

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectwoman

Lori A. Bufano
Second Selectwoman

Joshua S. Cole
Selectman

Deborah A. McFadden
Selectwoman

Ross H. Tartell
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**QUAD BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD of SELECTMEN, BOARD of FINANCE, BOARD of EDUCATION
& PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Wednesday December 8, 2021
Held Electronically**

PRESENT: First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Joshua Cole, Kimberley Healy, Basam Nabulsi, Ross Tartell, Board of Education members – Chair Deborah Low, Ruth DeLuca, Jennifer Lalor, Mandi Schmauch, Nicola Davies, Pam Ely, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kevin Smith, Board of Finance Members – Vice Chair Michael Kaelin, Chris Stroup, Stewart Koenigsberg, Matthew Raimondi, Richard Santosky, Planning and Zoning Members – Vice Chair Melissa Rotini, Chris Pagliaro, Matthew Murphy, Eric Fanwick, Chris Wilson, Director Planning & Land Use Management – Michael Wrinn, CFO Anne Kelly-Lenz

A. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

Ms. Vanderslice thanked all in attendance and welcomed all newly elected members.

Ms. Vanderslice provided an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

B. Discussion and/or Action

1. Demographic data

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the attached presentation containing demographic data

2. Update on Grant Funding and 5-Year Capital Plan

Ms. Vanderslice reviewed the attached presentation containing information on received and possible town grants and the 5-Year Capital Plan.

3. Mill Rate Projections

Ms. Vanderslice and Ms. Kelly-Lenz reviewed the attached FY2023 mill rate projection, which included an estimate for the FY2023 BOE budget request as provided by BOE representatives along with other components amounts estimated by Ms. Vanderslice and Ms. Kelly-Lenz. Ms. Vanderslice expressed her concern that the projected mill rate increase was well above what survey data indicated was acceptable to residents. She stressed the projections were preliminary, but noted the boards had much work ahead.

4. General Discussions of Above Topics

Ms. Vanderslice opened the floor for a general discussion on the above topics.

BoE Chair Deborah Low stated the BOE proposed budget request was still in development and shared the continued impact of the pandemic on school services and costs.

BoF Vice Chair Michael Kaelin noted he could not speak for the BoF as they had not yet met, but he shared the concern that the projected mill rate would not be acceptable and all boards had much work ahead.

Planning & Zoning Commission Vice Chair Melissa Jean Rotini shared an update on the Wilton Center/RT 7 master planning and other matters of interest.

BoS member Ross Tartell asked a question about process, which Ms. Vanderslice addressed.

C. Public Comment

Barbara L. Geddis expressed her appreciation for the meeting and her hope that additional meetings would be held. She also expressed concerns about the projected mill rate increase.

D. Adjournment

As there was no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

**Budget Background Data
and
FY2023 Mill Rate Projection**

Quad-Board Meeting
December 8, 2021

Background Information

- ***Demographic Information***
 - Population
 - Income
- ***Impact of Grants and Infrastructure Reserves on BOS Budgets***
- ***5-Year Bonded Capital Plan***

Population Data

2020 Census results indicated a growth in overall population

Growth in the adult population of 1,060

net of decline in the youth population of 619

	4/1/10	4/1/20	Change	
Under 18	5,682	5,063	(619)	-10.9%
18 and above	12,380	13,440	1,060	8.6%
Total	18,062	18,503	441	2.4%
(Source 2020 Census)				

