



Town of Weston

Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Town Meeting

September 12, 2020

Select Board

Christopher E. Houston, Chair

Laurie A. Bent

Harvey R. Boshart

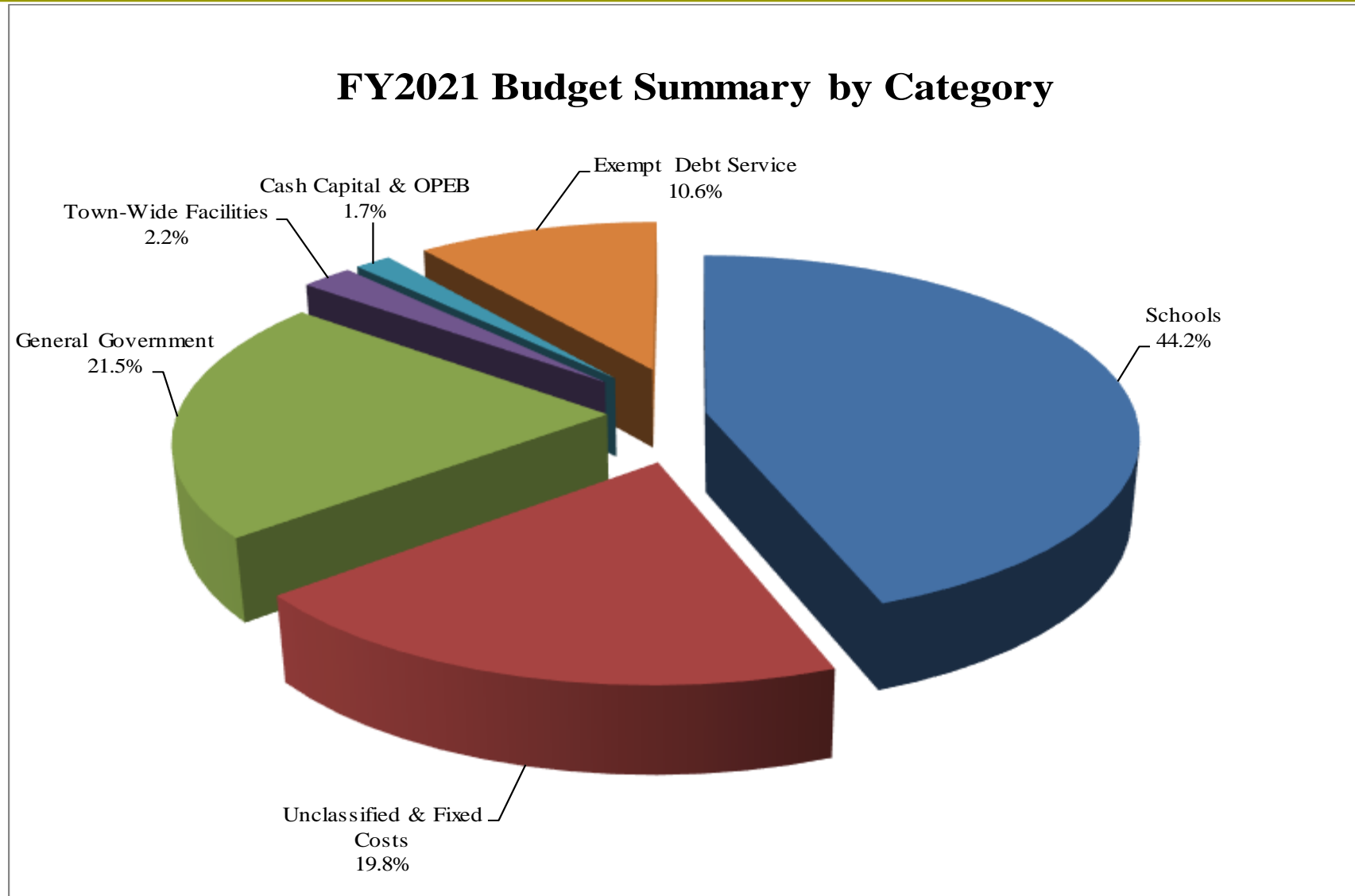
Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Goals

