



THE TOWN OF  
**WILTON**  
CONNECTICUT

# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## **FY'26 Operating Budget**

Presentation to the Annual Town Meeting

May 6, 2025

***Toni Boucher, First Selectman***

***Josh Cole, Second Selectman***

***Kim Healy, Selectwoman***

***Bas Nabulsi, Selectman***

***Ross Tartell, Selectman***



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# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Vision

*Wilton- Where you belong!*

**Maintaining a welcoming and safe community is our top priority. A town that values and protects its rich colonial history and nationally-ranked educational system while moving it forward with modern amenities and infrastructure that will continue to draw and retain residents of all ages. Wilton is also the destination of choice for world class businesses, and we'll work to keep it that way!**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Highlights

- **Wilton earned an A+ for public schools and family life. It ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the Niche's 2025 best places to live in CT**
- **Wilton schools rank the 3rd best school system in CT**
- **Residents are some of the most talented workforce in the country**
- **Home to one of most advanced manufacturing companies in the world (ASML with its 3200 employees represents 90 % of the worldwide manufacturer of microchip making machines)**
- **Moody's Aaa rating for Wilton's fiscal strength, excess fund balance policy, ASML and Grand List growth, strong management team, inter board collaboration, overfunded pension funds ( 108-155%) = lowest borrowing costs available.**
- **Wilton joined the CT million-dollar real estate towns (Nod Hill Road one of the top 10 best roads in the US)**
- **Value of residential properties up 60% in the last 5 years**
- **NRVT provides outstanding recreational opportunities**
- **Trackside Teen Center provides unique youth support and programming**
- **Wilton Library Brubeck Collection brings global visibility to our town**
- **Ambler Farm received \$330,000 ASML grant for student programs and scholarships and is a favorite Wilton destination**



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# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Highlights





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# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Highlights

**Nod Hill:** Top 10 ranked Street in America- Agent Advice Review





# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Town Goals

- **Security is our top priority - Review security procedures, technology and infrastructure needs. Provide departments of public safety and first responders with adequate staff, resources and training to respond to emergencies and protect the community.**
- **Provide the high-quality services Wilton residents and businesses expect at the lowest possible cost.**
- **Create responsible budgets and bonding projects that protect the taxpayer's investments in school and town facilities and provide adequate funding and staff for maintenance and repairs.**
- **Provide appropriate municipal office space to address work-place needs, crumbling infrastructure and overcrowding.**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Town Goals

- **Provide the oversight required to complete building projects on time and within budget.**
- **Pursue grant opportunities and other initiatives to reduce the taxpayers' share of funding of infrastructure Modernize town government functions and responsive customer service to provide better taxpayer experience.**
- **Focus on cost savings, increased use of technology, software upgrades and appropriate staffing levels.**
- **Aid those in need and enhance recreational and cultural activities while staying within budget.**
- **Preserve Wilton's Aaa Bond Rating so that Wilton receives the best borrowing rates available**
- **Communicate with town residents regularly so they can stay informed**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## FY 2026 Budget

- **The 2026 Town budget is tight and flat funds most line items during an inflationary period while Wilton is experiencing rapid growth.**
- **To achieve the guidance number, it was suggested not increasing funding for some essential services such as school nurses, WWALS and other important line items.**
- **This budget includes a request from the Wilton Fire Department to add two firefighter positions to respond to increasing calls for service and to protect public safety.**
- **After several rounds of reductions, the Board of Selectmen added a 3% increase for the Wilton Library to maintain their excellent programming.**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## FY2026 Budget Goals

- **Due to Town growth, the Wilton Fire Department needs to increase staffing to ensure continued safety and excellence in service.**
- **Wilton Fire Department has experienced an 85% increase in call volume with no increase in staff since 1999.**
- **Move forward in addressing critical infrastructure needs as identified by the town and schools' facilities studies and prioritized by the TSNAP Committee.**
- **Establish new capital funding mechanism to address infrastructure projects and non-bondable capital purchases without the need for additional borrowing.**
- **Aggressively seek grant opportunities to address town, school and Ambler Farm infrastructure needs.**
- **Continue ongoing programs to improve town information technology support to better serve town residents.**
- **Installation is currently in process for a new online permitting system to serve Land Use, Building, Health, DPW and Conservation Departments with a launch date of October 2026**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY’2026

