895	\$ 583,334	\$602,702
Public Safety	\$ 227,046	\$ 264,182	\$ 321,225	359,473
Education	\$ 1,913,201	\$ 1,800,668	\$ 1,897,063	\$ 1,919,025
Public Works	\$ 464,645	\$ 546,227	\$ 1,106,889	\$ 1,030,075
Human Services, Culture & Recreation	\$ 77,560	\$ 86,427	\$ 113,927	\$ 117,542
Debt Service	\$ 201,425	\$ 153,173	\$ 292,685	\$ 436,004
Intergovernmental	\$ 6,221	\$ 7,040	\$ 4,522	\$ 4,603
Insurance	\$ 224,283	\$ 240,003	\$ 247,249	\$ 277,331
Transfers	\$ 235,162	\$ 260,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 285,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 3,670,847	\$ 3,752,614	\$ 4,816,894	\$ 5,031,755
Excess (Deficiency) of Rev Over Exp	\$ 524,040	\$ 717,452	\$ -	\$ -

TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD
BUDGET REVENUE FORECAST - FY 2025

	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Approved ATM FY 2024	FINCOM Proposed/Forecast Proposed/Forecast FY 2025
Property Taxes				
Prior Year Levy Limit	\$ 3,430,970	\$ 3,561,791	\$ 3,699,823	\$ 3,846,467
Add 2.5%	\$ 85,774	\$ 89,045	\$ 92,496	\$ 96,162
New Growth	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
**New Growth Difference-per Tax Recap	\$ 15,047	\$ 8,987		
Total Levy Limit	\$ 3,561,791	\$ 3,699,823	\$ 3,832,319	\$ 3,982,629
Debt Exclusions			\$ -	\$ -
**Debt Exclusion Difference-per Tax Recap	\$ 16,769			
Maximum Allowable Levy	\$ 3,578,560	\$ 3,699,823	\$ 3,832,319	\$ 3,982,629
Excess Capacity	\$ (155,706)	\$ (369,222)	\$ (309,017)	\$ (309,017)
**Excess Capacity Difference-per Tax Recap	\$ (64,704)			
Total Taxes Committed	\$ 3,358,150	\$ 3,330,601	\$ 3,523,302	\$ 3,673,612
Provision for Overlay	\$ (22,063)	\$ (26,000)	\$ (26,000)	\$ (28,000)
Total Net Property Tax Revenue	\$ 3,336,087	\$ 3,304,601	\$ 3,497,302	\$ 3,645,612
Departmental Income Sources				
Penalties and Interest on Taxes	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 37,000
Transfer Station	\$ 20,413	\$ 20,413	\$ 20,413	\$ 20,413
Rental Income	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
Fees				
Town Clerk	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
Licenses & Permits				
Alcoholic Licenses	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900	\$ 900
Police Department	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Building Permits	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Plumbing/Gas Permits	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,450
Wiring Permits	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Other Departmental Revenues	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Court & RMV Fines	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Investment Income	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
MLP/Enterprise Fund Revenue	\$ 263,204	\$ 561,473	\$ 547,205	\$ 458,938
MLP Retained Earnings Transfer			\$ 29,874	\$ 59,580
MLP CAFII Revenue			\$ 58,445	\$ 175,973
Misc Recurring (Audit)	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
Total Departmental Income	\$ 344,817	\$ 643,086	\$ 717,137	\$ 776,104
State Aid				
School Chapter 70	\$ 133,594	\$ 133,594	\$ 133,594	\$ 133,594
Unrestricted State Aid	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 163,131	\$ 170,001
Annual Formula Local Aid				
Loss of Taxes on State Land	\$ 68,764	\$ 77,595	\$ 118,309	\$ 125,962
Vocational Transportation				
Tax Exemptions	\$ 9,111	\$ 8,542	\$ 8,436	\$ 7,212
Veterans' Benefits	\$ 9,983	\$ 11,302	\$ 12,300	\$ 11,086
Elections		\$ 3,409	\$ -	\$ -
Library			\$ 4,765	\$ 4,768
Cherry Sheet Assessments	\$ (2,469)	\$ (7,063)	\$ (8,080)	\$ (7,584)
Total State Aid	\$ 343,983	\$ 352,379	\$ 432,455	\$ 445,039