Population Data

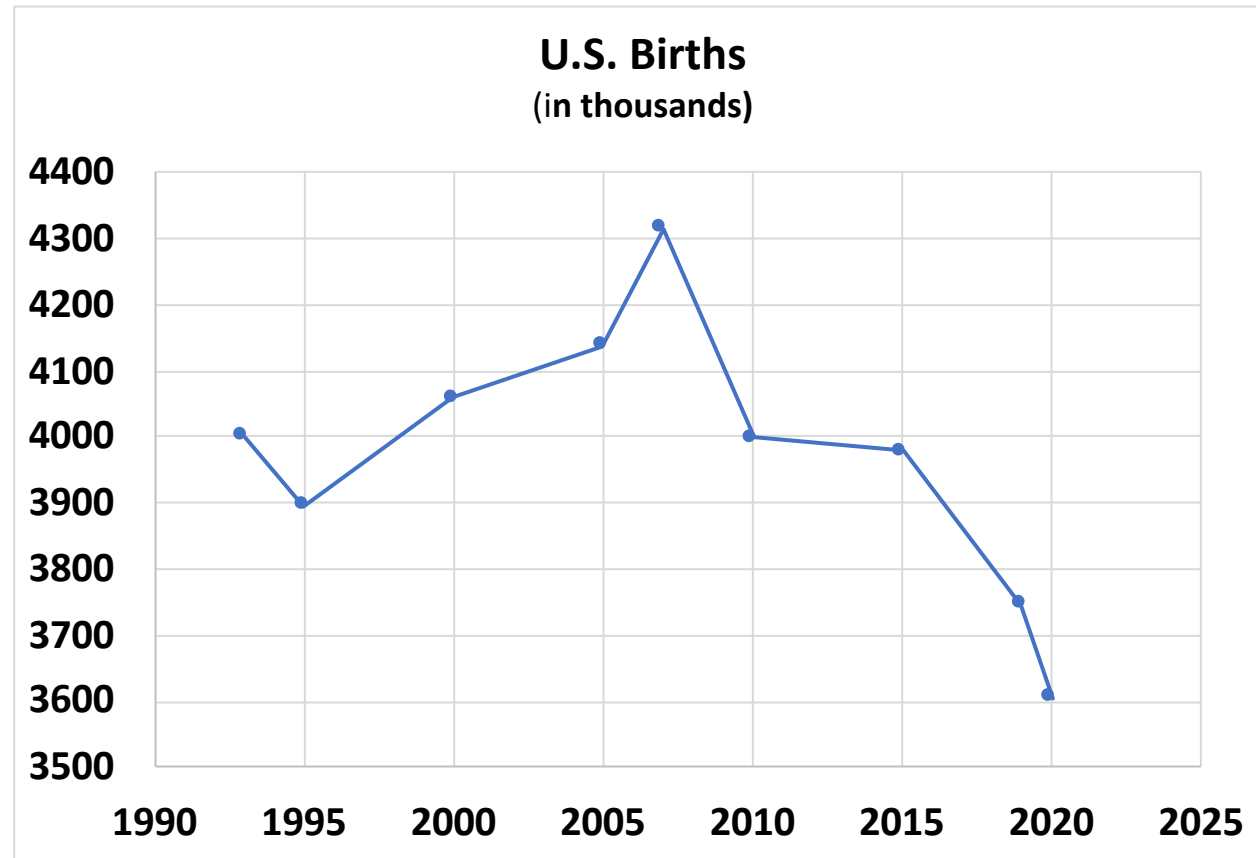
The decline in the youth population is similar to the school enrollment decline.

School Enrollment Change			(Source BOE published data)			
	10/1/10	10/1/19	10/1/21	11-year Change	Pandemic Change	11-year Change
MD	926	670	748	(178)	78	-19%
CM	1,022	853	784	(238)	(69)	-23%
MB	1,034	923	897	(137)	(26)	-13%
Subtotal	2,982	2,446	2,429	(553)	(17)	-19%
WHS	1,279	1,286	1,237	(42)	(49)	-3%
Total	4,261	3,732	3,666	(595)	(66)	-14%

Factors Impacting Population Change

Decline in U.S. Births

Those born during the 2007 high are now 14. Births have declined 17% since 2007 and 10% since 2010



