

# **Section VIII**

## **Appendix**

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## **Appendix: Budget Process**

### **Budget Process**

The Town of Concord operates under state statutes in general; and under the Town Charter as amended, which established the present Selectmen-Town Manager form of government; and under various Town bylaws. The legislative body of Concord is an Open Town Meeting, in which all voters registered in Concord are permitted to participate. While Town Meeting has the sole authority to appropriate funds for the General Fund operating budget and capital projects, it does not appropriate funds for the electric, sewer, and water enterprise funds, or for the special revenue funds. For the three existing enterprise funds and Solid Waste Special Revenue Fund, the responsible department heads, with review by the Town Manager, develop the proposed budgets. The Town Manager then submits these proposed budgets to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee, and to the public, prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Each budget is approved by the responsible policy committee as a spending plan, and the Town Meeting authorizes the Town Manager to expend the funds. The new Swim and Fitness Center enterprise fund follows this same pattern, with the additional requirement that the Town Meeting enacts this budget as an appropriation. The Swim and Fitness Center Fund is authorized under MGL c. 44, s. 53F½, a state law enacted in 1986 that sets forth conditions for newly-established enterprise funds. The fiscal year for the electric utility begins on January 1, while the fiscal year for all other funds begins on July 1.

Like prior budgets, these CY13/FY15 budgets have been developed based upon projected assumptions of available revenue. These budgets are based primarily upon fees charged for the services provided by each activity. Added to these service fees are projections for grants and miscellaneous non-operating revenues, such as interest earnings.

The projected expenditures are calculated based upon the costs of operating the existing service. These operating costs include salaries and employee benefits, debt interest payments, and infrastructure repair and maintenance, including depreciation expense.

### **Budget Schedule**

Beginning in September each fiscal year, the responsible boards and commissions discuss budget issues and provide policy guidance to the staff at a series of working meetings. By February, the responsible departments develop and submit their budgets to the Town Manager. With input from these parties, the Town Manager submits the proposed budgets to the public at a hearing held in mid to late March.

Shown on the following pages are a calendar of important dates and a chart of the budget schedules for developing and acting on the CY14/FY15 budgets, including the enterprise/special revenue budgets.

# Appendix: Budget Calendar

July	August	Sept	October	Nov	Dec	January	Feb	March	April	May	June
	Establish goals; hold planning meeting										
		Depts develop operating & CIP budget requests									
			Depts present budget requests; Finance Comm presents budget guidelines								
					Warrant is open						
					Town Manager reviews budgets & submits them to the Board of Selectmen						
					Departments develop & submit Enterprise Fund budgets to Town Manager						
						Finance Comm holds hearings & completes final recommendations on Town Govt. & School budgets & all articles					
						Town Mgr reviews, publishes & holds hearing on Enterprise Fund budgets					
									Town Meeting discusses & adopts Town Govt., Schools, & capital budgets		
July	August	Sept	October	Nov	Dec	January	Feb	March	April	May	June

## Appendix: Budget Process

### FY15 Budget Calendar

*This calendar describes the steps leading to adoption of the budget for those accounts overseen by the Town Manager under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen and requiring appropriation by the Town Meeting. The School Superintendent and School Committees carry out similar steps leading to Town Meeting.*

### **2013**

August 20	Capital Improvement Program Instructions issued (FY2015-19)
September 19	FY2015 fiscal planning meeting; Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee
September 20	Budget Instructions issued to all departments, boards and committees
September 24	Capital Improvement Program (FY2015-19) requests due
October 18	FY2015 Operating Budget Requests due
November 4 – November 22	Operating and Capital Budget Requests review: meetings with Town Department Heads and Budget Review Team
November 7	Board of Assessors meet to review draft Classification Report from the Town Assessor
November 14	Classification Report submitted by Board of Assessors to Board of Selectmen (Re: setting the FY2014 property tax rate or rates)
November 18	Public Hearing ("Classification Hearing"), proposed property tax rates for FY2014 (based on FY2014 appropriations voted at April 2013 Town Meeting)
November 21	Finance Committee votes Budget Guidelines and issues by November 30 to Selectmen and School Committees
December 7 (Sat)	Selectmen/Committees Coordination Meeting; planning session for 2014 Annual Town Meeting
December 9	Warrant opened for 2014 Annual Town Meeting
December 13	Preliminary FY2015 Operating Budget recommendations and final recommendations for FY2015-19 CIP compiled by Budget Review Team for Town Manager's review and decisions