- Deliver current levels of service efficiently and cost effectively
- Address increased demand for service in some departments with additional staffing
- Minimize increases in debt, where possible, by funding smaller capital items with cash
- Plan for the Town's future financial stability by adding to reserves
- Reduce budget for economic uncertainty

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Summary

- Addresses personnel capacity shortfalls in Fire, COA and Town Planner departments
- Includes a Sustainability Coordinator position which is expected to bring cost savings and efficiencies to Weston
- Continue to fund long-term liability for pension; decrease post retirement benefits (OPEB) funding by \$1,191,000
- Decrease roadway maintenance by \$268,000
- Proposition 2½ Debt Exclusion (temporary tax increase) requested for certain capital projects

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget by Category



FY21 Budget Increases

	FY20	FY21	\$ INCREASE	% INCREASE
Operating Budget				
Benefits & Insurance:				
Benefit Obligations	16,657,637	17,716,716	1,059,079	6.36%
OPEB	2,214,656	1,023,254	(1,191,402)	-53.80%
Insurance	824,578	878,194	53,616	6.50%
Total Benefits & Insurance	19,696,871	19,618,164	(78,707)	-0.40%
Schools:				
Schools- Salaries & Expenses	41,441,391	42,906,809	1,465,418	3.54%
Minuteman Regional Assessment	100,000	150,000	50,000	50.00%
Total School Budget	41,541,391	43,056,809	1,515,418	3.65%
Town:				
Existing Employee Salaries	14,175,530	14,502,113	326,583	2.30%
Town Expenses	8,429,159	8,073,431	(355,728)	-4.22%
Facilities Maintenance Expense	600,788	711,835	111,047	18.48%
New Operating Budget Items-Salaries & Expenses		279,730	279,730	
New Cash Capital Items- Expenses		522,413	522,413	
Total Town Budget	23,205,477	24,089,522	884,045	3.81%
Total Operating Budget	84,443,739	86,764,495	2,320,756	2.75%
Excluded Debt Service	9,624,481	10,233,342	608,861	6.33%

Increases above Level Service to Respond to Greater Demands on Municipal Departments

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
IT- Software Support & Maintenance	\$76,186
Fire- 1 Full Time Firefighters (w/benefits) (3/4 year)	70,032
Facilities- 1 Full Time Sustainability Coordinator (1/2 year)	52,000
Planning- Assistant Town Planner from Part Time to Full Time	27,780
DPW- Traffic & Sidewalk Committee	25,000
Conservation- Trails & Fire Road Maintenance	12,000
Conservation- Case Estates Land Management	10,000
Council on Aging- Move Program Coordinators Hours from Grant to Operating Budget	<u>6,732</u>

Total New General Fund Budget Requests \$279,730

New Cash Capital Items

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Fire-Ambulance	\$250,000
Fire- Equipment Replacement	200,000
Recreation- Replacement Vehicle	32,000
Historical Commission- Sale of Equipment	40,413
Total New Cash Capital Items	\$522,413

FY21 Budget Increases Further Breakdown

	Amount	% Increase
Total Operating Budget Increase	\$2,320,756	
Less schools increase	(1,515,418)	
Less OPEB decrease	1,191,402	
Total Town/Fixed Costs Increase	\$1,996,740	4.91%
 Required Growth in Budget:		
Benefit obligations increase	\$1,059,079	
Insurance increase	53,616	
Existing salaries increase	326,583	
Total Required Growth in Budget	\$1,439,278	3.54%
 Discretionary Growth in Budget:		
Town expense decrease	(\$355,728)	
Facilities maintenance increase	111,047	
New operating budget items increase	279,730	
New cash capital increase	522,413	
Total Discretionary Growth in Budget	\$557,462	1.37%