FY 2025 Proposed BUDGET - by line code

Line #	Account Name	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025 FinCom		\$ Change	
		Approved	ATM	Approved	ATM	Proposed		FY24 to FY25	
1	Select Board Stipend	\$	18,000.00	\$	18,900.00	\$	19,713.00	\$	813.00
2	Clerical Support	\$	4,801.00	\$	5,041.00	\$	5,258.00	\$	217.00
3	HR Consultant	\$	2,500.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	5,000.00
4	Select Board Expense	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00	\$	-
5	Town Administrator Salary	\$	67,325.00	\$	46,946.00	\$	48,965.00	\$	2,019.00
6	Town Administrator Expense	\$	1,250.00	\$	1,250.00	\$	1,250.00	\$	-
7	Total Executive	\$	97,876.00	\$	86,137.00	\$	94,186.00	\$	8,049.00
8	Town Clerk Stipend	\$	26,811.00	\$	28,152.00	\$	29,363.00	\$	1,211.00
9	Asst Town Clerk Wages	\$	1,524.00	\$	1,600.00	\$	1,669.00	\$	69.00
10	Street Listings Stipend	\$	300.00	\$	300.00	\$	300.00	\$	-
11	Street Listings Expenses					\$	600.00	\$	600.00
12	Town Clerk Expenses	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	-
13	Total Town Clerk	\$	29,135.00	\$	30,552.00	\$	32,432.00	\$	1,880.00
14	Board of Registrars Wages	\$	173.00	\$	182.00	\$	190.00	\$	8.00
15	Election Workers Wages	\$	2,575.00	\$	3,700.00	\$	4,000.00	\$	300.00
16	Elections & Registrations	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	300.00
17	Total Election and Registration	\$	3,948.00	\$	5,082.00	\$	5,690.00	\$	608.00
18	Financial Clerk (warrant entry)	\$	3,640.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
19	Annual Audit	\$	14,500.00	\$	14,500.00	\$	17,500.00	\$	3,000.00
20	OPEB Audit			\$	900.00	\$	900.00	\$	-
21	Financial Advisory Services					\$	600.00	\$	600.00
22	Town Accountant Services (outsourced)	\$	30,600.00	\$	34,800.00	\$	34,200.00	\$	(600.00)
23	Town Accountant Expense	\$	4,500.00	\$	4,500.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	500.00
24	Total Accountant/Auditor	\$	53,240.00	\$	59,700.00	\$	63,200.00	\$	3,500.00
25	Assessors Stipend	\$	5,298.00	\$	5,562.00	\$	5,802.00	\$	240.00
26	Assist. Assessor Salary	\$	15,829.00	\$	16,620.00	\$	17,335.00	\$	715.00
27	Assessors' Revaluation	\$	8,500.00	\$	15,800.00	\$	15,700.00	\$	(100.00)
28	Assessors' Expenses	\$	7,000.00	\$	7,210.00	\$	7,910.00	\$	700.00
29	Total Assessors	\$	36,627.00	\$	45,192.00	\$	46,747.00	\$	1,555.00
30	Treasurer Stipend	\$	26,811.00	\$	28,151.00	\$	29,363.00	\$	1,212.00
31	Assistant Treasurer Wages							\$	-
32	Treasurer Certification Stipend	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
33	Treasurer's Expense	\$	3,086.00	\$	3,179.00	\$	3,274.00	\$	95.00
34	Treasurer's Tax Title Expense	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
35	Total Treasurer	\$	35,897.00	\$	37,330.00	\$	38,637.00	\$	1,307.00
36	Tax Collector Stipend	\$	26,811.00	\$	28,151.00	\$	29,363.00	\$	1,212.00
37	Assistant Treasurer / Tax Collector Wages	\$	2,865.00	\$	3,008.00	\$	3,137.00	\$	129.00
38	Tax Collector's Expenses	\$	11,600.00	\$	11,600.00	\$	13,950.00	\$	2,350.00
39	Total Tax Collector	\$	41,276.00	\$	42,759.00	\$	46,450.00	\$	3,691.00
40	Legal Services	\$	6,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	(5,000.00)
41	Total Legal Services	\$	6,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$	10,000.00	\$	(5,000.00)
42	Conservation Comm. Expenses	\$	375.00	\$	500.00	\$	600.00	\$	100.00
43	Total Conservation Commisssion	\$	375.00	\$	500.00	\$	600.00	\$	100.00
44	Copier and Fax Expense	\$	1,900.00	\$	1,900.00	\$	1,900.00	\$	-
45	Major Repairs	\$	18,000.00	\$	80,000.00	\$	77,371.00	\$	(2,629.00)
46	Advertising	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	-
47	Information Technology	\$	20,000.00	\$	26,000.00	\$	37,000.00	\$	11,000.00
48	Printing and Postage	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	300.00
49	Records Management System							\$	-
50	Computer Replacement	\$	6,000.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	6,000.00	\$	(2,000.00)
51	Website Support	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,400.00	\$	2,600.00	\$	200.00
52	Custodial Wages	\$	12,130.00	\$	16,205.00	\$	16,902.00	\$	697.00
53	General Maintenance Wages	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	3,000.00	\$	-
54	Grounds Maintenance Wages	\$	3,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00	\$	-
55	Veterans Park Wages			\$	1,056.00	\$	1,056.00	\$	-
56	General Maintenance Supplies	\$	4,200.00	\$	4,200.00	\$	4,200.00	\$	-
57	Electricity	\$	22,000.00	\$	26,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	(1,000.00)
58	Heat	\$	38,250.00	\$	45,000.00	\$	40,000.00	\$	(5,000.00)
59	Lawn Mowing	\$	8,500.00	\$	9,500.00	\$	11,500.00	\$	2,000.00
60	Grounds Maintenance Expense	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	500.00	\$	-
61	Veterans Park Maintenance Supplies			\$	800.00	\$	800.00	\$	-
62	Telephone	\$	11,000.00	\$	9,000.00	\$	8,000.00	\$	(1,000.00)
63	Telephone Connect CTY	\$	1,350.00	\$	1,350.00	\$	1,600.00	\$	250.00
64	Custodial Supplies	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	-
65	Elevator Inspection	\$	1,300.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	-
66	Water Supply Maintenance	\$	900.00	\$	900.00	\$	900.00	\$	-
67	Total Operations Support	\$	158,730.00	\$	243,511.00	\$	246,329.00	\$	2,818.00
68	Moderator	\$	211.00	\$	221.00	\$	231.00	\$	10.00
69	Moderator Expenses	\$	200.00	\$	200.00	\$	200.00	\$	-
70	Finance Committee Expenses	\$	450.00	\$	450.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	550.00
71	Finance Committee Reserve Fund	\$	14,000.00	\$	14,000.00	\$	14,000.00	\$	-
72	Town Report Expense	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	-
73	Town Report Coordinator Expense (Pd as Vendor) *	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,500.00	\$	300.00
74	Total Other	\$	17,561.00	\$	17,571.00	\$	18,431.00	\$	860.00
75	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$	480,665.00	\$	583,334.00	\$	602,702.00	\$	19,368.00