Factors in Population Change

New multi-family and elderly housing units built between 2010 and 2020

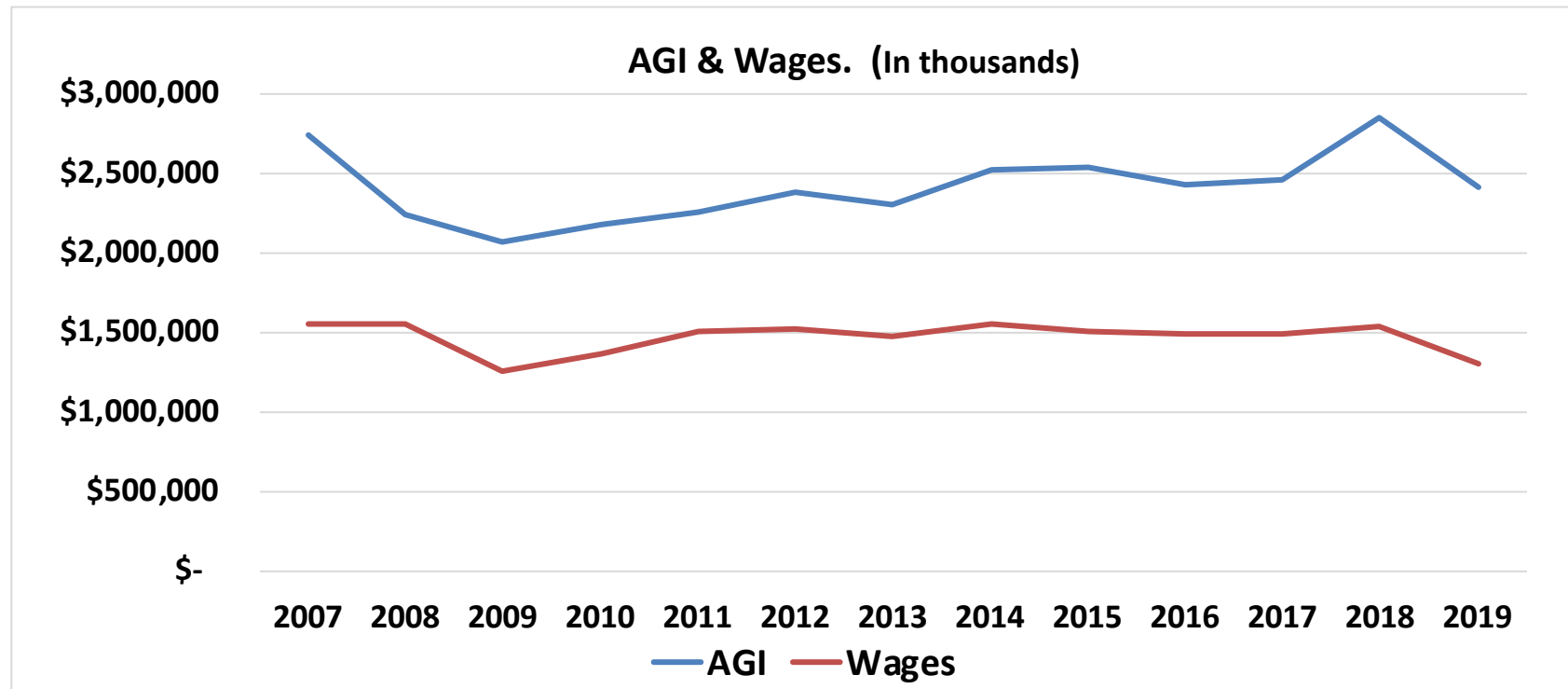
- Apartment Building at 116 Danbury Road (110 units)
- Apartment Building at 31 Old Danbury Road (30 units)
- Wilton Commons senior housing (54 units)
- Sunrise Assisted Living housing (91 units)
- New Multi-family has a lower student occupancy per unit, than Wilton's **previously reported .60 children per single-family home purchased**. Current enrollment for new multi-family
 - *116 Danbury Road: 54 or .49 students per apartment*
 - *31 Old Danbury Road: 7 or .23 students per apartment*

(note 25 River Road has 30 enrolled students)

