

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE
TOWN OF WORTHINGTON
2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The intent of this report is to provide information on the results of operations on the most recently ended fiscal year, [Fiscal Year 2020], which closed June 30, 2020 and a status report on the current Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2020

The tax levy for Fiscal Year 2020 was 2,941,636.17 with a resulting tax rate of 17.21. The town taxed under its levy limit (unused taxing capacity) by 94,372.83. The average single family residential value was 246,277.00 and the average single family tax bill was 4,238.43. This resulted in a 205.17 dollar increase for the average single family tax bill. At year end actual local receipts exceeded estimates by 159,795.01 and unspent appropriations in the amount of 153,910.24 and 134,022.00 in the school choice assessment that was not spent were closed. The school choice assessment is a charge to the town for children who live in Worthington but opt to go to another school system for which the town must pay. The town budgeted 333,822.00 for this and at year end the actual charge was 199,800.00. As a result of operations the 7/1/20 Free Cash was certified at 451,937.00.

Each year the Reserve Fund is created by an appropriation at Annual Town Meeting pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.40, s.6. Its' purpose is to provide funding for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. Transfers by formal requests are approved or disapproved by the Finance Committee. To approve a transfer from the fund to another appropriation, the Finance Committee must find that the request is for either an extraordinary or unforeseen purpose and not just because the appropriation is depleted or overspent. In Fiscal Year 2020, 10,000.00 was budgeted in the Reserve Fund and one transfer was approved in the amount of 2,000.00.

No. 1	Disposal Works	2,000.00
	Total:	2,000.00

FISCAL YEAR 2021

The Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Town Meeting approved a total of 4,127,665.26 in appropriations. The town operating budget totaled 1,952,258.22; the town school budget totaled 1,166,275.04 and vocational education totaled 187,054.00. The town also appropriated 78,146.00 to Gateway RSD as the town's share of Gateway debt. This resulted in a grand total operating budget of 3,383,733.26. This was a 144,681.50 dollar increase and a 4.47 percent increase from the prior year. The school budget represents 34.47 percent of the total town operating budget. If we add the vocational education amount to the town school budget total, the total education budget represents 40.00 percent of the total town operating budget. It should also be noted that there are other school related costs that are not appropriated in the above mentioned school budget but are contained in other operating appropriations such as the cost of the Conwell building and fringe benefits for school employees. The Conwell building appropriation totals 125,277.00 and fringe benefits such as health insurance total 129,858.00 which is included in the Group Insurance appropriation. In addition, as mentioned above the town is charged an assessment from the State for the cost of Worthington students that through the School Choice Program attend schools in other towns. This assessment per the Fiscal Year 2021 cherry sheet is 191,367.00 and while it is not appropriated at town meeting, it is added to the town's budget.

In addition to the operating budget, the town appropriated a total of 78,937.00 from the General Stabilization Fund. The amount of 57,546.00 was appropriated for a new flatbed pick-up truck with sander

and plow for the Highway Dept. Also 6,330.00 was appropriated for a laptop for the police cruiser and 1,348.00 for a seat and cage. In addition, 1,600.00 for a computer for the police office and 2,577.00 for two radar guns. Also, 4,700.00 to paint the south side of town hall and 4,836.00 for an upgrade to the town's accounting system. To help replenish those votes, the town voted the sum of 394,269.00 from Free Cash into the General Stabilization Fund.

The town also appropriated the sum of 5,978.00 from the Conwell Building Stabilization Fund. The sum of 1,116.00 for two vacuum clearers and supplies, 3,886.00 for a floor scrubber and 976.00 for a floor machine and supplies. The sum of 30,830.00 was voted into the fund from a balance in the Fiscal Year 2020 Voted appropriation.

The revenue budget projected 891,376.00 in estimated receipts from state and local sources, 2,834,337.50 from property tax revenue, 394,269.00 from Free Cash, 78,937.00 from the General Stabilization Fund, 5,978.00 from the Conwell Stabilization Fund, 233,918.00 in "Chapter 90" state highway aid and 30,830.00 from other available funds.

The tax levy for Fiscal Year 2021 was 2,834,337.50 with a resulting tax rate of 16.41. The town taxed under its levy limit (unused taxing capacity) by 326,371.50. The average single family residential value was 246,534.00 and the average single family tax bill was 4,045.62. This is a decrease of 192.81 from Fiscal Year 2020.

As always, we would hope that this report will help to inform you of town budget actions as well as other information that can be found on the Finance Committee's page on the town's web site <https://worthington-ma.us/municipal-directory/finance-committee/> . In closing, we also would like to thank all town departments for their help in the budget process and hope to see you all at the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Joe Boudreau (Chair)
Paul Dunlevy
Gretchen Eliason
Bart Niswonger
Melinda Rose