## Budget Topline – Requests v Prior Year

- **FY’ 26 Town Operating Budget Request** **\$ 36,298,138**
  - Increase \$: 1,719,557
  - Change %: 4.97%
- **FY’ 26 Operating Capital Budget Required** **\$ 832,333**
  - Decrease \$: (412,020)
  - Change %: -33.11%
- **FY’ 26 Total Operating & Capital (exc. Debt) \$ 37,130,471**
  - Total Increase \$:* 1,307,537
  - Total Change %:* **3.65%**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Important Items Included

- **Addition of two fire fighters to augment current staff**
  - First staffing increase in over 20 years
  - Demands on fire staff have increased by more than 80%
- **Increase of 3% to Wilton Library Assoc.:** **\$ 3,119,007**
- **School and public health nursing services:** **\$ 969,623**
- **Shared Paramedic Service (WWALS):** **\$ 20,000**
- **Wilton Volunteer Ambulance:** **\$ 108,500**
- **Georgetown Volunteer Fire District:** **\$ 600,000**
- **Ambler Farm Operations:** **\$ 44,150**
- **Police/Fire Radio System:** **\$ 181,000**
- **Police License Plate Reader:** **\$ 26,000**



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# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Important Items Included





# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Significant Budget Factors

- **Need to address long-delayed maintenance and repairs of school and town facilities conditions.**
- **Recent assessments indicate a need of over \$140 million in necessary maintenance improvements and space needs over the next 15 years.**
- **Staff increases driven by increases in workload.**
- **Increase use of part time and contracted inspectors for Building and Health Depts.**
- **Urgent need for additional staff in Building Department to perform all required inspections and address substantially increased growth in construction activities (P/T staff requested in this budget).**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Significant Budget Factors – Wilton is Growing

Wilton continues to be a highly valued community with many new apartment complexes currently completed or in development that will require more town services:

- 141 Danbury Rd: 174 units completed, now leasing
- 131 Danbury Rd: 208 units approved; bldg. permits in process
- 64 Danbury Rd: 93 units approved; demo underway
- 15-21 River Rd (Kimco): 168 units approved
- 15 Old Danbury Rd (CommonFund): 208 units approved
- ASML: Projects on Danbury and Westport Roads approved
- 12 Godfrey Rd: 40 units approved; under construction
- 118 Old Ridgefield Road; 20 units proposed

**Estimated: 911 apartment units**



### **Significant Budget Factors – Unanticipated Challenges**

- **Unexpectedly sharp increases in health insurance costs in both public sector and private insurance markets has created budgeting challenges.**
- **Depletion of the former self-insurance fund that had been used in past budgets to reduce impact to taxpayers and is no longer available.**
- **Need to secure funding to address long-term infrastructure needs.**
- **Need to address Wilton Fire Dept. staffing to ensure public safety.**
- **Multiple staff vacancies in key departments created operational challenges.**
- **Critical industry-wide shortages remain in several areas, particularly in finance and accounting. Town has employed new recruiting agencies and other methods to attract talent.**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Significant Budget Factors – Strong Growth of Grand List

- **The main driver of real estate increases is the robust demand for Wilton houses coupled with a scarcity of homes for sale, leading to substantially increased home value in the last five years. (Only 18 house on the market)**
- **New house construction and renovation have also added to Grand List growth**
- **Strong-growth in Personal Property due to additions of industrial equipment by Eversource and ASML.**
- **Vehicle values declined slightly as the Connecticut legislature enacted new assessment policies based on the original list price of each vehicle to eliminate wide fluctuations in the value of the used car market.**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Change in Grand List – Dollars vs. Prior Year

