OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER



Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building 100 Maple Avenue Voice: 508-841-8508 Fax: 508-842-0587 dmorgado@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us

Town of Shrewsbury MASSACHUSETTS 01545-5398

November 17, 2005

To:

Board of Selectmen

From: Daniel J. Morgado

Re:

Financial Workshop Materials

The attached have been prepared in preparation of your financial workshop on Monday night.

Fiscal Year 2007 begins today with the approval by DOR of the Fiscal Year 2006 Tax Rate at \$9.24/\$1,000. We are now engaged in active budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2007 which will bring to the forefront a series of issues that will require resolution in time for the Annual Town Meeting.

I plan to review with the Board several of those issues for your direction and counsel.

Please advise with any questions or if you require any additional exhibits to be prepared.

Cc Michael Hale Mary Thompson Robert Ellia Carolyn Marcotte Patrick Collins

FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR THE FY 2007 BUDGET SEASON

• Continued use of exempted portion of tax levy and reduction in excess capacity. (Total exempted levy in FY 06 is \$4,092,543):

FY	Levy Limit without Debt & Capital Exclusions	Maximum Levy Limit	Total Tax Levy	Excess Capacity	Excess as a % of Maximum Levy	Tax Levy Ceiling	Assessed Value	Tax Levy as % of Assessed Value
2006	\$39,143,375	\$43,235,918	\$43,214,514	\$21,404	0.05%	\$116,922,387	\$4,676,895,485	0.92%
2005	\$37,653,331	\$41,425,381	\$41,399,263	\$26,118	0.06%	\$106,260,943	\$4,250,437,722	0.97%
2004	\$36,196,865	\$40,381,102	\$39,549,134	\$831,968	2.06%	\$99,670,197	\$3,986,807,862	0.99%
2003	\$34,764,572	\$39,797,377	\$37,027,303	\$2,770,074	6.96%	\$87,328,544	\$3,493,141,773	1.06%
2002	\$33,131,548	\$36,263,184	\$36,060,964	\$202,220	0.56%	\$66,386,164	\$2,655,446,563	1.36%
2001	\$31,465,027	\$32,315,523	\$32,224,086	\$91,437	0.28%	\$64,707,000	\$2,588,280,006	1.24%
2000	\$29,312,849	\$30,160,105	\$28,627,015	\$1,533,090	5.08%	\$53,648,830	\$2,145,953,181	1.33%
	Fiscal Year	Unused	l Capacity	1		sed capacity	24.4	
	1999	\$1,5	37,605		in FY 2003 due to the	was \$365,056		
	1998	\$1,0	84,657		\$2,385,000			
	1997	\$11	2,269		premium v	ia Free Cash		

Growth in the area of the tax levy and continued shift to the residential sector. Town of Shrewsbury tax burden continues to be below communities in the region. Can expect some shift of value within the residential sector due to construction of Adams Farm Over 55 Community. (See Attached Tax Recap Summary (Exhibit 1.1), Summary of Single Family Tax Bills (Exhibit 1.2) and an associated news article (Exhibit 1.3)

Fiscal Year	Tax Levy	Percent
		Residential
2006	\$43,214,514	88.0%
2005	\$41,399,263	87.7%
2004	\$39,549,134	87.1%
2003	\$37,027,303	85.5%
2002	\$36,060,964	83.6%
2001	\$32,224,086	83.5%
2000	\$28,627,016	84.1%
1999	\$26,586,814	83.9%
1998	\$25,271,626	83.2%

• The decline in new growth has flattened and bottom has been reached. We can expect some increase in FY 2007 due to multi-family construction in the form of the Adams Farm and Avalon Shrewsbury Projects. For explanation of how new growth is calculated see attached slides entitled "Tale of Two Towns" (Exhibit 2.1).

Fiscal Year	New Growth
2006	\$548,711
2005	\$551,544
2004	\$563,179
2003	\$804,735
2002	\$879,895
2001	\$1,419,357
2000	\$833,094
1999	\$1,122,922
1998	\$713,090
1997	\$726,315
1996	\$689,741
1995	\$585,810

• Status of personal property valuation for high tech firms which accounts for portion of shift to residential. Again, see attached slides entitled "Tale of Two Towns" (Exhibit 2.1).

Fiscal Year	Total PP Value	High Tech Value	% of High Tech
2006	\$38,979,835	\$6,000,000	15.39%
2005	\$37,273,381	\$5,900,000	15.83%
2004	\$38,744,224	\$5,000,000	12.90%
2003	\$56,049,097	\$30,823,841	54.99%
2002	\$59,164,147	\$26,645,361	45.04%
2001	\$59,340,454	\$26,656,001	44.92%
2000	\$30,127,106	\$18,140	0.06%

Change of HP to a manufacturing corporation resulted in loss of high tech value. Previous designation allowed for equipment to be taxed as personal property • Status of school choice and charter schools assessments and reimbursements. The Charter School program is now heavily subsidized. A change in the level of funding will translate to our bottom line. In FY 2006 the cost of the program is \$424,412 with total reimbursement being \$228,642:

				Cost of
	Number of	Net Cost of	Number of	School
Fiscal Year	Students	Charter School	Students	Choice
	(FTE)	Tuition	(FTE)	Program
2006 (est)	53	\$195,779	18.0	\$104,140
2005	25.48	\$168,898	17.1	\$95,468
2004	23.93	\$168,167	16.5	\$78,761
2003	23.50	\$170,601	10.7	\$46,558
2002	21.15	\$94,256	13.2	\$53,319
2001	24.44	\$52,736	7.7	\$21,108
2000	29.24	\$26,307	7.9	\$32,859
1999	18.00	\$0	7.7	\$37,470

- Status of local receipts in light of current economic climate (see attached Schedule A analysis Exhibit 3.1 and 3.2). Slide continues downward in FY 2005 & FY 2006 but should stabilize in the \$10.4 Million range based upon motor vehicle excise and water revenue making up 44% of the total review stream.
- The status of State Aid in FY 2007 and beyond (see attached Exhibit 4.1). Will the long awaited promise to readjust the various state aid formulas take place in FY 2007? State Charges and Offsets may top \$1 Million in FY 2007.