**Continued on next page**

## Appendix: Budget Process

### 2014

- January 6 Warrant for Town Meeting closes at 4:00 PM
- January 6 Preliminary draft of Town Manager's expenditure/appropriation recommendations for FY2015 Operating Budget submitted to Board of Selectmen
- February 3 90 days prior to the Annual Town Meeting, the Town Manager's Proposed Budget for FY2015 (General Fund operations and proposed appropriations) is published and submitted to Selectmen. (Also, no later than this date, the Superintendent of Schools submits budgets for Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle Regional High School to the respective School Committees.) Through February, these committees and Finance Committee conduct review.
- February 7 Proposed budgets for FY2015 operations of Enterprise Funds are due from Enterprise Departments
- February 13 Public Hearings advertised (for FY2015 General Fund operations)
- February 14 Legal deadline for mailing of Town Meeting Warrant to residents (at least 10 days prior to Public Hearing)
- February 24 Finance Committee's Public Hearing on Town Manager's General Fund operating and capital budget proposals for FY2015 and other non-school and non-CPA financial articles on the Town Meeting Warrant
- February 26 Finance Committee's Public Hearing on Education budget proposals for FY2015 (Concord Public Schools, Concord-Carlisle Regional High School, and Minuteman Career and Technical High School) and Community Preservation Act article
- March 7 Town Manager's Proposed Budget for FY2015 Enterprise Operations published (10 days prior to Public Hearing)
- March 17 Public Hearing on Enterprise Fund budgets and articles
- March 27 Finance Committee completes its recommendations for Town Meeting
- April 11 Finance Committee Report to printer
- April 24 Finance Committee Report mailed to residents (at least 10 days prior to Town Meeting)
- May 4 Town Meeting - consideration of budget; enactment of appropriations (first session)

# Appendix: Financial Statements

TOWN OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
 STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
 JUNE 30, 2013  
 (DECEMBER 31, 2012 FOR THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT ENTERPRISE FUND)

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Total
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Electric Fund	Swim Fund	
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current:					
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 5,858,743	\$ 4,678,873	\$ 8,925,107	\$ 4,138,076	\$ 23,600,799
Investments	-	-	2,672,622	-	2,672,622
User fees, net of allowance for uncollectibles	829,076	400,842	3,961,999	-	5,191,917
Betterment receivables	-	79,000	-	-	79,000
Inventory	93,100	-	-	-	93,100
Materials and supplies, at average cost	-	-	823,630	-	823,630
Prepaid expenses	-	-	3,284,327	-	3,284,327
Other assets	-	-	263,592	-	263,592
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>6,780,919</b>	<b>5,158,715</b>	<b>19,931,277</b>	<b>4,138,076</b>	<b>36,008,987</b>
Noncurrent:					
Betterment receivables, net of current portion	-	941,009	-	-	941,009
Net OPEB asset	52,501	13,125	119,351	10,211	195,188
Capital assets being depreciated, net	15,909,063	21,812,373	31,971,028	8,267,510	77,959,974
Capital assets not being depreciated	3,856,536	100,000	4,074,770	-	8,031,306
<b>Total noncurrent assets</b>	<b>19,818,100</b>	<b>22,866,507</b>	<b>36,165,149</b>	<b>8,277,721</b>	<b>87,127,477</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,004</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>56,004</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>26,599,019</b>	<b>28,025,222</b>	<b>56,152,430</b>	<b>12,415,797</b>	<b>123,192,468</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Current:					
Warrants payable	311,217	127,560	3,225,409	94,253	3,758,439
Accrued liabilities	51,327	103,297	177,924	-	332,548
Customer deposits	-	-	324,124	-	324,124
Provision for rate stabilization	-	-	3,765,332	-	3,765,332
Other current liabilities	-	-	690,458	-	690,458
Current portion of long-term liabilities:					
Bonds payable	520,000	802,168	760,000	-	2,082,168
Accrued employee benefits	11,721	2,930	-	6,307	20,958
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>894,265</b>	<b>1,036,955</b>	<b>8,943,247</b>	<b>100,560</b>	<b>10,974,027</b>
Noncurrent:					
Bonds payable, net of current portion	4,265,000	10,471,570	3,855,000	-	18,591,570
Accrued employee benefits, net of current portion	105,491	26,374	119,700	56,764	308,329
<b>Total noncurrent liabilities</b>	<b>4,370,491</b>	<b>10,497,944</b>	<b>3,974,700</b>	<b>56,764</b>	<b>18,899,899</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>910,453</b>	<b>910,453</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>5,264,756</b>	<b>11,533,899</b>	<b>12,917,947</b>	<b>1,067,777</b>	<b>30,784,379</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>					
Net investment in capital assets	14,980,599	11,658,644	31,430,798	8,267,510	66,337,551
Restricted - betterments	-	1,753,070	-	-	1,753,070
Restricted - capital improvements	-	2,073,320	-	-	2,073,320
Unrestricted	6,353,664	1,006,289	11,803,685	3,080,510	22,244,148
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 21,334,263</b>	<b>\$ 16,491,323</b>	<b>\$ 43,234,483</b>	<b>\$ 11,348,020</b>	<b>\$ 92,408,089</b>