Line #	Account Name	FY2023 Approved Fincom & ATM	FY2024 Approved ATM	FY2025 FinCom Proposed	\$ Change
77					\$ -
78	Police Chief Wages	\$ 39,062.00	\$ 30,099.00	\$ 31,393.00	\$ 1,294.00
79	Police Officer Wages	\$ 18,304.00	\$ 19,219.00	\$ 20,045.00	\$ 826.00
80	Police Sergeant Wages	\$ 16,224.00	\$ 17,056.00	\$ 17,789.00	\$ 733.00
81	Hampshire Regional Lockup	\$ 1,161.00	\$ 1,161.00	\$ 1,161.00	\$ -
82	Police Expenses	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
83	4TH of July Police Wages	\$ 1,344.00	\$ 1,344.00	\$ 1,344.00	\$ -
84	4TH of July Police Expense	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
85	Total Police Department	\$ 92,295.00	\$ 88,579.00	\$ 92,932.00	\$ 4,353.00
86	Fire Chief Stipend	\$ 8,227.00	\$ 8,638.00	\$ 9,009.00	\$ 371.00
87	Deputy Chief Stipend	\$ 856.00	\$ 873.00	\$ 911.00	\$ 38.00
88	Fire Department Incentive	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -
89	Fire Department Expenses	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
90	Fire Dept. Turn out gear	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
91	Total Fire Department	\$ 45,083.00	\$ 48,511.00	\$ 53,920.00	\$ 5,409.00
92	Ambulance Service	\$ 70,108.00	\$ 70,921.00	\$ 87,474.00	\$ 16,553.00
93	Total Ambulance Service	\$ 70,108.00	\$ 70,921.00	\$ 87,474.00	\$ 16,553.00
94	Plumbing Inspector Salary	\$ 2,553.00	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 115.00
95	Plumbing Inspector Expense	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	\$ 420.00	\$ -
96	Wiring Inspector Salary	\$ 2,553.00	\$ 2,680.00	\$ 2,795.00	\$ 115.00
97	Wiring Inspector Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
98	Total Inspection Services	\$ 6,026.00	\$ 6,280.00	\$ 6,510.00	\$ 230.00
99	Building Inspector Salary				\$ -
100	Building Commissioner Salary	\$ 13,802.00	\$ 14,492.00	\$ 15,115.00	\$ 623.00
101	Building Commissioner Expense	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
102	Total Building Inspection	\$ 17,302.00	\$ 15,742.00	\$ 16,365.00	\$ 623.00
103	Planning Board Stipend	\$ 3,703.00	\$ 3,892.00	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 168.00
104	Planning Board Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,000.00
105	Zoning Board Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
106	Total Planning Board and Zoning	\$ 4,153.00	\$ 4,592.00	\$ 5,760.00	\$ 1,168.00
107	Senior Transfer Station attendant	\$ 12,130.00	\$ 12,737.00	\$ 13,285.00	\$ 548.00
108	Transfer station attendant			\$ 5,263.00	\$ 5,263.00
109	Transfer Station Expense	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
110	Board of Health Stipend	\$ 2,535.00	\$ 2,661.00	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 114.00
111	Test Monitoring Wells	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 200.00
112	Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 100.00
113	Board of Health Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
114	Hazardous Waste Day Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
115	Total Health Services	\$ 58,065.00	\$ 63,298.00	\$ 71,523.00	\$ 8,225.00
116	Tree Warden Wages	\$ 1,434.00	\$ 1,505.00	\$ 1,570.00	\$ 65.00
117	Tree Maintenance and Removal Expenses	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -
118	Tree Warden Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -
119	Emergency Management Stipend	\$ 3,121.00	\$ 3,277.00	\$ 3,418.00	\$ 141.00
120	EOC Staff Training	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
121	EOC Staff Training Expense	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -
122	Emergency Generator Management	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -
123	Hampshire Regional Emergency Commission	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ -
124	Emergency Management Expenses	\$ 875.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 300.00
125	EOC Communication Expense			\$ 1,062.00	\$ 1,062.00
126	Animal Inspector Stipend	\$ 528.00	\$ 554.00	\$ 578.00	\$ 24.00
127	Dog Officer Stipend	\$ 2,111.00	\$ 2,216.00	\$ 2,311.00	\$ 95.00
128	Total Other Public Safety Services	\$ 20,419.00	\$ 23,302.00	\$ 24,989.00	\$ 1,687.00
129	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 313,451.00	\$ 321,225.00	\$ 359,473.00	\$ 38,248.00
130					\$ -
131	School Committee Stipend	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 2,775.00	\$ 2,895.00	\$ 120.00
132	Chesterfield /Goshen Regional Operating	\$ 884,218.00	\$ 904,696.00	\$ 973,009.00	\$ 68,313.00
133	Hampshire Regional Operating	\$ 567,518.00	\$ 538,821.00	\$ 492,350.00	\$ (46,471.00)
134	Hampshire Regional Debt Service		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
135	Smith Vocational Tuition	\$ 390,833.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -
136	Smith Vocational Transportation	\$ 48,354.00	\$ 50,771.00	\$ 50,771.00	\$ -
137	TOTAL EDUCATION	\$ 1,893,563.00	\$ 1,897,063.00	\$ 1,919,025.00	\$ 21,962.00