Fiscal Year	Total State Aid	
2006	\$21,077,629	
2005	\$18,621,647	
2004	\$16,744,700	#2 607 772 CD AD
2003	\$12,679,840	\$3,697,772 SBAB
2002	\$11,648,532	
2001	\$10,595,853	
2000	\$9,596,115	
1999	\$8,693,528	
1998	\$7,850,691	

3 of 7 11/17/05

• The status of surplus lottery or other distributions.

Fiscal Year	Lottery	Surplus
	Distributions	Distribution
		(Received in next
1		Fiscal Year)
2006	\$2,493,603	\$0 (est)
2005	\$2,110,492	\$0
2004	\$2,110,492	\$269,859
2003	\$2,250,774	\$0
2002	\$2,482,932	\$0
2001	\$2,324,233	\$172,153
2000	\$2,123,910	\$275,198
1999	\$1,896,262	\$275,930

Projected increases in health insurance expenses resulting from premium increases and changes in
enrollment for both active and retired employees. Question is how will costs be moderated by the
joining of the WSHG.

Fiscal Year	Amount Expended
2005	\$5,529,698
2004	\$4,483,109
2003	\$3,836,906
2002	\$2,991,004
2001	\$2,573,606
2000	\$1,879,964
1999	\$1,701,899
1998	\$1,637,322

 Double digit increases in the Medicare Match Account continued. Costs have nearly doubled since FY 2000.

Fiscal	Amount	Percent	Notes
Year		Increase	
05	\$512,640	12.89%	Transfer of \$7,360 was required
04	\$454,086	11.46%	No transfer required (\$480,000 aprtn)
03	\$407,410	12.15%	No transfer required (\$453,000 aprtn)
02	\$363,278	11.60%	No transfer required (\$375,000 aprtn)
01	\$325,524	20.79%	\$13,000 Transfer was not Required
00	\$269,474	13.01%	\$44,747 Transfer was Required
99	\$238,445	25.60%	\$40,000 Transfer was Required
98	\$189,852	12.12%	_
97	\$169,329	16.55%	
96	\$145,286	18.83%	
95	\$127,638	6.61%	
94	\$119,720	_	

• Investment earnings have fallen to their lowest levels since FY 1995:

		_
Fiscal	Total Income	
Year		
2005	\$932,675	
2004	\$1,229,492	
2003	\$1,561,045	Affect of call provisions of
2002	\$980,007	bondholders taking
2001	\$1,753,148	advantage of lower interest
2000	\$1,721,010	rates
1999	\$1,605,296	
1998	\$1,597,405	
1997	\$1,701,900	
1996	\$1,507,650	
1995	\$940,115	

 Motor Vehicle Excise Tax receipts rebounded in FY 2005. The question will be if this trend will continue in FY 2006 and beyond:

Fiscal	Total Income
Year	
2005	\$4,680,209
2004	\$4,260,729
2003	\$4,438,140
2002	\$4,127,776
2001	\$3,919,368
2000	\$3,770,230
1999	\$3,291,131

• Medicare billing for certain costs associated with the Special Education Program has flattened:

Fiscal	Reimbursement
Year	
2005	\$51,139
2004	\$49,779
2003	\$185,266
2002	\$129,032
2001	\$70,106
2000	\$98,263
1999	\$130,056

• Supplemental Tax Program that was started in 2001 has flattened. The amount committed will increase as construction picks up but no projection is available at this time:

Fiscal Year	Commitment	Note	Revenue
2005	\$80,084	\$3,075 billed in FY 06	\$169,937
2004	\$180,715	\$13,287 billed in FY 05	\$178,455
2003	\$98,631	\$26,813 billed in FY 04	\$89,088
2002	\$145,835	\$38,209 billed in FY 03	\$104,070
2001	\$159,457		\$142,235

• The MBTA assessment will continue to increase over time (See Exhibit 5.1):

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY 2007	\$200,392 (projected)
FY 2006	\$112,991
FY 2005	\$91,481
FY 2004	\$42,430
FY 2003	\$0
	-

 In FY 2007 the continued effects of a non fully funded pension system will be realized. A new valuation of the system will be undertaken next year (as of January 1, 2006) for implementation in FY 2008:

Date	Funded Ratio	Unfunded Accrued Liability	Required Appropriation
January 1, 2004	77.9%	\$14,419,434	\$1,866,223
January 1, 2002	78.9%	\$12,533,566	\$1,240,656
January 1, 2000	97.1%	\$1,414,990	\$1,559,742
January 1, 1999	83.9%	\$7,517,187	\$1,541,285

• The use of reserves and Free Cash has run its course with the balance as of July 1, 2005 being the lowest since 1991 (See Exhibit 6.1). Funds remain on account in the School Bond Interest Account (\$2,104,081 with \$800,000 already programmed for FY 2007and Coal Ash Account (\$1,229,736). Moody's has expressed concern over the Town's reserve position (see Exhibit 6.2).