**Value of Wilton 2024 Grand List (10/31/2024) = \$5.77 Billion**

2024 Grand List	Accounts	Gross Assessment	Exemptions	Net Assessment
Real Estate Totals	6,982	5,655,111,180	453,273,430	5,201,837,750
Personal Property	1,104	555,989,660	224,975,189	331,014,471
Motor Vehicle	15,632	244,677,114	128,960	244,548,154
<i>Grand Totals</i>		<i>6,455,777,954</i>	<i>678,377,579</i>	<i>5,777,400,375</i>



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Change in Grand List – Percent vs. Prior Year

### Growth in Property Values in 2023 v. 2024 Grand Lists

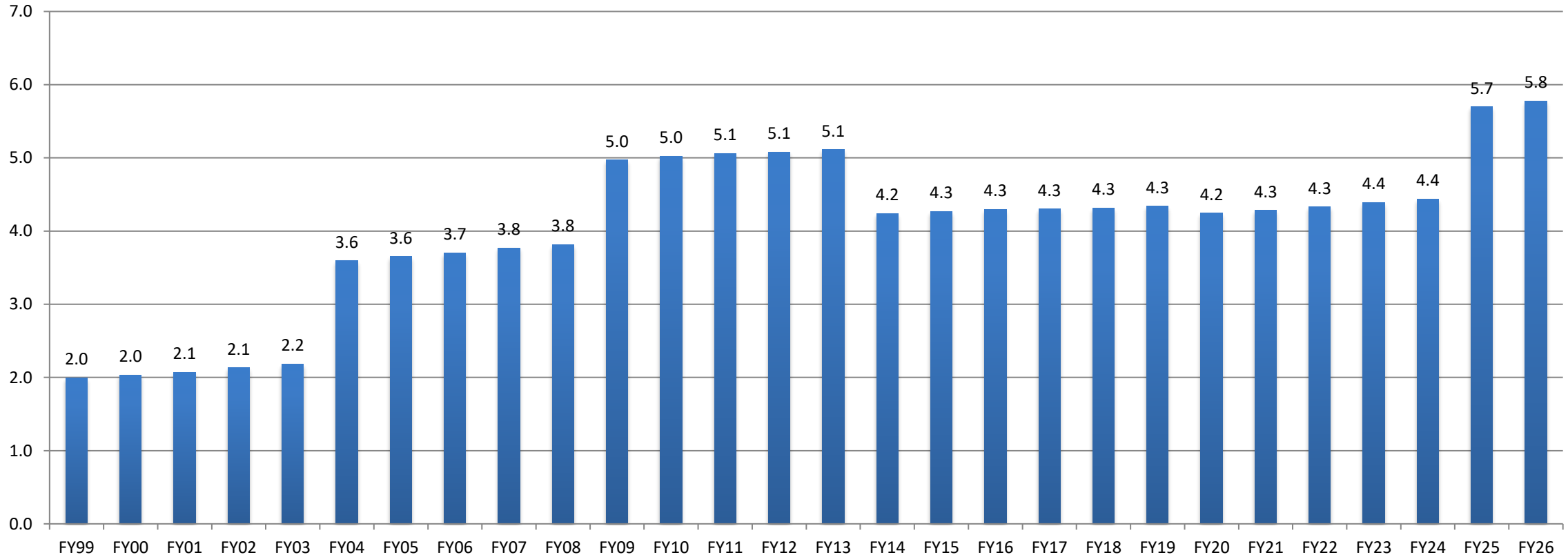
	2023 Net Assessment	2024 Net Assessment	Amount of Change	% of Change
Real Estate Totals	5,135,206,174	5,201,837,750	66,631,576	1.30%
Personal Property	308,113,352	331,014,471	22,901,119	7.43%
Motor Vehicle	258,652,405	244,548,154	-14,104,251	-5.45%
<i>Grand Totals</i>	<i>5,701,971,931</i>	<i>5,777,400,375</i>	<i>75,428,444</i>	<i>1.32%</i>