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

# Appendix: Financial Statements

TOWN OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013  
 (DECEMBER 31, 2012 FOR THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT ENTERPRISE FUND)

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Total
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Electric Fund	Swim Fund	
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>					
Charges for services	\$ 4,554,423	\$ 2,586,879	\$ 28,473,103	\$ 2,429,579	\$ 38,043,984
Total Operating Revenues	4,554,423	2,586,879	28,473,103	2,429,579	38,043,984
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>					
Personnel services	1,005,322	351,469	-	1,229,377	2,586,168
Non-personnel services	783,786	905,648	-	544,408	2,233,842
Depreciation	778,524	1,641,908	1,475,394	317,622	4,213,448
Electric operations	-	-	24,808,023	-	24,808,023
Total Operating Expenses	2,567,632	2,899,025	26,283,417	2,091,407	33,841,481
Operating Income (Loss)	1,986,791	(312,146)	2,189,686	338,172	4,202,503
<b>Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses):</b>					
Investment income	14,025	8,584	41,773	9,660	74,042
Interest expense	(172,867)	(226,417)	(167,288)	-	(566,572)
Other nonoperating income, net	11,820	1,006,882	6,350	-	1,025,052
Other nonoperating expense, net	-	-	(170,069)	-	(170,069)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses), Net	(147,022)	789,049	(289,234)	9,660	362,453
Income Before Transfers	1,839,769	476,903	1,900,452	347,832	4,564,956
Transfers in	-	76,185	-	-	76,185
Transfers out - overhead allocations	(591,629)	(200,609)	(385,000)	(129,922)	(1,307,160)
Change in Net Position	1,248,140	352,479	1,515,452	217,910	3,333,981
Net Position at Beginning of Year	20,086,123	16,138,844	41,719,031	11,130,110	89,074,108
Net Position at End of Year	\$ 21,334,263	\$ 16,491,323	\$ 43,234,483	\$ 11,348,020	\$ 92,408,089

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



# Appendix: Financial Statements

TOWN OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
 PROPRIETARY FUNDS  
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2013  
 (DECEMBER 31, 2012 FOR THE ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT ENTERPRISE FUND)