6 of 7 11/17/05

 The size of any Fiscal Year 2006 budget deficit in light of the recent notification by the School Committee of the status of the FY 2006 School Budget. Previous operational deficits that were handled at the Annual Meeting were:

Fiscal Year	Deficit Made Up At Town Meeting From Free Cash
2005	\$523,000
2004	\$388,000
2003	\$366,000
2002	\$95,000
2001	\$731,000
2000	\$103,000

FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR THE FY 2007 BUDGET SEASON AND BEYOND

- 1. Increases of Water and Sewer Rates to cover new EPA & DEP standards
- 2. Increases in Water Rates to cover aggressive capital program of \$5 to \$6 million in the next 5 years.
- 3. Impact on Sewer Rates of Chapter 23 of the Acts of 2005 which now allows the tax levy subsidy of the sewer operation to fall to zero from 25% (\$700,000 to \$800,000 programmed for FY 2007).
- 4. Capital Budget requests for the period FY 07 to FY 10 far in excess of available revenue stream. Facility requests in the area of fire, school, parks, police and libraries.
- 5. Ongoing status of "Budget Busters" (Health, Medicare, Pensions, General Insurance)
- 6. Status of Town's debt obligation (See Exhibit 7.1)
- 7. The status of State Finances and will FY 2007 be the year when the distribution formula is modified.
- 8. The future of coal ash revenue and Phase V at the monofill.
- 9. School enrollment trends (see Exhibit 8.1 & 8.2)
- 10. Impact on the Town's vehicle fleet in light of continued deferral of replacement.
- 11. The impact of GASB 45 that deals with Retiree Health Insurance (See Exhibit 9.1)

TAX RATE RECAPITULATIONS FISCAL YEAR 2000 TO 2006

	ACTUAL		ACTUAL		ACTUAL		ACTUAL		ACTUAL	ACTUAL
CHARGES	FY 06		FY 05		FY 04		FY 03			FY 01
APPROPRIATIONS \$	83,343,541.82	₩	77,611,947.00 \$		76,082,196.81	₩	68,397,505.02	₩	64,314,219.38 \$	59,547,856.94
TAX TITLE \$	•	↔	'	€9	•	69	•	₩		•
COURT JUDGMENTS \$	•	ઝ	'	s		69	1	ss	126,963.64 \$	119,334.00
	•	↔	٠	⇔		\$	•	₩		803.19
CHERRY SHEET OFFSETS \$	73,909.00	⇔		⇔	61,412.00	⇔		s	62,973.00 \$	59,915.00
	90.906.9	ઝ	6,737.74 \$	ťΑ	6,573.53	₩	6,413.43	s		4,660.18
STATE AND COUNTY CHARGES \$	840,584.00	49		€9	434,305.00	\$	205,797.00	\$	_	201,558.00
OVERLAY \$	451,928.88	↔		€9	465,564.36	↔	301,261.36	s		323,213.03
TOTAL TO BE RAISED \$	84,716,869.76	↔	78,714,491.32	S	77,050,051.70	↔	68,973,191.81	₩	64,960,953.91 \$	60,257,340.34
REVENUE										
STATE AID \$	21,077,629.00	↔	18,621,647.00 \$	\$	16,746,262.00	s	12,679,840.00	₩		10,595,853.00
OVERESTIMATES \$		⇔	'	\$		s	331.00	\$		4,982.00
EIPTS	10,388,000.00	↔	10,415,000.00	\$	10,244,000.00	₩	9,521,090.00	s	9,693,984.00 \$	9,302,066.00
FREE CASH \$	2,000,000.00	ઝ		₩	3,000,000.00	⇔	1,501,785.00	s S	1,056,826.92 \$	1,348,000.00
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS										
SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS \$	25,000.00	₩	25,000.00	⇔	25,000.00	₩	25,000.00	₩	25,000.00 \$	25,000.00
SEWER SURPLUS \$	3,566,654.82	ઝ	2,300,000.00	⇔	2,000,400.00	49	2,140,000.00	₩		1,525,000.00
LIGHT REVENUE \$	262,767.00	↔	273,150.00 \$	€9	280,490.00	s	329,010.00	₩		102,990.00
CATV REVENUE \$	499,545.00	₩		ss	529,365.00	s	736,140.00	69		924,158.00
STABILIZATION \$	170,000.00	₩		₩	185,000.00	₩	•	69		
OTHER FUNDS (CHAPTER 90) \$	508,066.00	↔		⇔	424,566.71	s	431,754.76	₩	-	210,686.26
BUDGET/FUND TRANSFERS \$	566,713.66	₩	400,223.00 \$	₩	500,000.00	₩	42,316.26	69	339,500.00 \$	405,000.00
HOME FARM WELL INTEREST \$	•	↔	'	s	1,450,000.00	₩	•	↔		2,091,000.00
TITLE V RESERVE \$	16,248.00	₩	4,831.00 \$	₩	4,831.00	⇔	4,831.00	⇔		1
INTEREST/PREMIUM RESERVE \$	•	↔	,	⇔	•	69	•	69	300,000,000	•
WATER SYSTEM IMPRVMNTS \$	500,000.00	↔	١	₩	930,000.00	₩	430,000.00	₩.	⇔	1
WATER CONSERVATION FUND \$	30,000.00	₩		₩	,	₩	•	₩	⇔	•
CEMETERY TRUST FUNDS \$	75,000.00	₩	71,500.00	↔	,	₩	•	₩	∽	•
SPECIAL FUNDS - COAL ASH \$	275,000.00	⇔	250,000.00	₩	•	क	•	↔	دې ،	ı
တ	400,000.00	₩	-	⇔	1	₩.	•	ss ·	(Я)	•
SURPLUS SBAB (FLORAL) \$	89,681.00	4	1	⇔	•	↔	•	69		•
FREE CASH (REDUCE LEVY) \$	500,000.00	ઝ	\$ 00.000,005	s	728,416.00	69	2,885,000.00	↔		1,130,000.00
MUNICIPAL LIGHT (REDUCE LEVY) \$	121,995.00	₩	115,606.00 \$	€ S	118,531.00	69	113,132.00	69	112,244.00 \$	118,519.00
CATV REVENUE (REDUCE LEVY) \$	430,056.00	₩	386,503.91	€9	334,056.00	69	283,927.00	69	250,000.00 \$	250,000.00
BOND INTEREST RESERVE \$	ı	↔	1	↔	1	₩	821,732.00	⇔	نه ۱	1
TOTAL REVENUE \$	41,502,355.48	↔	37,315,227.91	€9	37,500,917.71	↔	31,945,889.02	€9	28,899,989.58 \$	28,033,254.26
TOTAL LEVY \$	43,214,514.28	₩	41,399,263.41	€9	39,549,133.99	⇔	37,027,302.79	₩	36,060,964.33 \$	32,224,086.08
TAX RATE \$ 11/17/2005	9.24	↔	9.74 \$	6	9.92	↔	10.60	↔	13.58 \$	12.45