# Annual Town Meeting – FY’2026

## Significant Budget Factors (continued)

### Wilton Grand List – FY99-FY26 (in Billions)\*\*



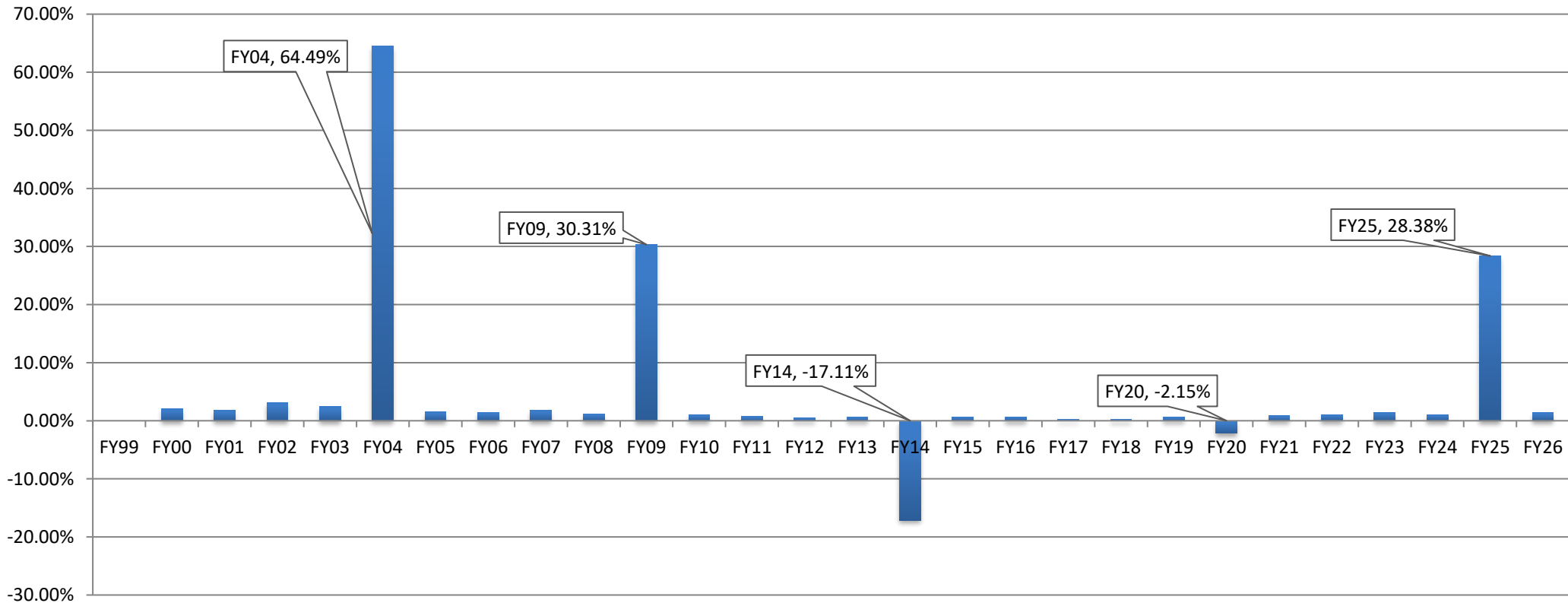
**\*\* Change in Net Assessment (post B.A.A.)**



# Annual Town Meeting – FY’2026

## Significant Budget Factors (continued)

### Change % in Net Assessment - Revaluation **Impact**





# Annual Town Meeting – FY’2026

## 2024 Grand List Top 10 Taxpayers\*

	Gross Assessment	Estimated Tax Revenue
• <b>ASML US, Inc. / ASML US, LLC</b>	<b>\$ 216,242,790</b>	<b>\$ 5,276,324</b>
• CL & P Co.	\$ 144,481,670	\$ 3,525,352
• FDSPIN 141 DR LLC	\$ 49,053,450	\$ 1,196,904
• AvalonBay Communities	\$ 36,503,380	\$ 890,682
• REIF III Danbury. LLC	\$ 28,631,330	\$ 698,604
• Teachers Insurance & Annuity	\$ 23,988,930	\$ 585,330
• Wilton Campus 1691, LLC	\$ 22,976,660	\$ 560,630
• Wilton 50 Danbury Road Owner, LLC	\$ 21,933,230	\$ 535,171
• <b>I -Park</b> Norwalk LLC	\$ 20,621,020	\$ 503,153
• Wilton River Park 1688 LLC	\$ 18,874,520	\$ 460,538

\* Gross assessments.