Income

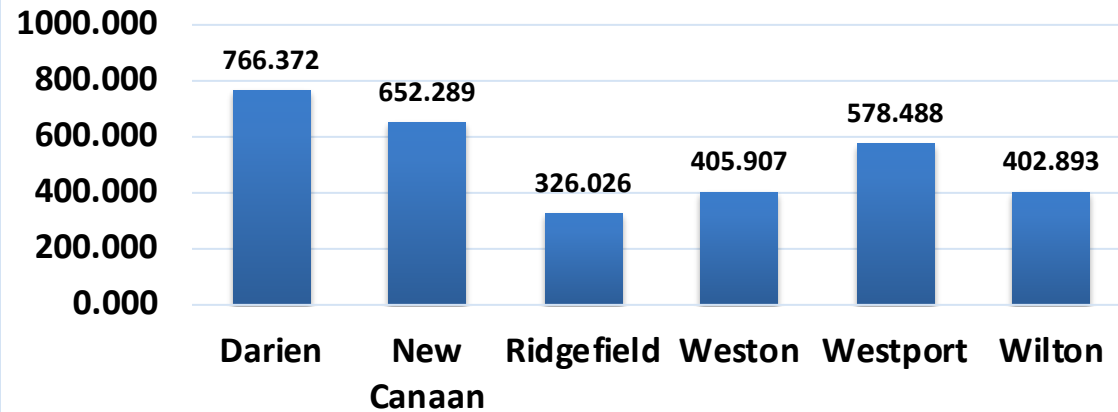
2019 IRS Earnings

remain below 2007 after 12 years of no growth in wages

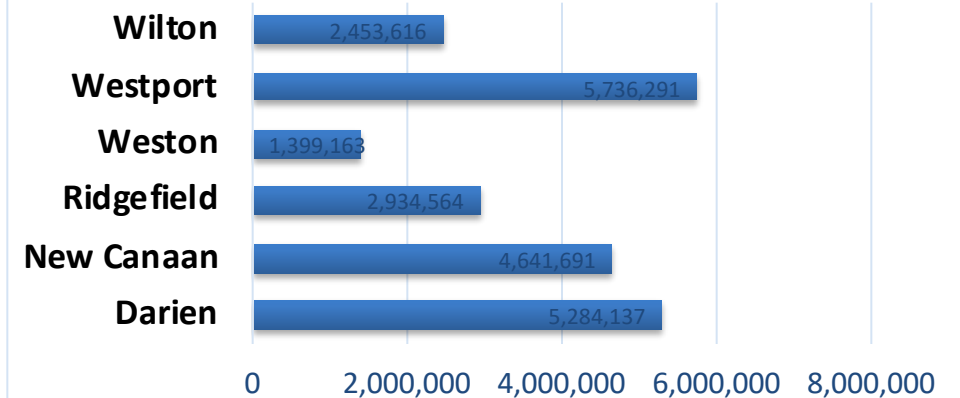


Wilton doesn't have the collective spending capabilities of some of our neighbors

IRS Total Income Per Household
(in thousands)



IRS Total Income-All Taxpayers
(in thousands)



Awarded Grants & Savings Reserve Will Reduce
BOS Budget & Bonded Capital Needs

	AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN	INFRASTRUCTURE FUND*	Fire Station 2	Federal Earmarked**
TOTAL FUNDS	\$ 5,400,000	\$1,000000+*	\$ 200,000	\$ 983,000
<i>EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM</i>	\$ 3,017,000			\$ 983,000
<i>NEW DRAINAGE-WHS SPORTS COMPLEX</i>	TBD			

Plan for the balance of spending to be developed during the FY2023 budget discussions.

*Final amount subject to completion of FY2021 audit. Source of funds is BOS budget savings

**Subject to federal approval. If not available

Bonded Capital Plan FY2023 to FY2026, as of May 2021

	<i>Fiscal 2023 Bonding</i>	<i>Fiscal 2024 Bonding</i>	<i>Fiscal 2025 Bonding</i>	<i>Fiscal 2026 Bonding</i>
<i>Town 20 Year</i>	17,214,600	538,200	354,600	347,800
Bridge replacement	714,600	538,200	354,600	347,800
Town Hall-Electrical System	1,500,000			
Police building	15,000,000			
<i>Town 10 Year</i>	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 3,660,000	\$ 3,121,200	\$ 3,183,700
Paving	3,000,000	3,060,000	3,121,200	3,183,700
New Fire Truck		600,000		
<i>BOE 20 Year</i>	600,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-
District roof replacement	500,000	500,000	500,000	
HVAC MD & CM	100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
<i>BOE 10 Year</i>	-	-	-	-
Total	20,814,600	5,698,200	4,975,800	3,531,500

Bonded Capital Plan FY2027: TBD

FY2023 Mill Rate Projection

- ***Expenses:***

- BOS Operating & Operating Capital Budget: *\$400,000 increase or 1.01%*
- BOE Budget: *\$3 million increase or 3.5%*
- Debt Service: *\$(200,000) decrease*

- ***Revenues:***

- Permits, Fees, State Grants and Other Revenues: *\$700,000 increase. (conveyance & permits)*
- Use of Excess General Fund Balance: *\$(3.1) million decrease*
- Tax Levy: *\$5.6 million increase*

- ***Other Factors:***

- Grand List: projected at .5%. Better number in February
- Tax Collection Rate: no change
- Tax Relief: no change