11/17/2005

EXHIBIT 1.2 Summary of Single Family Tax Bills Fiscal Years 1988 to 2006

Ŧ	∢	Assessed Value	Parcels	•	Average Value	L B	Tax Rate	Fа	Single Family Tax Bill	Increase		Percent Increase	Hi-Lo Rank	# of Towns Included	¥ ⊗	State Median	Vari to S	Variance to State Median
1988	₩	597,062,402	6,130	↔	97,400	₩	14.62	↔	1,424				118	293	69	1,301	↔	123
1989	↔	1,050,029,027	6,260	↔	167,736	υ	9.36	↔	1,570	₩	146	10.25%	96	297	↔	1,326	₩	244
1990	↔	1,072,459,683	6,314	↔	169,854	↔	10.02	↔	1,702	₩	132	8.41%	112	323	↔	1,504	69	198
1991	↔	1,099,088,583	6,400	↔	171,733	↔	10.40	↔	1,786	₩	84	4.94%	66	265	↔	1,640	₩	146
1992	↔	972,972,119	6,447	↔	150,919	↔	11.93	↔	1,800	₩	4	0.78%	133	339	↔	1,663	₩	137
1993	₩	1,015,893,420	6,677	↔	152,148	↔	12.22	↔	1,859	↔	59	3.28%	136	339	↔	1,747	↔	112
1994	₩	1,067,739,013	6,938	↔	153,897	υ	12.74	↔	1,961	₩	102	5.49%	132	340	↔	1,808	₩	153
1995	·	1,082,234,386	7,135	↔	151,680	↔	13.38	↔	2,029	₩	99	3.47%	137	340	↔	1,872	₩	157
1996	₩	1,124,419,977	7,319	↔	153,630	↔	13.84	↔	2,126	₩	26	4.78%	133	340	↔	1,959	↔	167
1997	€	1,166,241,040	7,485	↔	155,810	↔	14.42	↔	2,247	↔	121	5.69%	129	340	↔	2,031	₩	216
1998	↔	1,274,284,500	7,718	↔	165,106	↔	13.32	↔	2,199	ક્ક	(48)	-2.14%	155	340	↔	2,121	ss	78
1999	↔	1,340,116,000	7,952	↔	168,526	↔	13.45	↔	2,267	क	68	3.09%	155	340	↔	2,191	₩	9/
2000	↔	1,473,016,300	8,225	↔	179,090	₩	13.34	↔	2,389	69	122	5.38%	148	340	↔	2,297	₩	95
2001	↔	1,753,632,800	8,441	↔	207,752	↔	12.45	↔	2,587	क	198	8.29%	140	340	↔	2,418	()	169
2002	↔	1,817,609,000	8,572	↔	212,040	↔	13.58	↔	2,880	क	293	11.33%	124	340	↔	2,577	ss	303
2003	↔	2,466,221,700	8,672	↔	284,389	↔	10.60	↔	3,015	क	135	4.69%	136	340	↔	2,709	69	306
2004	↔	2,860,861,900	8,760	↔	326,582	₩	9.92	↔	3,240	69	225	7.45%	133	339	69	2,894	₩	346
2005	↔	3,069,672,100	8,861	↔	346,425	↔	9.74	↔	3,374	↔	134	4.15%	138	340	69	3,067	₩	307
5006	(A	16,402,311,500	8,890	69	382,712	(A	9.24	69	3,536	(/)	162	4.80%						

creases in tax bills

			1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	E .
NAt - t Pre-	FY 2000	FY 2005	Change	Percent
Municipality	average bill	average bill	in dollars	change
Ashland	\$3,440	\$4,713	4-1-1-	30%
Bellingham	\$2,060	\$2,684	\$624	
Berlin	\$2,864	\$4,519	\$1,655	58%
Bolton	\$4,669	\$6,516	\$1,847	40%
Boyiston	\$3,236	\$4,384	\$1,148	35%
Dover	\$6,209	\$9,004	\$2,795	45%
Framingham	\$3,205	\$4,129	\$924	29%
Franklin	\$2,840	\$3,515	\$675	24%
Holliston	\$4,007	\$5,293	\$1,286	, 32%
Hopkinton	\$4,250	\$6,015	\$1,765	42%
Hudson	\$2,315	\$3,200	\$885	38%
Lincoln	\$7,475	\$9,730	\$2,255	30%
Marlborough*	NA.	NA_	NA /	NA NA
Maynard	\$3,043	\$3,899	\$856	28%
Medfield = 100	\$4,740	\$7,094	\$2,354	50%
Medway	\$3,437	\$4,961	\$1,524	44%
Milford	\$2,574	\$3,424	\$850	33%
Millis	\$3,263	\$4,083	\$820	25%
Natick :	\$3,270	\$4,303	\$1,033	32%
Needham	\$4,068	\$5,517	\$1,449	36%
Newton	\$5,318	\$7,047	\$1,729	33%
Norfolk	\$3,700	\$4,859	\$1,159	31%
Northborough	\$3,460	\$4,891	\$1,431	41%
Plainville	\$2,633	\$3,620	\$987	37%
Sherborn	\$6,912	\$9,889	\$2,977	43%
Shrewsbury	\$2,389	\$3,374	\$985	41%
Southborough	\$4,023	\$6,667	\$2,644	66%
Stow	\$4,472	\$6,075	\$1,603	36%
Sudbury	\$5,987	\$8,101	\$2,114	35%
Upton	\$2,498	\$4,119	\$1,621	65%
Waltham*	NA	NA	ĄΝΑ	NA
Watertown*	+ NA	NA .	NA.	. NA
Wayland	\$5,917	\$7,904	\$1,987	-34%
Wellesley	\$5,084	\$7,564	\$2,480	49%
Westborough	\$3,709	\$5,922	\$2,213	60%
Weston	\$8,064	\$11,767	\$3,703	46%
Wrentham	\$3,178	\$4,282	\$1,104	35%
	+412.5	+ 1,202	, 7-,20	

^{*}The Department of Revenue does not report an average tax bill number for these communities, because tax breaks are available to qualifying single-family homeowners.