Line #	Account Name	FY2023 Approved Fincom & ATM	FY2024 Approved ATM	FY2025 FinCom Proposed	\$ Change
139					
140	Highway Superintendent Salary	\$ 72,500.00	\$ 76,125.00	\$ 79,398.00	\$ 3,273.00
141	Highway Foreman		\$ 59,151.00	\$ 59,451.00	\$ 300.00
142	Highway Wages	\$ 157,332.00	\$ 106,046.00	\$ 114,730.00	\$ 8,684.00
143	Highway Temp Position Wages	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -
144	Total Highway Wages	\$ 231,832.00	\$ 243,322.00	\$ 255,579.00	\$ 12,257.00
145	Gravel Roads Expense	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ -
146	Machinery Expenses	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)
147	Road Sealing Expense	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
148	Road Lining Expense	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
149	Gas and Diesel Expenses	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ (8,000.00)
150	General Highway Expenses	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
151	Total General Highway	\$ 204,000.00	\$ 228,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ (3,000.00)
152	Highway Winter Wages	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -
153	Highway Winter Expenses	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
154	Total Highway Snow & Ice	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ -
155	Street Lighting	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -
156	Total Municipal Lights	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -
157	MLP Expense	\$ 561,473.00	\$ 547,205.00	\$ 458,938.00	\$ (88,267.00)
158	Total other public works	\$ 561,473.00	\$ 547,205.00	\$ 458,938.00	\$ (88,267.00)
159	Superintendent of Cemeteries	\$ 4,345.00	\$ 4,562.00	\$ 4,758.00	\$ 196.00
160	Cemetery Wages	\$ 1,081.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (200.00)
161	Cemetery Expenses	\$ 13,950.00	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 2,200.00
162	Total Cemeteries	\$ 19,376.00	\$ 19,562.00	\$ 21,758.00	\$ 2,196.00
163	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 1,085,281.00	\$ 1,106,889.00	\$ 1,030,075.00	\$ (76,814.00)
164					\$ -
165					\$ -
166	Council on Aging Director Wages	\$ 12,498.00	\$ 20,713.00	\$ 21,604.00	\$ 891.00
167	Council on Aging Wages	\$ 7,576.00	\$ 3,528.00	\$ 3,680.00	\$ 152.00
168	COA Financial Manager		\$ 11,065.00	\$ 11,541.00	\$ 476.00
169	Council on Aging Expense	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ -
170	Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Committee				\$ -
171	Total COA	\$ 23,174.00	\$ 38,406.00	\$ 39,925.00	\$ 1,519.00
172	Veterans Services District	\$ 5,864.00	\$ 5,762.00	\$ 6,045.00	\$ 283.00
173	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -
174	Total Veteran's Services	\$ 27,864.00	\$ 27,762.00	\$ 28,045.00	\$ 283.00
175	Total Human Services	\$ 51,038.00	\$ 66,168.00	\$ 67,970.00	\$ 1,802.00
176					\$ -
177	Library Salary	\$ 26,811.00	\$ 28,151.00	\$ 29,363.00	\$ 1,212.00
178	Library Wages	\$ 3,630.00	\$ 3,811.00	\$ 3,975.00	\$ 164.00
179	C/W Mars Affiliation	\$ 1,075.00	\$ 1,147.00	\$ 1,184.00	\$ 37.00
180	Library Expenses	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,700.00	\$ 400.00
181	Total Library	\$ 39,116.00	\$ 41,409.00	\$ 43,222.00	\$ 1,813.00
182	Right to Farm Commission Expenses				\$ -
183	Historical Commission Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
184	Total Commission Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
185	Memorial Day	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -
186	4TH of July	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
187	Total Celebrations	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00	\$ -
188	Junior Olympics		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
189	Recreation Commission Expenses	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00	\$ -
190	Total Recreation	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 4,250.00	\$ 4,250.00	\$ -
191	Total Culture and Recreation	\$ 44,466.00	\$ 47,759.00	\$ 49,572.00	\$ 1,813.00
192	TOTAL HUMAN SERVICES, CULTURE & RECR	\$ 95,504.00	\$ 113,927.00	\$ 117,542.00	\$ 3,615.00