Debt Service

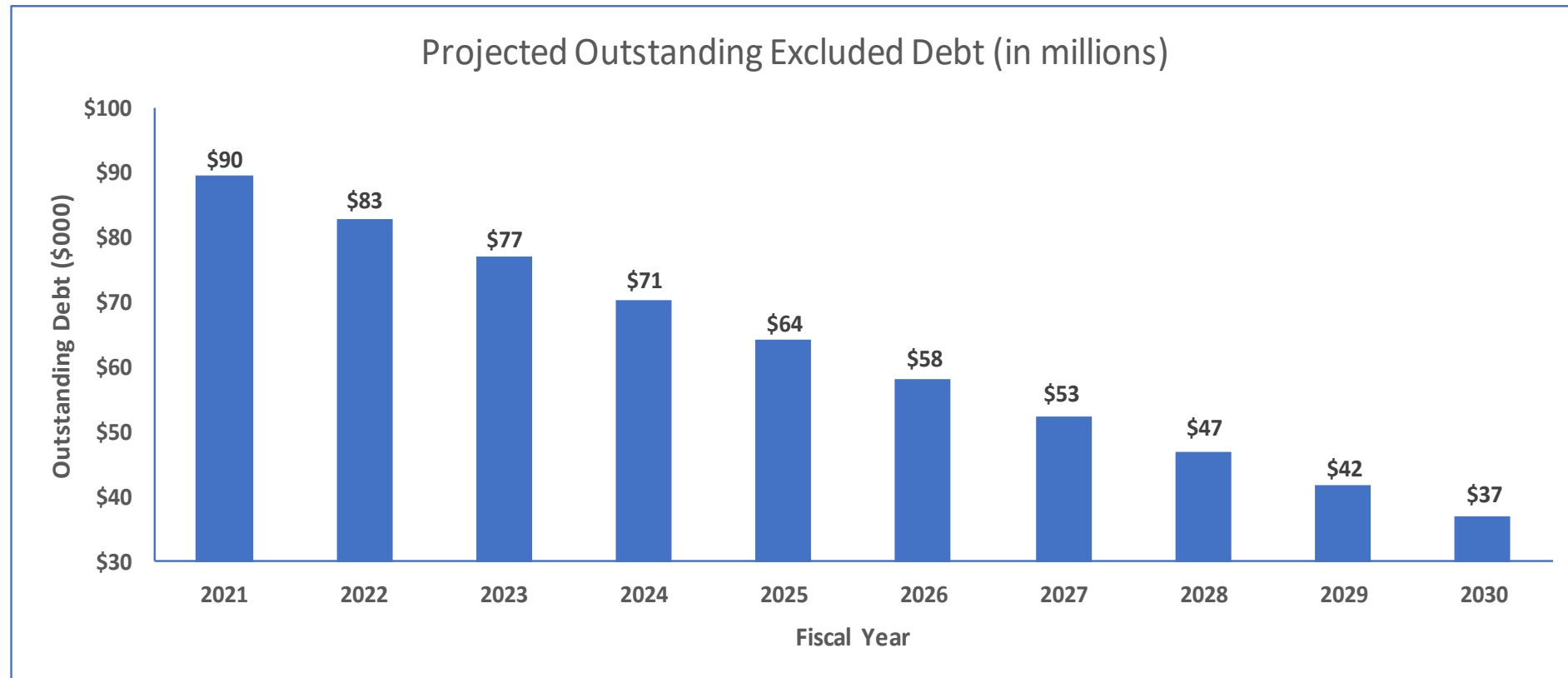
Annual Debt Service	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21**
General Fund	35,180	33,720	32,280	30,860	29,460	29,080
Proposition 2 1/2 Excluded*	7,957,743	8,084,603	8,094,771	7,916,465	8,657,029	10,003,197
Water	526,613	540,082	537,947	531,098	552,409	617,068
Community Preservation Fund	667,692	603,740	379,751	466,448	744,344	994,332
Brook School Apartments	<u>307,917</u>	<u>282,283</u>	<u>273,773</u>	<u>265,133</u>	<u>256,569</u>	<u>247,874</u>
Total	9,495,145	9,544,428	9,318,522	9,210,004	10,239,811	11,891,551