SOURCE: Massachusetts Department Of Revenue

EXHIBIT 2.1

Tale of Two Towns

Fiscal Year 2006

Tale of Two Towns

	Shrewsbury	Other Town
Population 2000 Fed Census	31,640	17,997
Total to Be Raised	\$84.717 Million	\$75.116 Million
State Aid (Non SBAB)	\$17.285 Million	\$4.211 Million
Tax Levy	\$48.589 Million	\$43.215 Million
FY 05 Tax Rate	\$9.74	\$14.37
FY 06 Tax Rate	\$9.24	\$13.86

Tale of Two Towns

	Shrewsbury	Other Town
Residential Tax Base	88.03%	61.98%
Non Residential Tax Base	11.97%	38.02%
FY 06 New Growth	\$56.336 Million (\$9.74 Tax Rate)	\$82.309 Million (\$14.37 Tax Rate)
FY 06 New Growth	\$548,711	\$1,182,784
Residential New Growth	\$48.966 Million (\$476,928)	\$22.034 Million (\$316,633)
Non-Residential New Growth	\$7.369 Million (\$71,783)	\$60.275 Million (\$866,151)

Tale of Two Towns

	Shrewsbury	Other Town
Value Per Single Family Home (FY 06)	\$382,712	\$449,792
Average Residential Tax Bill (FY 06)	\$3,536.26	\$6,234.13
Value Per Commercial Parcel (FY 06)	\$839,054	\$1,464,569
Average Commercial Tax Bill (FY 06)	\$7,752.86	\$20,298.92
Value Per Industrial Parcel (FY 06)	\$1,218,444	\$1,746,870
Average Industrial Tax Bill (FY 06)	\$11,258.43	\$24,211.62

Tale of Two Towns

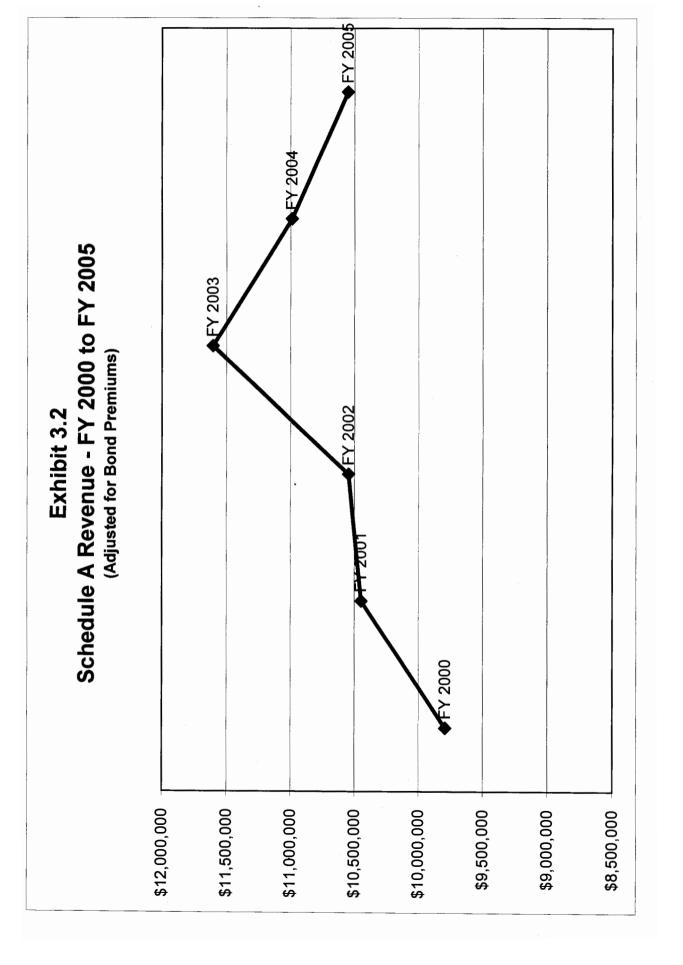
	Shrewsbury	Other Town
Value Per Personal Property Account (FY 06)	\$106,502	\$613,139
Average Personal Property Tax Bill (FY 06)	\$984.08	\$8,498.11
Average Parcel Value – All Classes (FY 06)	\$376,349.52	\$566,170
Average Tax Bill – All Classes (FY 06)	\$3,477.47	\$7,847.13