Line #	Account Name	FY2023 Approved Fincom & ATM	FY2024 Approved ATM	FY2025 FinCom Proposed	\$ Change
194					
195					\$ -
196	Contributory Retirement	\$ 112,647.00	\$ 110,159.00	\$ 125,624.00	\$ 15,465.00
197	Non- Contributory Retirement	\$ 385.00			\$ -
198	Unemployment Compensation Expense	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
199	Health Insurance	\$ 61,708.00	\$ 65,300.00	\$ 74,224.00	\$ 8,924.00
200	General Insurance & Bonds	\$ 58,800.00	\$ 61,740.00	\$ 66,483.00	\$ 4,743.00
201	Medicare	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 9,050.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 950.00
202	Total Insurance	\$ 243,040.00	\$ 247,249.00	\$ 277,331.00	\$ 30,082.00
203					\$ -
204	Interest Short Term Debt				\$ -
205	Total Unclassified Debt Service				\$ -
206	Fire Dept Midi-Pumper (P)				\$ -
207	Fire Dept Midi-Pumper (I)				\$ -
208	Backhoe (P)				\$ -
209	Backhoe (I)				\$ -
210	WPAT BONDS I (P)				\$ -
211	WPAT BONDS II (P)				\$ -
212	WPAT BONDS III (P)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (5,000.00)
213	Dump Truck (P)				\$ -
214	Dump Truck (I)				\$ -
215	Fire Truck Pumper/Tanker (P)	\$ 13,586.00			\$ -
216	Fire Truck Pumper/Tanker (I)	\$ 412.00			\$ -
217	Highway Truck (P)	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ (8,000.00)
218	Highway Truck (I) *	\$ 480.00	\$ 240.00		\$ (240.00)
219	Highway Salt Shed (P)	\$ 39,109.00	\$ 39,109.00	\$ 39,120.00	\$ 11.00
220	Highway Salt Shed (I)	\$ 3,520.00	\$ 2,347.00	\$ 1,956.00	\$ (391.00)
221	Highway Chipper (P)				\$ -
222	Highway Chipper (I)				\$ -
223	New Bucket Loader 2021 (P)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
224	New Bucket Loader 2021 (I)	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$ 1,650.00
225	New Police Cruiser 2021 (P)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
226	New Police Cruiser 2021 (I)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 100.00
227	10 Wheeler Dump Truck (P)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
228	10 Wheeler Dump Truck (I)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 600.00
229	Police 4X4 Cruiser (P)				\$ -
230	Police 4X4 Cruiser (I)				\$ -
231	F550 Highway Truck (2018)	\$ 17,000.00			\$ -
232	F550 Highway Truck (2018)	\$ 510.00			\$ -
233	Highway Mower Attachment (P)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
234	Highway Mower Attachment (I)	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 780.00
235	10 Wheel Dump Truck 2/2023 (P)		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 28,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)
236	10 Wheel Dump Truck 2/2023 (I)		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 12,825.00	\$ 3,825.00
237	Excavator 3/2023 (P)		\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ -
238	Excavator 3/2023 (I)		\$ 7,200.00	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 3,600.00
239	Chief's Vehicle 6/2023? (P)		\$ 13,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ -
240	Chief's Vehicle 6/2023? (I)		\$ 1,950.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 650.00
241	Broadband Debt Service (P)		\$ 65,000.00	\$ 203,153.00	\$ 138,153.00
242	Broadband Debt Service (I)	\$ 11,308.00	\$ 23,319.00	\$ 32,400.00	\$ 9,081.00
243	Total Debt Service	\$ 164,975.00	\$ 292,685.00	\$ 436,004.00	\$ 143,319.00