- ***Projected Mill Rate Increase Based on Above: 4.19%***

FY2023 Mill Rate Projection

Use of Excess General Fund Balance: *\$(3.1) million decrease*

TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	126,787,380	127,244,487	128,788,862	131,980,478	3,191,615	2.48%
REVENUES						
Grants, Permits, Fees and Other Revenue & Taxes	4,753,424	4,349,276	5,443,649	6,143,649	700,000	12.86%
Use of Excess of Fund Balance	2,851,773	7,719,577	4,858,040	1,710,779	(3,147,260)	-64.78%
Property Taxes	119,182,183	115,175,634	118,487,173	124,126,049	5,638,876	4.76%
TOTAL REVENUES	126,787,380	127,244,487	128,788,862	131,980,478	3,191,615	2.42%
Senior and Other Tax Relief	1,230,750	1,230,750	1,230,750	1,230,750	-	0.00%
MILL RATE LEVY	120,412,933	116,406,384	119,717,923	125,356,799	5,638,876	

2018 Survey Results

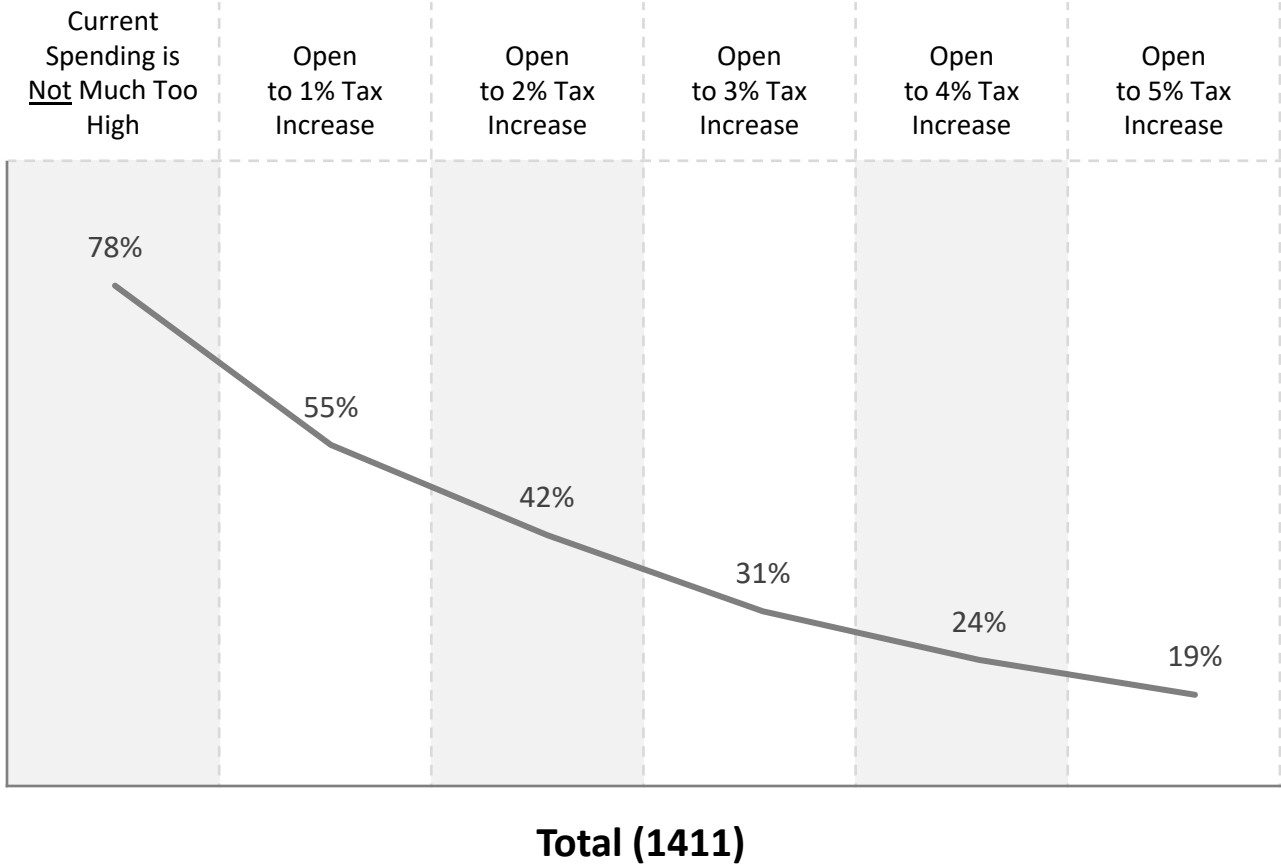
The 2018 BOF Survey results demonstrated limited support for tax increases