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

Summary of Expenses FY'26				
	2025 Revised	2026	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund Operating	34,578,581	36,298,138	1,719,557	4.97%
Capital	1,244,353	832,333	(412,020)	-33.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,822,934</b>	<b>37,130,471</b>	<b>1,307,537</b>	<b>3.65%</b>
Wages	16,312,279	16,939,357	627,078	3.84%
Medical	3,650,003	4,043,324	393,321	10.78%
All Other Benefits, Excluding Pension	1,970,328	2,021,902	51,574	2.62%
Pension Contributions	769,504	805,000	35,496	4.61%
<b>Total Wages &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>22,702,114</b>	<b>23,809,583</b>	<b>1,107,469</b>	<b>4.88%</b>
Workman's Comp & Other Insurance	718,785	754,942	36,157	5.03%
Utilities	737,874	739,719	1,845	0.25%
Transfer Station Subsidy	308,828	250,000	(58,828)	-19.05%
All Other Operating Costs	6,109,695	6,654,514	544,819	8.92%
Wilton Library	3,028,162	3,119,007	90,845	3.00%
Public & Private Nursing	973,123	970,373	(2,750)	-0.28%
Operating Capital	1,244,353	832,333	(412,020)	-33.11%
<b>Total Excluding Wages &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>13,120,820</b>	<b>13,320,888</b>	<b>200,068</b>	<b>1.52%</b>
<b>Total Operating and Capital</b>	<b>35,822,934</b>	<b>37,130,471</b>	<b>1,307,537</b>	<b>3.65%</b>



# Annual Town Meeting – FY’2026

## Pension Contributions (Defined Benefit Plans)

***FY’2026 Budget Request: +\$35,496 vs. FY’25 (+4.61%)***

- Most traditional defined benefit pension plans are now “closed” to new employees.
- All new employees (except FD) are now on defined contribution retirement plans (401-k type).
- Payouts increase as employees retire, lower \$ inputs due to shrinking pool of employees in the plan.
- Actuarial report recommended an increased contribution to maintain proper funding.
- All of Wilton’s Pension Plans are well over 100% funded.

	July 1, 2024	July 1, 2023
<b>Number of members:</b>		
<b>Active employees</b>	142	153
Terminated vested members	27	27
Vested in employee contributions only	31	31
<b>Retired, disabled and beneficiaries</b>	309	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>512</b>



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## FY2026 Budgeted Employee Costs

- **Wages Rates**
  - Nonunion: Gross Wage Increases TBD, subject to annual performance reviews.
  - Police: Current contract expired 6/30/24 – in negotiations.
  - Fire: Current contract expires 6/30/25 – to begin negotiations.
  - Teamsters: Current contract expires 6/30/25 – to begin negotiations.
  - Salary contingencies are held in reserve pending Collective Bargaining Agreements.
  
- **Staffing**
  - Two additional Fire Fighters
  - Additional Part-time building inspector



# Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

## Budget Risks

### General Risks

- Litigation.
- Major Weather Event or Natural Disaster.
- Continued Nationwide and Statewide Police Officer Shortage.
- Lack of office space for employees.

### Legislative Factors

- Potential expansion of Affordable Housing 8-30(g) applications and resulting litigation.
- Potential for reductions in state Educational Cost Sharing (ECS).
- Potential impact of loss of Federal funding at state level passed to municipalities.
- Potential for inflation escalation: Supply Chain issues, tariffs, etc.



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## Annual Town Meeting – FY'2026

***Thank you for your attendance and participation!***