Line #	Account Name	FY2023 Approved Fincom & ATM	FY2024 Approved ATM	FY2025 FinCom Proposed	\$ Change
245					\$ -
246	Air Pollution Control				\$ -
247	RMV Surcharge Assessment				\$ -
248	Regional Transit Charge				\$ -
249	STRAP Repayment				\$ -
250	FRCOG Bidding Service	\$ 3,535.00	\$ 3,820.00	\$ 3,895.00	\$ 75.00
251	Hampshire Council on Govt		\$ -		\$ -
252	HC Emergency Communications	\$ 486.00	\$ 486.00	\$ 486.00	\$ -
253	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	\$ 225.00	\$ 216.00	\$ 222.00	\$ 6.00
254	Total Intergovernmental	\$ 4,246.00	\$ 4,522.00	\$ 4,603.00	\$ 81.00
255					\$ -
256	Transfer to Land Acquisition Fund *				\$ -
257	Transfer to Special Revenue Account				\$ -
258	Transfer to Capital Projects Stabilization Fund *	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
259	Transfer to School Maint. Stabilization Fund *	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)
260	Transfer to OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
261	Total Transfers	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
262	Total Intergovernmental and Transfers	\$ 264,246.00	\$ 254,522.00	\$ 289,603.00	\$ 35,081.00
					\$ -
	TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 4,540,725.00	\$ 4,816,894.00	\$ 5,031,755.00	\$ 214,861.00

Other Funding Sources

Septic Betterment (5,000.00)
MLP Revenue (458,938.00)

Total Raise and Appropriate 4,567,817.00

Voted on in earlier articles

Article 14 Capital Projects Stabilization Fund (250,000.00)
Article 15 School Bldg Stabilization Fund (30,000.00)
Article 21 OPEB Stabilization Fund (5,000.00)
Article 22 Transfer from MLP retained earnings (59,580.00)

Net Raise and Appropriate: ARTICLE 26 4,223,237.00

Capital Plan - FY 2025

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	MODEL YEAR	YEARS OF SERVICE	INTEREST RATE	LENGTH OF LOAN	TOTAL COST	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
Bucket Loader	2020	15	5%	10	\$150,000	\$15,000 P \$5,250 I	\$15,000 P \$4,500 I	\$15,000 P \$3,750 I	\$15,000 P \$3,000 I	\$15,000 P \$2,250 I	\$15,000 P \$1,500 I
F-550	2019	7	5%	5	\$100,000			\$20,000 P \$5,000 I	\$20,000 P \$4,000 I	\$20,000 P \$3,000 I	\$20,000 P \$2,000 I
2nd- 10 Wheel Dump Truck	2017	10	5%	10	\$200,000	\$57,838 P \$3,000 I				\$30,000 P \$15,000 I	\$30,000 P \$15,000 I
Backhoe	2016	10	5%	5	\$90,000				\$25,000 P \$6,250 I	\$25,000 P \$5,000 I	\$25,000 P \$3,750 I
Rep. 1st- 10 Wheel Dump Truck	2023	10	5%	10	\$285,000	\$28,500 P \$12,825 I	\$28,500 P \$11,400 I	\$28,500 P \$9,975 I	\$28,500 P \$8,550 I	\$28,500 P \$7,125 I	\$28,500 P \$5,700 I
Grader	2003	30	5%	10	\$310,000						
Excavator	2022	20	5%	10	\$240,000	\$24,000 P \$10,800 I	\$24,000 P \$9,600 I	\$24,000 P \$8,400 I	\$24,000 P \$7,200 I	\$24,000 P \$6,000 I	\$24,000 P \$4,800 I
Mower Attachment (Shared with Worthington)	2021	15	5%	10	\$60,000	\$6,000 P \$2,400 I	\$6,000 P \$2,100 I	\$6,000 P \$1,800 I	\$6,000 P \$1,500 I	\$6,000 P \$1,200 I	\$6,000 P \$900 I
Highway Pick-up Truck	2019	7	5%	5	\$70,000			\$14,000 P \$3,500 I	\$14,000 P \$2,800 I	\$14,000 P \$2,100 I	\$14,000 P \$1,400 I
FIRE DEPARTMENT											
Midi Pumper (E1)	2010	20	5%	10	\$300,000						
Fire Truck Pumper/Tanker(E2)	2013	20	5%	10	\$300,000						
Rescue 1	2004	20	5%	10	\$250,000		\$25,000 P \$12,500 I	\$25,000 P \$11,250 I	\$25,000 P \$10,000 I	\$25,000 P \$8,750 I	\$25,000 P \$7,500 I
Chiefs Vehicle	2022	10	5%	5	\$65,000	\$52,000 P \$2,600 I					
POLICE DEPARTMENT											
AWD Crusier	2020	10	5%	5	\$50,000	\$19,983 P \$1,000 I					
AWD Crusier	2018	10	5%	5	\$65,000				\$13,000 P \$3,250 I	\$13,000 P \$2,600 I	\$13,000 P \$1,950 I
OTHER DEPARTMENTS											
Board of Health- Trash Compactor		20	5%	5	\$16,175	\$16,175 P					
BUILDINGS											
Replacement Salt Shed		30	5%	15	\$220,000	\$39,120 P \$1,956 I					
Public Safety Complex 8,500sqft @ \$550 psf		40	4.25%	40	\$4,675,000				\$198,688 I \$198,688 I	\$198,688 I \$198,688 I	\$210,375 I \$210,375 I
Town Offices 7,500 sqft @ \$425 psf		40	4.25%	40	\$3,187,500			\$135,469 I \$135,469 I	\$135,469 I \$135,469 I	\$143,438 I \$143,438 I	\$141,946 I \$141,946 I
Broadband		50	5.00%	10	\$685,000	\$203,153 P \$32,400 I	\$80,308 P \$24,092 I	\$80,308 P \$20,077 I	\$80,308 P \$16,062 I	\$80,308 P \$12,046 I	\$80,308 P \$8,031 I
SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE STABILIZATION FUND (HRHS & NHRES)											
Prior Balance					\$296,533.76	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$10,000		
CAPITAL PROJECTS STABILIZATION FUND											
Prior Balance					\$1,098,189.42	\$250,000	\$375,000	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$10,000
FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION STABILIZATION FUND											
Prior Balance					\$1214.96						
SUB TOTAL:					\$11,318,675	\$814,000	\$648,000	\$732,029	\$757,577	\$771,160	\$777,435
Free Cash					\$1,393,796	\$102,996					
Capital Projects Stabilization Fund											
Stabilization					\$168,489.80						
CAF II Funds					\$175,973	\$58,445	\$58,445	\$58,445	\$58,445	\$58,445	\$58,445
MLP Debt Contribution					\$59,580	\$45,955	\$41,940	\$33,925	\$33,925	\$33,925	\$29,894
Regular Budget					\$475,451	\$543,600	\$631,644	\$661,207	\$678,806	\$689,096	\$689,096
TOTAL:					\$475,451	\$543,600	\$631,644	\$661,207	\$678,806	\$689,096	\$689,096