- 45% of respondents were **opposed** to a 1% tax increase
- 58%% of respondents were **opposed** to a 2% tax increase
 - Only 54% of respondents **with children in the WPS**, typical advocates for additional spending, were **open to a 2% tax increase**

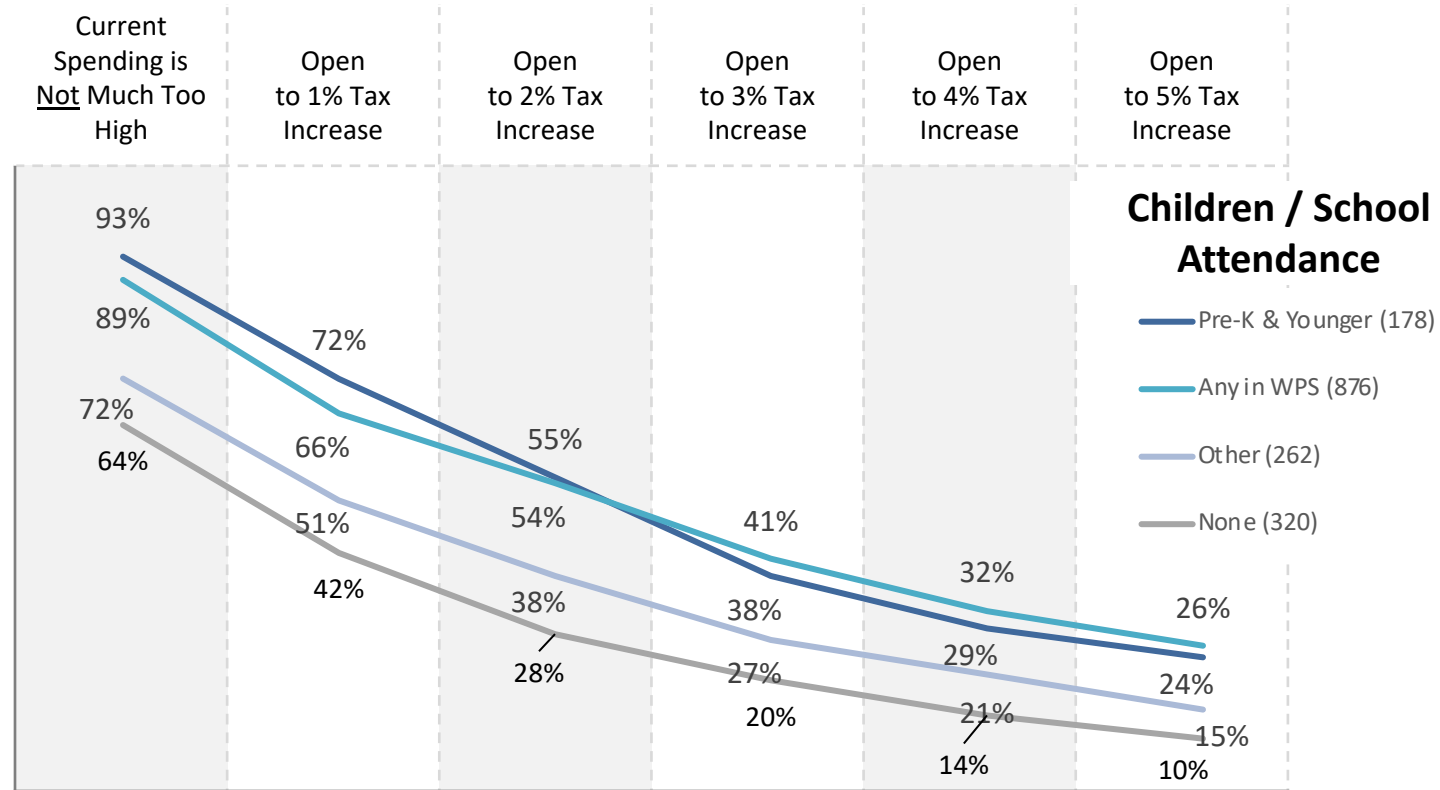
Quad-Board Meeting December 8, 2021

TOWN MEETING ANNUAL SCHEDULE		
FY 2023		
<u>January</u>	deadline	action date
Town Meeting Date Set no later than February 1	2/1/22	1/18/22
<u>February</u>		
Public Hearings schedule set up - on for before February 15th	2/15/22	2/8/22
<u>March</u>		
BOE budget submission to BOF - written format 60 days on or prior	3/4/22	3/4/22
BOS budget submission to BOF - written format 60 days on or prior	3/4/22	3/4/22
Town and BOE Public hearing notice - at least 10 days in advance of public hearing	3/19/22	3/19/22
BOF - BOE public hearing - no later that the 35th day preceding Town meeting	3/29/22	3/28/22
BOF - BOS public hearing - no later that the 35th day preceding Town meeting	3/29/22	3/29/22
<u>April</u>		
BOS Bonding referral to BOF - Not less than 15 days before Town meeting	4/18/22	4/12/22
BOF recommends budget for annual Town meeting at least 21 days prior to meeting	4/12/22	4/12/22
Town meeting notice - at least 10 days but no more that 20 days	4/21/22	4/21/22
<u>May</u>		
Town meeting, deadline is the first week of the May. Historically held on Tuesday	5/3/22	5/3/22
Town meeting Vote - Saturday		5/7/22

Openness to Tax Increase (Not Strongly Opposed)



Openness to Tax Increase — Presence of Children / School Attendance



Data Sources

- **IRS Statistical Data:** The IRS publishes *tax return data by zip code, by line item* and *In and Out Migration data by county*
 - Data is available 12 to 13 months after the October filing deadline for a given year. Most recent year available is for calendar year 2019 tax returns
- **US Census Data:** *Census count data for 2000 and 2010* and **American Communities Survey** for remaining
- **Town Profiles** at Ctdata.org
- **CDC Population Data**
- **Wilton's Audited Financial Reports**
- **2018 Report on BOF Survey Results**