	Business-Type Activities Enterprise Funds				Total
	Water Fund	Sewer Fund	Electric Fund	Swim Fund	
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>					
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 4,512,311	\$ 2,718,505	\$ 24,499,482	\$ 2,445,067	\$ 34,175,365
Payments to vendors and employees	(1,994,475)	(1,653,667)	(25,072,109)	(1,761,725)	(30,481,976)
Payments for noncurrent deposits	-	-	(8,128)	-	(8,128)
Net Cash Provided By (Used for) Operating Activities	2,517,836	1,064,838	(580,755)	683,342	3,685,261
<b>Cash Flows From Noncapital Financing Activities:</b>					
Non-operating contribution	11,820	1,006,882	-	-	1,018,702
Transfers in	-	76,185	-	-	76,185
Transfers out	(581,629)	(200,509)	(385,000)	(129,922)	(1,307,160)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Noncapital Financing Activities	(579,809)	882,456	(385,000)	(129,922)	(212,273)
<b>Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities:</b>					
Acquisition and construction of capital assets, net of disposals	(1,017,662)	(172,607)	-	(223,498)	(1,413,767)
Acquisition and construction of utility plant	-	-	(4,264,176)	-	(4,264,176)
Net additions to construction in progress	-	-	2,918,698	-	2,918,698
Proceeds from issuance of bonds and notes	400,000	-	-	-	400,000
Transfers from (to) restricted deposits with Town	-	-	(574,985)	-	(574,985)
Principal payments on bonds and notes	(470,000)	(788,264)	(765,000)	-	(2,023,264)
Interest expense	(172,867)	(226,417)	(167,288)	-	(566,572)
Net additions to customer advances for construction	-	-	127,079	-	127,079
Net Cash (Used For) Capital and Related Financing Activities	(1,260,529)	(1,187,288)	(2,725,672)	(223,498)	(5,396,987)
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>					
Investment income	14,025	6,584	41,773	9,660	74,042
Sales of investment shares	-	-	6,626	-	6,626
Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities	14,025	6,584	48,399	9,660	80,668
Net Change in Cash and Short-Term Investments	591,523	768,592	(3,643,028)	339,582	(1,843,331)
Cash and Short-Term Investments, Beginning of Year	5,167,220	3,910,281	12,568,135	3,798,494	25,444,130
Cash and Short-Term Investments, End of Year	\$ 5,858,743	\$ 4,678,873	\$ 8,925,107	\$ 4,138,076	\$ 23,600,799
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Income (loss) to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:</b>					
Operating income (loss)	\$ 1,989,791	\$ (312,146)	\$ 2,189,686	\$ 338,172	\$ 4,202,503
Adjustments to reconcile operating income to net cash provided by operating activities:					
Depreciation	778,524	1,641,908	1,475,394	317,622	4,213,448
Changes in assets and liabilities:					
User fees receivables	(42,112)	131,626	(23,563)	-	65,951
Inventory	(48,160)	-	-	-	(48,160)
Materials and supplies	-	-	39,920	-	39,920
Prepaid expenses	-	-	(72,771)	-	(72,771)
OPEB asset	-	-	(119,351)	-	(119,351)
Warrants payable	(129,203)	(389,369)	-	(221)	(518,793)
Accrued liabilities	(51,534)	(13,064)	115,927	-	51,329
Other liabilities	23,530	5,883	(8,128)	12,281	33,566
Net OPEB Obligation	-	-	(207,473)	-	(207,473)
Deferred inflow	-	-	(26,964)	15,488	(11,476)
Provisions	-	-	(3,943,432)	-	(3,943,432)
Net Cash Provided By (Used for) Operating Activities	\$ 2,517,836	\$ 1,064,838	\$ (580,755)	\$ 683,342	\$ 3,685,261

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

## Appendix: Glossary

### A GLOSSARY OF TERMS COMMONLY USED IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE

**Abatement:** A complete or partial cancellation of a levy imposed by a governmental unit; applicable to tax levies and special assessments.

**Accrual Basis:** In the context of accounting, practice in which expenses and income are accounted for as they are earned or incurred, whether or not they have been received or paid.

**Appropriation:** An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and the time when it may be expended. Only a vote of Town Meeting or the School Committee can authorize money appropriated for one purpose to be used for another. Any amount which is appropriated may be encumbered. Any part of the general appropriation not spent or encumbered by June 30 automatically reverts to surplus. A specific or particular appropriation is carried forward from year to year until spent for the designated purpose or transferred by Town Meeting vote to another account.