Note, The sequence and timing of these capital projects are unknown at this time!

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTY TAX RATE AND INFORMATION

Chesterfield Property Tax Levy and Tax Rate

The maximum tax levy of the town is allowed by state law to increase each year by 2.5% from the previous year's levy limit. It can only increase by more than 2.5% if the voters approve such an increase, which is called an override. The current Chesterfield tax levy is lower than the maximum levy allowed by state law, and we have not asked for an override since 2015, when voters approved a tax increase specific to funding the cost of constructing the town's broadband internet infrastructure.

Once the tax levy is set for the fiscal year and approved by voters, the tax rate will be determined essentially by comparing the tax levy to the total assessed property value in the town to see how much must be taxed per \$1,000 of assessed value to raise the levy. The tax rate is expressed as a dollar amount per \$1,000 of assessed value. For example, if a property has an assessed value of \$300,000, and the tax rate is \$15.00 per thousand, then the tax bill will be \$4,500. Thus, the tax rate fluctuates from year to year based on both the tax levy *and* on the assessed value of property in the town. The method and frequency of property valuations is set by the state and not the town.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Chesterfield Tax Levy</u>	<u>Tax Rate (\$ per 1,000)</u>
2017	\$2,818,788	19.08
2018	\$2,927,956	19.64
2019	\$3,034,213	19.99
2020	\$3,162,445	20.11
2021	\$3,260,531	20.20
2022	\$3,369,038	18.25
2023	\$3,375,260	15.92
2024	\$3,497,302	14.97

COMPARISON OF TAX RATES AND ASSESSMENTS

Based on Average Assessed Value FY 2023 Tax Rate					
Town	Tax Rate 1	Avg AssesseValue¹	Total Tax Bill¹	Total Tax Levy (millions)	2020 Census²
Williamsburg	\$19.64	\$307,241	\$6,034	\$7.1	2,504
Westhampton	\$20.13	\$320,089	\$6,443	\$5.3	1,622
Chesterfield	\$15.92	\$314,826	\$5,012	\$3.3	1,186
Goshen	\$14.79	\$294,321	\$ 4,353	\$2.9	960
Southampton	\$14.33	\$392,664	\$ 5,627	\$14.1	6,224

1. Data Source: Department of Revenue, Division of local Services

2. 2020 Federal Census

Glossary of Terms

Appropriation An authorization granted by a town meeting, city council or other legislative body to expend money and incur obligations for specific public purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and as to the time period within which it may be expended.

Cherry Sheet Named for the cherry-colored paper on which they were originally printed, the Cherry Sheet is the official notification to cities, towns and regional school districts of the next fiscal year's state aid and assessments. The aid is in the form of distributions, which provide funds based on formulas and reimbursements that provide funds for costs incurred during a prior period for certain programs or services.

Exclusion A temporary increase to the Town's levy limit. There are two types of exclusions: capital outlay expenditure exclusion and debt exclusion.

Capital Outlay Expenditure Exclusion A temporary increase in the tax levy to fund a capital project or make a capital acquisition. Exclusions require two-thirds vote of the selectmen or city council (sometimes with the mayor's approval) and a majority vote in a community-wide referendum vote. The exclusion is added to the tax levy only during the year in which the project is being funded and may increase the tax levy above the levy ceiling.