* Note: Net of MSBA revenue (FY16-FY20) and premium applied to debt service

** Note: The FY21 amount assumes approval of question 1 on the ballot at the Town election.

Projected Debt Level

Includes excluded debt projects recommended at 9/2020 ATM and 5-year capital plan projects



Historical Budget Increases

	<u>FY11</u>	<u>FY12</u>	<u>FY13</u>	<u>FY14</u>	<u>FY15</u>	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>
OPERATING BUDGET & SEPARATE ARTICLES	62,014,569	65,053,678	67,924,467	70,590,482	72,101,231	74,959,859	76,323,735	78,211,651	81,587,969	84,443,739	86,764,495
DEBT	<u>8,295,940</u>	<u>8,143,080</u>	<u>7,968,942</u>	<u>8,546,473</u>	<u>8,018,843</u>	<u>9,044,202</u>	<u>9,068,321</u>	<u>8,976,159</u>	<u>8,741,482</u>	<u>9,624,481</u>	<u>10,233,342</u>
TOTAL	70,310,509	73,196,758	75,893,409	79,136,955	80,120,074	84,004,061	85,392,056	87,187,810	90,329,451	94,068,220	96,997,837
OPERATING BUDGET & SEPARATE ARTICLES	3.8%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	2.1%	4.0%	1.8%	2.5%	4.3%	3.5%	2.7%
DEBT	-10.5%	-1.8%	-2.1%	7.2%	-6.2%	12.8%	0.3%	-1.0%	-2.6%	10.1%	6.3%
TOTAL	1.8%	4.1%	3.7%	4.3%	1.2%	4.8%	1.7%	2.1%	3.6%	4.1%	3.1%

Tax Bill Components:

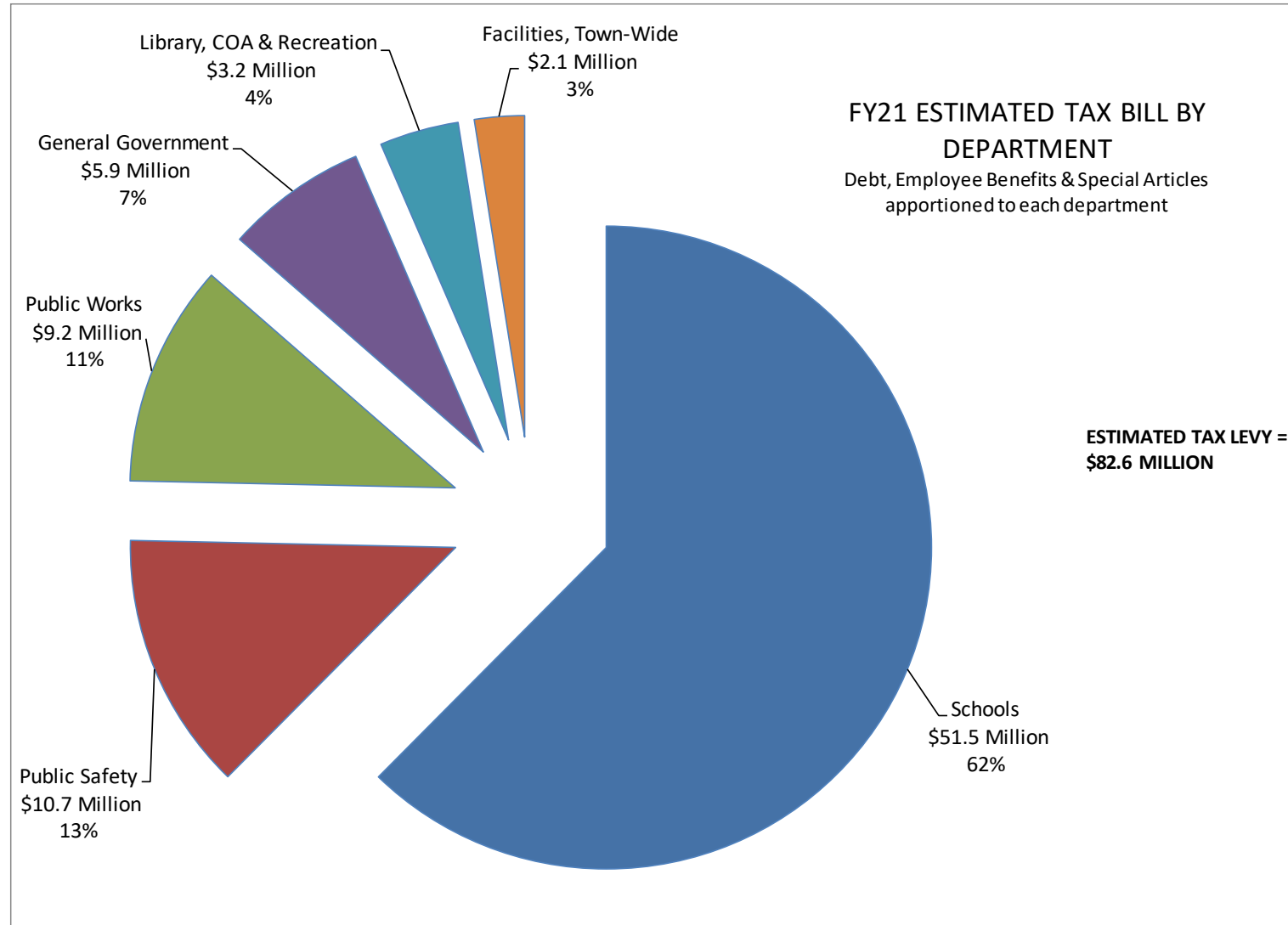
Estimated FY21 Median Property Value \$1,241,244

	<u>FY16</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u> <i>(estimated)</i>
Base Property Tax	\$11,844	\$12,161	\$12,393	\$12,770	\$13,415	\$13,663
Allowable 2.5% increase/new growth	475	519	537	636	583	512
Excluded debt (prior and new)	1,689	1,734	1,748	1,544	1,688	1,949
Proposition 2 1/2 override	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Preservation Act surcharge	384	395	403	411	432	445
Total Tax Bill	\$14,392	\$14,809	\$15,081	\$15,360	\$16,118	\$16,569
Annual % Change	3.83%	2.90%	1.84%	1.85%	4.93%	2.80%