**Assessed Valuation:** The value placed upon a particular property by the local Board of Assessors for the purpose of apportioning the Town's tax levy among individual property owners equitably and in accordance with the legal requirement that property be assessed at "full and fair cash value," certified periodically by the Commonwealth's Commissioner of Revenue (no less frequently than once every three years).

**Audit:** Work done by accountants in examining financial reports, reviewing compliance with applicable laws and regulations, reviewing efficiency and economy of operations, and reviewing effectiveness in achieving program results. A basic audit examines only the financial reports and legal compliance. An outside Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audit is directed primarily toward the expression of an opinion as to the fairness of the financial statements and submission of a management letter. An auditor must be independent of the executive branch of government. A state auditor, private CPA, or public accountant, or elected auditor meets this test.

**Balance Sheet:** A statement which discloses the assets, liabilities, reserves, and equities of a fund or government unit at a specified date.

**Balanced Budget:** A plan of financial operation in which the estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period is less than or equal to the proposed means of financing these expenditures (from various sources of funds or revenues).

**Budget:** A plan of financial operation embodying an estimate of proposed expenditures for a given period (usually a 12-month period referred to as the Fiscal Year, or FY) and the proposed means of financing them. A budget may be preliminary (the financial plan presented to the Town Meeting) or final (the plan approved by that body).

**Capital Budget:** A plan of proposed capital outlays, and the means of financing them for the current fiscal period. It is usually a part of the current budget but may also be a multi-year plan.

## Appendix: Glossary

**Capital Improvement:** A major, non-recurring expenditure involving one of the following:

- a. Real Property - Includes the purchase or lease of land, existing buildings and appurtenant structures, and fixtures attached to land and buildings.
- b. Equipment - Includes the replacement or addition of major items of equipment with a life expectancy of at least two years and a cost of at least \$5,000. Similar items can be bundled together.
- c. Projects - Include activities such as the following:
  1. Construction of new buildings or facilities (including architectural, engineering, and related fees).
  2. Improvements or major repairs (costing \$5,000 or more) of existing buildings or facilities, aside from routine maintenance.
  3. Studies or other activities (costing \$5,000 or more) that either relate to future "brick and mortar" projects, or are a part of a multi-year program of infrastructure improvements.
  4. An annual sum available for routine building improvements, renovations, or repairs.

**Cherry Sheet:** An annual statement received from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR) detailing estimated receipts for the next fiscal year from the various state aid accounts, and estimated state and county government charges payable by the Town, and included by the local Assessors in setting the tax rate. The actual receipts and charges may vary from the estimates.

**Classification:** The division of property valuations by type of property. There are five classes: Residential, Open Space, Commercial, Industrial, and Personal. The Selectmen may set as many as three different tax rates (within limits set forth in state law): for residences, for business and personal, and for open space.

**Debt Service:** Payment of interest and principal related to long term debt.

**Depreciation:** A non-cash expense (also known as non-cash charge) that provides a source of available funds. Amount allocated during the period to amortize the cost of acquiring long-term assets over the useful life of the assets. This is an accounting expense not a real expense that demands cash.

**Encumbrance:** Obligations such as purchase orders, contracts, or salary commitments that are chargeable to an appropriation, and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved.

**Enterprise Fund:** A fiscal entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that is utilized to account for a governmental service when it is the intent to recover the total cost of service, including depreciation, primarily through user charges imposed on the consumers of the service. Examples in Concord include: electricity provided by the Concord Municipal Light Plant, and Water and Sewer services provided by the Department of Public Works.

**Equalized Valuation (EQV):** The value of all property as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue biennially, using a standard of "full and fair value"; also referred to as EQV.

**Expenditure:** The spending of money by the Town for the programs or projects within the approved budget.

## Appendix: Glossary

**Fiscal Year (FY):** A 12-month period, commencing July 1 and ending June 30, to which the annual budget applies, and at the end of which a governmental unit determines its financial position and the results of its operations. The number of the fiscal year is that of the calendar year in which it ends; FY2006 is the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2006.