Debt Exclusion An action taken by a community through a referendum vote to raise the funds necessary to pay debt service costs for a particular project from the property tax levy, but outside the limits under Proposition 2 1/2. By approving a debt exclusion, a community calculates its annual levy limit under Proposition 2 1/2, then adds the excluded debt service cost. The amount is added to the levy limit for the life of the debt only and may increase the levy above the levy ceiling.

Fiscal Year (FY) Since 1974, the Commonwealth and municipalities have operated on a budget cycle that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The designation of the fiscal year is that of the calendar year in which the fiscal year ends.

Free Cash Remaining, unrestricted funds from operations of the previous fiscal year including unexpended free cash from the previous year, actual receipts in excess of revenue estimates shown on the tax recapitulation sheet, and unspent amounts in budget line items. Unpaid property taxes and certain deficits reduce the amount that can be certified as free cash. The calculation of free cash is based on the balance sheet as of June 30, which is submitted by the community's auditor, accountant, or comptroller. Important: free cash is not available for appropriation until certified by the Director of Accounts.

Levy The amount a community raises through the property tax. The levy can be any amount up to the levy limit, which is re-established every year in accordance with Proposition 2 1/2 provisions.

Levy Ceiling A levy ceiling is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59, Sect. 21C (Proposition 2 1/2). It states that, in any year, the real and personal property taxes imposed may not exceed 2 1/2 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property. Property taxes levied may exceed this limit only if the community passes a capital exclusion, a debt exclusion, or a special exclusion. (See Levy Limit)

Levy Limit A levy limit is one of two types of levy (tax) restrictions imposed by MGL Ch. 59 Sect. 21C (Proposition 2 1/2). It states that the real and personal property taxes imposed by a city or town may only grow each year by 2 1/2 percent of the prior year's levy limit, plus new growth and any overrides or exclusions. The levy limit can exceed the levy ceiling only if the community passes a capital expenditure exclusion, debt exclusion, or special exclusion. (See Levy Ceiling)

Retained Earnings (Net Assets Unrestricted) An equity account reflecting the accumulated earnings of an enterprise fund that may be used to fund capital improvements, to reimburse the general fund for prior year subsidies, to reduce user charges and to provide for enterprise revenue deficits (operating loss).

Override A vote by a community at an election to permanently increase the levy limit. An override vote may increase the levy limit no higher than the levy ceiling. The override question on the election ballot must state a purpose for the override and the dollar amount. (See Net Assets Unrestricted)

Revolving Fund Allows a community to raise revenues from a specific service and use those revenues without appropriation to support the service. For departmental revolving funds, MGL Ch. 44, Sect 53E 1/2 stipulates that each fund must be reauthorized each year at annual town meeting or by city council action, and that a limit on the total amount that may be spent from each fund must be established at that time. The aggregate of all revolving funds may not exceed two percent of the amount raised by taxation by the city or town in the most recent fiscal year, and no more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation may be administered by a single fund. Wages or salaries for full-time employees may be paid from the revolving fund only if the fund is also charged for all associated fringe benefits.

Special Revenue Fund Funds, established by statute only, containing revenues that are earmarked for and restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. Special revenue funds include receipts reserved for appropriation, revolving funds, grants from governmental entities, and gifts from private individuals or organizations.

Stabilization Fund A fund designed to accumulate amounts for capital and other future spending purposes, although it may be appropriated for any lawful purpose (MGL Ch. 40 Sect 5B). Communities may establish one or more stabilization funds for different purposes and may appropriate into them in any year an amount not to exceed ten percent of the prior year's tax levy. The total of all stabilization fund balances shall not exceed ten percent of the community's equalized value, and any interest shall be added to and become a part of the funds. A two-thirds vote of town meeting or city council is required to establish, amend the purpose of, or appropriate money into or from the stabilization fund. (See DOR 1GR 04-201).

Town Accountant Responsible for maintaining the Town's operating accounts. Among the responsibilities of this position are recording financial transactions involving the sources and uses of cash, as well as issuing regular financial reports of balances and of activity for these accounts.

Town Treasurer / Collector Responsible for the actual handling of the Town's money, as well as mailing property tax bills, collecting taxes, issuing payroll checks to Town employees, paying vendors and safeguarding cash on hand and on deposit.

Town Administrator Appointed by the Selectboard and responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the town.

Town Assessor Responsible for the valuation of all taxable property, setting the Town's property tax rate, revaluation of all taxable property as mandated, and overseeing the overlay reserve account for tax exemptions (credits) and abatements (refunds).

Town Meeting A Town Meeting is a public forum where registered voters have the opportunity to express their views and vote on certain matters of significance to the administration of the Town, including matters related to spending money. The primary purpose of the Annual Town Meeting is to decide the amounts of money to be allocated to each of the Town's primary operating accounts.

(Reference: Municipal Finance Glossary, April 2007, Massachusetts Department of Revenue / Division of Local Services)