EXHIBIT 3.1 SCHEDULE A RECEIPTS FISCAL YEAR 1999 TO 2006

PROJECTED FY 06	ACTUAL FY 05	10	ACTUAL FY 04	ACTUAL FY 03	AC.	ACTUAL FY 02	ACTUAL FY 01	ACTUAL FY 00	ACTUAL FY 99
\$ 4,600,000	\$ 4,680,209	69	4,260,729 \$	4,438,140	4	4,127,776 \$		3,7	3,291,131
\$ 43,000	\$ 47,454		44,571 \$	52,128		69,073 \$			56,185
\$ 220,000	\$ 220,875	↔	203,838 \$	158,815	•	131,076 \$	177,166 \$	171,002 \$	241,921
PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES \$ 27,000	\$ 27,057		29,515 \$	29,908	\$	26,568 \$	\$ 689 \$	26,282 \$	22,894
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - WATER \$ 2,750,000	\$ 2,827,012	ઝ	2,750,427 \$	2,687,023	\$ 2,77	2,778,081 \$	2,625,987 \$	2,531,831 \$	2,484,425
CHARGES FOR SERVICES - ASH DISPOSAL \$ 520,000	\$ 570,000	ઝ	961,582 \$	1,098,492	\$ 893	893,950 \$	592,754 \$	453,309 \$	2,138,382
\$ 118,000	\$ 118,150	છ	138,184 \$	198,556	\$ 12(120,026 \$	\$ 629'68	\$ 900'88	99,020
\$ 15,000	\$ 15,698	છ	12,764 \$	13,238	\$	12,240 \$	13,391	11,791 \$	96′9
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - SCHOOLS \$ 40,000	\$ 40,501	છ	₽	•	€9	↔	180 \$	725 \$	6,034
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - LIBRARIES \$ -	, \$	υ	У Э	,	€9	\$ 26	456 \$	541 \$	860
DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE - CEMETERIES \$ 31,000	\$ 31,380	છ	34,820 \$	31,905	e S	30,798 \$	36,935 \$	30,844	34,432
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE \$ 227,000	\$ 227,967	₩	337,487 \$	328,916	\$ 19			138,407	218,129
	\$ 373,429	ઝ	423,937 \$	385,023		618,764 \$	354,409 \$	422,312	402,511
\$ 31,000	\$ 31,575	क	21,584 \$	47,422	3	35,456 \$	84,848 \$	21,434 \$	22,615
\$ 186,000	\$ 186,372	क	310,446 \$	298,028		273,867 \$	270,726 \$		227,023
\$ 932,000	\$ 932,675	क	1,229,492 \$	1,561,045	\$ 98(1,753,148	1,721,010 \$	1,605,296
MISCELLANEOUS RECURRING -	ا چ	ઝ	\$.1		22,722	32,809 \$	27,181
MISCELLANEOUS NON-RECURRING \$ 100,000	\$ 172,413	क	185,840 \$	247,705	\$ 2,83		1	₽	,
\$ 20,000	\$ 51,139	क	49,779 \$	185,266	\$ 129		70,106	98,263 \$	130,056
SUPPLEMENTAL TAX PROGRAM \$ 125,000	\$ 169,937	69	178,455 \$	880'68	\$ 10		142,235 \$	€7	•
\$ 10,388,000	\$ 10,723,843	σ	11,173,450 \$	11,850,698	-	1,884 \$	10,446,453 \$	9,790,485 \$	11,014,891
ESTIMATE	\$ 10,415,000	Θ	10,244,000 \$	9,521,090	\$ 9'69.	3,984 \$	9,302,066	9,343,600 \$	8,341,900
OVER(UNDER)	\$ 308,843	₩	929,450 \$	2,329,608		\$ 006'2	1,144,387 \$	446,885 \$	2,672,991
PERCENT OVER(UNDER)	3.0%		9.1%	24.5%	38.0%	vo.	12.3%	4.8%	32.0%
# 932,000	172, 172, 51, 169, 10,723, 308, 3.0%	⁹ 9 9 9 9 9 9		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	\$ 1,561,045 \$ 247,705 \$ 185,266 \$ 89,088 \$ 11,850,698 \$ 9,521,090 \$ 2,329,608	\$ 1,561,045 \$ 5 \$ 247,705 \$ 2, \$ 185,266 \$ 5 \$ 11,850,698 \$ 13, \$ 9,521,090 \$ 9, \$ 2,329,608 \$ 3, \$ 2,45% 38	\$ 1,561,045 \$ 980,007 \$ 247,705 \$ 2,835,775 \$ 185,266 \$ 129,032 \$ 11,850,698 \$ 13,381,884 \$ 9,521,090 \$ 9,693,984 \$ 2,329,608 \$ 3,687,900 \$ 24.5% 38.0%	\$ 1,561,045 \$ 980,007 \$ 1,753,148 \$ 247,705 \$ 2,835,775 \$ 22,722 \$ 227,722 \$ 2835,775 \$ 70,106 \$ 11,850,698 \$ 13,381,884 \$ 10,446,453 \$ 9,521,090 \$ 9,693,984 \$ 9,302,066 \$ 24.5% \$ 38.0% \$ 12.3%	\$ 1,561,045 \$ 980,007 \$ 1,753,148 \$ 1,721,010 \$ \$ 247,705 \$ 2,835,775 \$ 70,106 \$ 32,809 \$ \$ \$ 129,032 \$ 70,106 \$ 98,263 \$ \$ \$ 11,850,698 \$ 13,381,884 \$ 10,446,453 \$ 9,790,485 \$ \$ 2,329,608 \$ 3,687,900 \$ 1,144,387 \$ 446,885 \$ 24.5% \$ 38.0% \$ 12.3% \$ 4.8%

FY 2002 total includes a bond premium of \$2,384,823, AP Account Closeout of \$449,443, building permit fee of \$252,000 on the State Street Bank project and coal ash revenue of \$180,806

FY 2003 total includes a bond premium of \$247,705 and coal ash revenue of \$364,000