**Free Cash:** Free cash refers to the amount of Fund Balance that is available for appropriation. It is certified each July 1 by the state. Because of the stringent way that the state makes these calculations, Free Cash more closely represents Cash (actual dollars held) than does Fund Balance, which includes a variety of receivables (i.e., cash due).

**Fund:** An accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts that are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with specific regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

**Fund Balance:** The amount by which cash, accounts receivable, and other assets exceed liabilities and restricted reserves. It is akin to the stockholders equity account on a corporate balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as "accounts receivable" may be taxes receivable and uncollected (see **Free Cash**).

**General Fund:** The fund into which the general (non-earmarked) revenues of the Town are deposited, and from which money is appropriated to pay expenses.

**General Obligation Bonds:** Bonds issued by the Town that are backed by the full faith and credit of its taxing authority.

**Governmental Funds:** Funds used to organize and separate the finances of various Town activities and objectives. Governmental Fund categories include: the General Fund; Enterprise Funds; Special Revenue Funds; and the Capital Projects Fund.

**Land Fund:** A fund established by Town bylaw in FY1986 to which may be added an annual appropriation, gifts, and grants. The use of the fund is restricted to the acquisition of land, debt service on designated land purchases, and related costs, such as legal and appraisal fees.

**Overlay:** The amount raised from the property tax levy in excess of appropriations and other charges. It cannot exceed 5 percent of the levy, and is used to cover abatements and exemptions granted locally or on appeal.

**Overlay Surplus:** The unused portions of **overlay** accounts from previous years; at the end of each fiscal year, this amount is computed from information provided by the Board of Assessors. Any sum so designated is transferred to, and becomes part of, the General Fund undesignated fund balance.

**Override:** A vote to increase the amount of property tax revenue that may be raised over the levy limit set by **Proposition 2½**.

**Personal Services:** The cost of salaries, wages, and related employment benefits.

## Appendix: Glossary

**Property Tax Levy:** The amount produced by multiplying the assessed valuation of property by the tax rate. The tax rate is expressed per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. For example:

<i>House Value:</i>	\$500,000
<i>Tax Rate:</i>	\$9.83 (which means \$9.83 per thousand \$\$ of valuation)
<i>Levy Calculation:</i>	\$9.83 multiplied by \$500,000 divided by \$1,000.
<i>Result, <b>Property Tax Levy:</b></i>	\$4,915

**Proposition 2½** (see below): A tax limitation measure passed by Massachusetts voters in 1980 that limits the growth of the total property tax levy to 2.5% per year. New construction values are added to this limit. Two provisions of Prop 2½, so-called, allow the Town to raise taxes above this tax levy limit, upon approval by a Town-wide vote: an operating override or a debt exclusion.

**Purchased Services:** The cost of services that are provided by a vendor.

**Reserve Fund:** A fund appropriated each year that may be used only by vote of the Finance Committee for "extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures."

**Revolving Fund:** Those funds that may be used without **appropriation**, and that are established for special uses. Fees (such as for recreation) may be paid into a revolving fund. Revolving funds are established directly by state law or by Town bylaw consistent with state law.

**Tax Levy:** Total amount of dollars assessed in property taxes by the Town each **fiscal year**.

**Warrant:** A list of items to be voted upon at Town Meeting.

### Terms Associated with Proposition 2½

**Excess Levy Capacity:** The difference between the Town's maximum annual tax levy limit as established by Proposition 2½, and its actual **tax levy** for the current year. It is additional **tax levy** that a town could raise without asking voters for an **override** or debt exclusion.

**Growth Revenue:** The amount of property tax revenue that the Town can add to its allowable tax levy as a result of new construction, alterations, subdivision, or change of use of a parcel.

**Primary Levy Limit, or Absolute Limit:** 2.5 percent of certified full and fair cash value of taxable property.

**Secondary Levy Limit, or Annual Levy Limit:** Prior levy limit plus 2.5 percent (base) plus **growth revenue**.