FY2023 Projected Mill Rate Calculation as of December 8, 2021. Subject to change						
	FY 20 Adjusted Budget	FY 21 Approved Budget	FY 22 Approved Budget	FY 23 Forecasted Budget	\$ Change	% Change
OPERATING REQUIREMENTS						
BOS - Operating Expenses	32,542,102	32,097,312	32,210,253	32,686,965	476,712	1.48%
BOS - Oper. Capital	1,273,727	818,412	1,275,233	1,189,203	(86,030)	-7%
Board of Selectmen	33,815,829	32,915,724	33,485,486	33,876,168	390,682	1.17%
BOE - Operating Expenses	82,344,563	82,344,563	84,804,215	87,772,363	2,968,148	3.50%
Debt Service	10,153,497	9,015,040	9,224,024	9,025,210	(198,814)	-2.16%
Reserves	473,491	2,969,160	1,275,137	1,306,737	31,600	2.48%
TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	126,787,380	127,244,487	128,788,862	131,980,478	3,191,615	2.48%
REVENUES						
Grants, Permits, Fees and Other Revenue & Taxes	4,753,424	4,349,276	5,443,649	6,143,649	700,000	12.86%
Use of Excess of Fund Balance	2,851,773	7,719,577	4,858,040	1,710,779	(3,147,260)	-64.78%
Property Taxes	119,182,183	115,175,634	118,487,173	124,126,049	5,638,876	4.76%
TOTAL REVENUES	126,787,380	127,244,487	128,788,862	131,980,478	3,191,615	2.42%
Senior and Other Tax Relief	1,230,750	1,230,750	1,230,750	1,230,750	-	0.00%
MILL RATE LEVY	120,412,933	116,406,384	119,717,923	125,356,799	5,638,876	
Grand List	4,249,234,560	4,281,687,742	4,326,099,334	4,347,729,831	21,630,497	0.50%
Increase in Grand List	-2.08%	0.27%	1.037%	0.50%		
Collection Rate	99.3%	99.0%	99.3%	99.3%		
COLLECTIBLE GRAND LIST	4,219,489,918	4,238,870,865	4,295,816,639	4,317,295,722	21,479,083	0.50%
MILL RATE	28.5373	27.4616	27.8685	29.0360	1.1675	4.19%
CALCULATION OF USE OF EXCESS FUND BALANCE						
Beginning Estimated Fund Balance	16,030,511	20,444,026	17,736,926	14,908,827	(2,828,099)	-13.83%
10% Minimum Fund Balance	12,678,738	12,724,449	12,878,886	13,198,048	319,162	2.51%
Discretionary Addition over 10% Minimum	500,000	-	-	-	-	
Ending Estimated Fund Balance	13,178,738	12,724,449	12,878,886	13,198,048	319,162	2.51%
Use of Excess Fund Balance	2,851,773	7,719,577	4,858,040	1,710,779	(3,147,260)	-40.77%