How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent

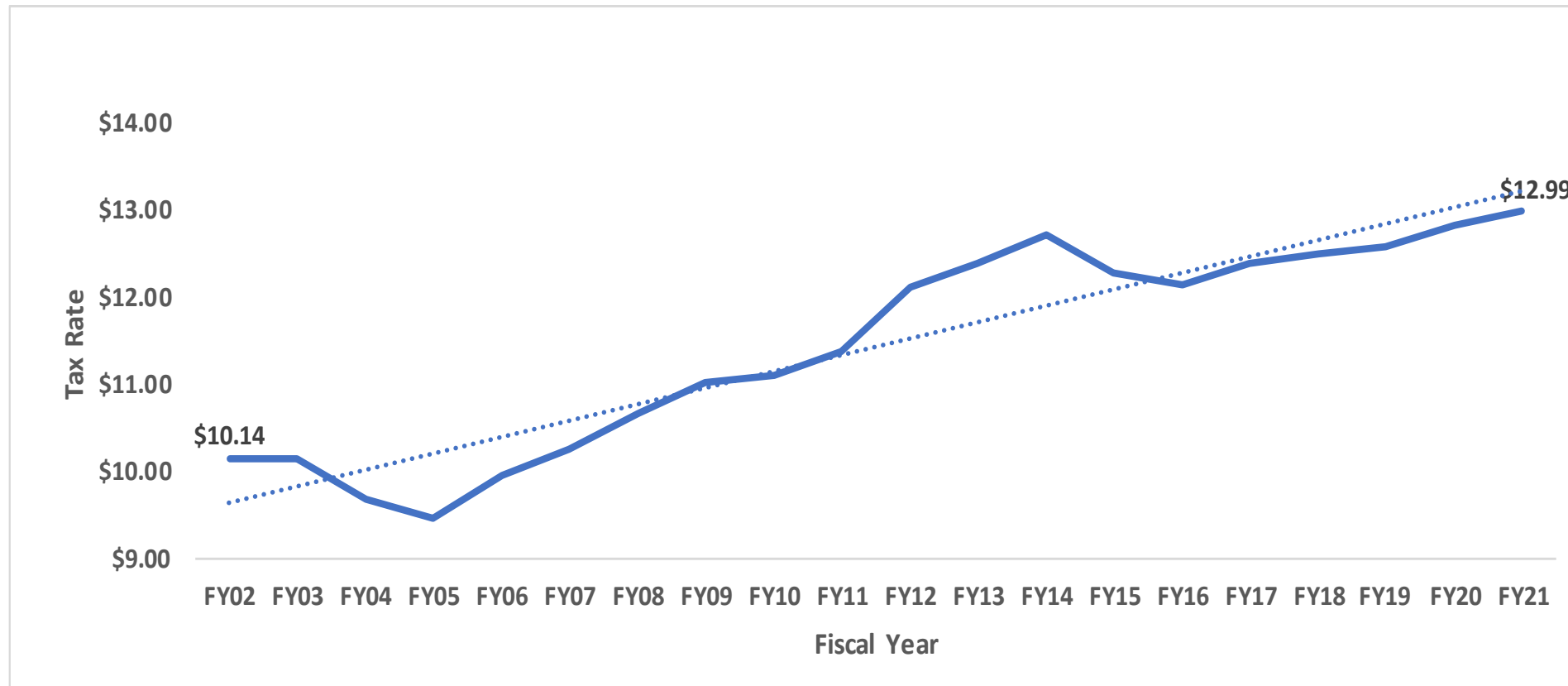
Schools & Minuteman Tech	\$10,053	60.7%
Public Safety	2,095	12.6%
Public Works	1,800	10.9%
General Government	706	4.3%
Library & Recreation	635	3.7%
Facilities, Town-Wide	400	2.4%
Finance	341	2.1%
Health & Human Services	74	0.4%
Planning & Land Use	20	0.1%
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	\$16,124	97.3%
CPA Surcharge	\$445	2.7%
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Total - Median Property Tax Bill	\$16,569	100.0%