Line Item		Fiscal Year 2006 Actual		Fiscal Year 005 Actual		Fiscal Year 2004 Actual		Fiscal Year 2003 Actual		Fiscal Year 2002 Actual	-	Fiscal Year 001 Actual		Fiscal Year 000 Actual
REVENUE														
A. EDUCATION														
1. Chapter 70	\$	13,800,607	•	11,948,701		10,287,704		8,745,774		7,590,859		6,394,912		5,616,512
2. School Transportation	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	247,393		250,825		342,826		322,292
3. School Construction	\$	3,792,413	\$	3,702,732	\$	3,697,772	\$	496,000	\$	496,000	\$	496,000	\$	598,150
5. Charter School Tuition	\$	193,772	\$	131,443	\$	10,440	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Reimbursement 5. Tuition State Wards	\$		\$		\$		\$		\$		\$	67,163	æ	17,978
6. Chater School Capital Facility		-	Ф	-	Φ	-	Φ	-	Φ	•	Φ	67,103		17,576
Reimbursement	\$	34,870	\$	28,196	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
8. School Lunch (Offset)	\$	28,245	\$	26,723	\$	27,247	\$	25,019	\$	22,775	\$	20,307	\$	20,177
Sub-Total	\$	17,849,907	\$	15,837,795	\$	14,023,163	\$	9,514,186	\$	8,360,459	\$	7,321,208	\$	6,575,109
B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT														
1. Lottery, Beano & Charity Games	\$	2,493,603	\$	2,110,492	\$	2,110,492	\$	2,250,774	\$	2,482,932	\$	2,324,233	\$	2,123,910
2. Additional Assistance	\$	298,861		298,861		298,861		318,726				376,077		376,077
3. Highway Fund	\$		\$		\$		\$	-	\$			207,431		207,431
6. Police Career Incentive	\$	166,024	\$	150,155		140,291	\$	129,068				101,872		78,330
8. Veteran's Benefits	\$	12,907	\$	3,406		3,738		14,598	\$	16,918		8,202	\$	7,020
9. Exemptions	\$	31,025	\$	34,421		-,	\$	30,907		,		30,772		31,608
10. Exemptions (Elderly)	\$	22,768	\$	22,670		22,328		21,017		22,042		22,700		22,726
11. State Owned Land	\$	156,870	\$	123,183	\$	78,725	\$	98,335	\$	148,013	\$	163,750	\$	135,760
12. Public Libraries	\$	45,664	\$	40,664	\$	34,165	\$	37,196	\$	40,018	\$	39,608	\$	38,144
Sub-Total	\$	3,227,722	\$	2,783,852	\$	2,723,099	\$	2,900,621	\$	3,288,073	\$	3,274,645	\$	3,021,006
Total State Aid	\$	21,077,629	\$	18,621,647	\$	16,746,262	\$	12,414,807	\$	11,648,532	\$	10,595,853	\$	9,596,115
CHARGES														
County Tour	•	40.047	•	40.047	•	40.047	•	40.047	•	40.047	•	40.047	•	40.047
County Tax	\$	49,947		49,947		49,947		49,947				49,947		49,947
Mosquito Control	\$	52,245	\$	47,364	\$ \$	47,261	\$	40,895		,	\$	39,250	\$	39,459
Mosquito Control (Underestimate)	\$ \$	0.024	\$ \$	8,484		0 107	\$ \$	3,659				7 404	\$	6.838
Air Pollution Districts RMV Non-Renewal Surcharge	\$	8,834 16,700	\$	13,500		8,187 16,400	\$	7,860 17,880		, ,		7,104 21,360		25,980
WRTA Assessment	\$	71,306	\$	82,522			\$	78,546				•	\$	73,563
Special Education	\$	71,306	\$	9,648		5,501		7,010			\$		\$	18,155
MBTA	\$	112,991	\$	91,481		42,430	\$	7,010	\$		\$	5,525	\$	10,155
School Choice Tuition	\$	104,140	\$	78,761		45,890		-	\$		\$	_	\$	
Charter School Tuition	\$	424,421		312,350		138,180		_	\$		\$	_	\$	_
	•													
Sub-Total	\$	840,584	\$	694,057	\$	434,305	\$	205,797	\$	194,113	\$	201,558	\$	213,942
Overestimate - Mosquito Control	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,666	\$	482
Overestimate - Special Education	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	331	\$	2,850	\$	3,316	\$	• -
Overestimate - Regional Transit	\$	•	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Sub-Total	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	331	\$	2,850	\$	4,982	\$	482
Total Net Charges	\$	840,584	\$	694,057	\$	434,305	\$	205,466	\$	191,263	\$	196,576	\$	213,460
School Lunch Offset	\$	28,245	\$	26,723	\$	27,247	\$	25,019	\$	22,775	\$	20,307	\$	20,177
Library Offset	\$	45,664		40,664			•	,	\$			39,608		38,144
Total Off-Sets	\$	73,909	\$	67,387	7 \$	61,412	\$	25,019	:	62,793	\$	59,915	\$	58,321
		Finant Voor		Figural Voca		Figural Voca		Figure Voca		Figure Voca		Finani Vana		Figure Vans
Line Item		Fiscal Year 2006 Actual		Fiscal Year 2005 Actual		Fiscal Year 2004 Actual		Fiscal Year 2003 Actual		Fiscal Year 2002 Actual		Fiscal Year 2001 Actual		Fiscal Year 2000 Actual
"Education" Local Aid														5,976,959
"General Government" Local Aid Charges and Offsets				2,783,852 761,444										3,021,006
Charges and Chisets	4	314,433	ð	701,444	. 1	430,/1/	Þ	£30,465	,	, <u>2</u> 54,056	Þ	256,491	Þ	271,781
Total Indicates amount after "9C"	\$	16,370,72 3	\$	14,157,471	1 \$	12,552,77 3	\$	11,688,322	: :	10,898,476	\$	9,843,362	\$	8,726,184

reduction was made

EXHIBIT 5.1

	X01
FY2010	Projected Base Assessment FY2010 \$215,800
nts FY2007	Projected Base Assessment FY2009 \$210,536
se Assessme	Projected Base Assessment FY2008 ***********************************
Projected Base Assessments FY2007 - FY2010	Projected Base Projected Base Projected Base I Assessment Assessment Assessment FY2009 FY2009 FY2007 FY2008 FY2009 \$200,392 \$205,401 \$210,536
	% of Total Assessment 0.0831%
	MBTA Final Assessment \$\frac{112,992}{112,992}\$
	RTA MBTA Assessment Prelim Paratransit Credit Assessment Credit (82,522) \$112,982
	MBTA nt Prelim Pa Assessment Assessment 22) \$112,962
	A RTA Assessment ent Credit (82,522)
.	MBTA Base Assessment 195,504
	reighted % of Total District Management 33,091 0.1437%
4	rewsbury MBTA Assessments FTZ000 07/01/03 Member Est.Census Weighted % of Total Community Population Weights Population District A ewsbury 33,091 1 33,091 0.1437%
	sessmer 3 sus ion Weigh
	MBTA ASS 07/01/03 Est. Censu Populatio
	hrewsbury Member Community
l	ഗ § <u>ഗ</u>

Note: Projections reflect the maximum assessment as they assume an inflation rate of 2.5% annually and do not take into account RTA Assessment Credits and Paratransit credits/charges.