How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent



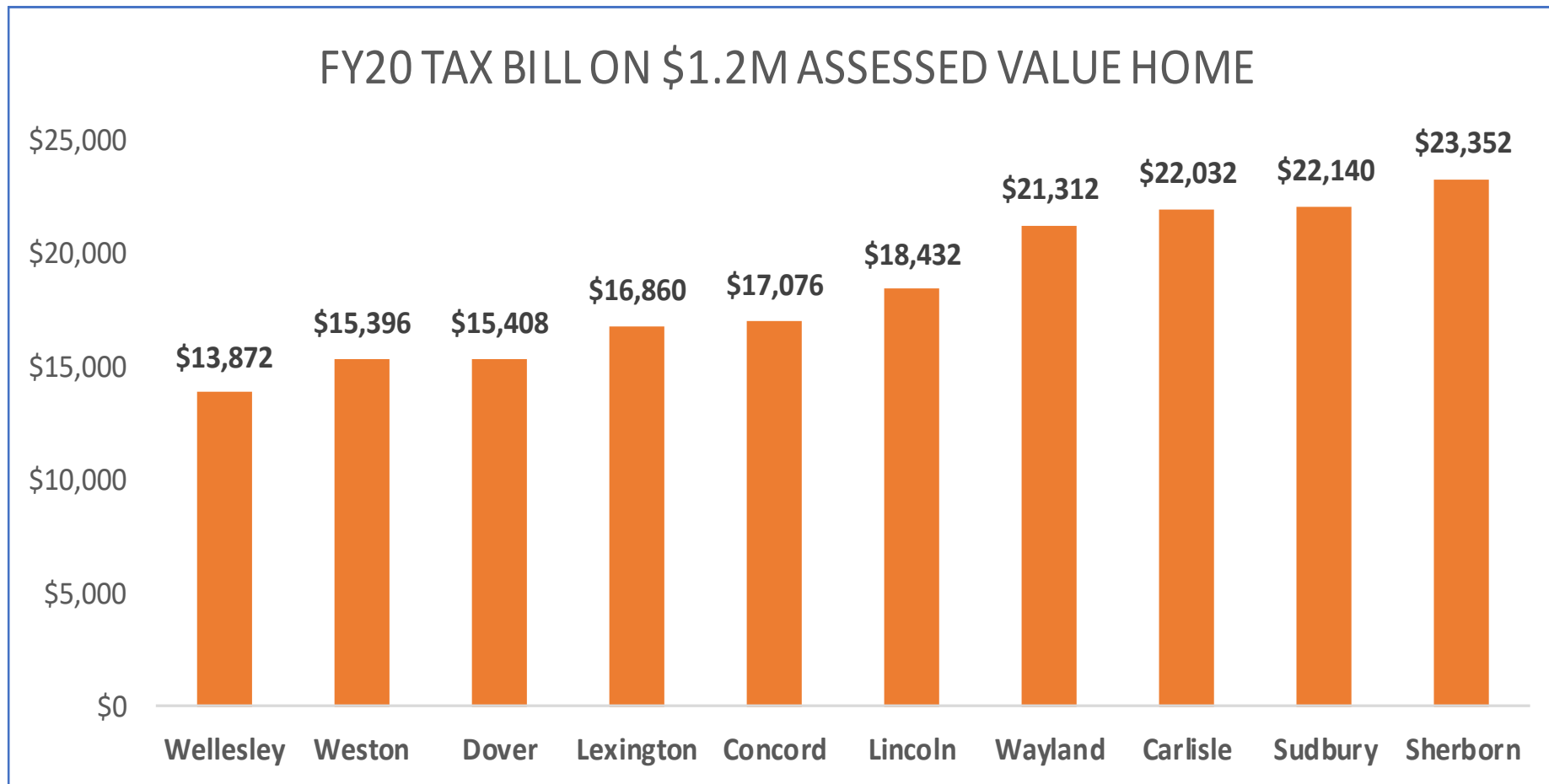
20- Year Weston Tax Rate History

20-year annualized tax rate increase of 1.25%



FY20 Tax Bill on \$1.2 Million Assessed Value Home Across Nearby Towns

FY20 median value home in Weston is approximately \$1.2M



Efficiency Measures Taken Over Time

- ❑ Energy Savings –
 - Solar panels on landfill, DPW building and Field school will offset Town's electricity costs by \$450,000 annually
 - Town received a \$200,000 grant for lighting replacement which will bring cost savings
- ❑ Collaboration between School and Municipal Departments – Facilities, Technology, Vehicle & Fields Maintenance, Joint Purchasing
- ❑ Collaboration Regionally to Provide Certain Services – Paramedic Ambulance, Veterans, Affordable Housing Monitoring
- ❑ Add Sustainability Coordinator position for expected cost savings and efficiencies



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

Town of Weston

Massachusetts

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2019

Christopher P. Morill

Executive Director