EXHIBIT 6.1 FREE CASH BALANCES FISCAL YEAR 1990 TO 2006

FISCAL YEAR END	BALANCE AS OF 7/1	AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	FOLLOWING YEAR BALANCE	GAIN/(LOSS)
2005	\$1,930,113			
2004	\$2,832,695	\$2,500,000	\$1,930,113	(\$902,582)
2003	\$3,616,392	\$2,880,000	\$2,832,695	(\$783,697)
2002	\$6,958,805	\$6,113,416	\$3,616,392	(\$3,342,413)
2001	\$4,087,506	\$2,077,612	\$6,958,805	\$2,871,299
2000	\$2,884,606	\$1,468,606	\$4,087,506	\$1,202,900
1999	\$5,588,576	\$3,928,000	\$2,884,606	(\$2,703,970)
1998	\$4,611,834	\$3,010,784	\$5,588,576	\$976,742
1997	\$4,555,647	\$3,418,656	\$4,611,834	\$56,187
1996	\$2,996,394	\$1,300,000	\$4,555,647	\$1,559,253
1995	\$3,909,803	\$3,294,500	\$2,996,394	(\$913,409)
1994	\$2,672,855	\$1,864,000	\$3,909,803	\$1,236,948
1993	\$3,039,269	\$2,030,500	\$2,672,855	(\$366,414)
1992	\$2,275,622	\$1,122,000	\$3,039,269	\$763,647
1991	\$1,560,672	\$867,000	\$2,275,622	\$714,950
1990	\$1,269,570	\$850,000	\$1,560,672	\$291,102

indicates balance influenced by bond premium that was run through Free Cash in the amount of \$2,385,000.



EXHIBIT 6.2

Global Credit Research New Issue 8 NOV 2005 Save as PDF

New Issue: Shrewsbury (Town of) MA

MOODY'S ASSIGNS MIG 1 RATING TO TOWN OF SHREWSBURY'S (MA) \$6.1 MILLION GENERAL **OBLIGATION BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES**

Aa3 RATING AFFECTS \$77.69 MILLION IN OUTSTANDING LONG-TERM DEBT

Municipality MA

Moody's Rating

ISSUE

RATING

Bond Anticipation Notes

MIG 1

Sale Amount

\$6,100,000

Expected Sale Date 11/09/05

Rating Description Bond Anticipation Notes

Opinion

NEW YORK, Nov 8, 2005 -- Moody's Investors Service has assigned a MIG 1 rating to the Town of Shrewsbury's \$6.1 million General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes. At this time, Moody's has affirmed the Aa3 rating on the town's \$77.69 million in outstanding long-term debt. The notes are secured by the town's general obligation unlimited tax pledge, as debt service has been voted exempt from the levy limits of Proposition 2 1/2. Proceeds will refund maturing notes originally issued to acquire the 60-acre former Allen farm intended to be resold for development. The MIG1 rating reflects demonstrated market access and satisfactory credit fundamentals including a financial position that is expected to be augmented following anticipated declines in reserves in fiscal 2005 and 2006, a rapidly growing tax base reflective of the location of the community between Worcester (rated A3) and Boston (rated Aa1/stable outlook), and manageable debt burden with moderate borrowing plans.

DEMONSTRATED MARKET ACCESS

Moody's believes the BANs (dated November 23, 2005 and payable November 22, 2006) benefit from the town's demonstrated market access evident in the seven bids received on the town's August 12, 2005 note sale and the six bids received on its prior note sale dated November 24, 2004. Proceeds will refinance an outstanding BAN, the proceeds of which funded the acquisition of property that is intended to be resold to a developer. The state has extended the period of time in which the notes may remain outstanding to ten years as the town intends to repay the notes with proceeds from the resale of this land. However, the notes are ultimately secured by the town's general obligation pledge and could be refinanced with long term debt in the event the sale is delayed beyond this time frame.

SIZEABLE TAX BASE WITH SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH

Located in Worcester County near the Route 495 corridor, Shrewsbury has been a high-growth community over the past decade. Its population grew 31% from 1990 to 2000, and equalized valuation has increased a substantial 16.3% annually since 2000. The town, which is 88% residential, has added \$2.1 billion in assessed valuation in the past five years alone. Although the majority of new growth in prior years has been within the residential sector, the town is beginning to see a shift to more commercial construction. This note issue finances a land purchase representing a 60-acre site, which management plans to develop as an industrial park. Management reports new commercial development in properties adjacent to the industrial park, and a modest increase (3%) in fiscal 2006 assessed commercial values, reversing the trend of declines in commercial assessments in the last few years. Although slower than in the past, residential development continues, with a handful of multi-family construction projects in various phases of development. The value of the average single-family home has increased to \$380,000 in fiscal 2006, a healthy 11% increase from fiscal 2005. The town's socioeconomic indices continue to strengthen, now exceeding state medians and reflected in the solid \$127,864 equalized value per capita.

FINANCIAL POSITION NARROWING

Moody's anticipates that the town's financial position will decline to a more narrow level, as it was artificially inflated by a \$2.8 million surplus in fiscal 2002, which resulted from the receipt of a bond premium. Operations in fiscal 2004 produced a modest deficit (\$260,000) and a reduction in available reserves, including Unreserved General Fund and Stabilization Fund balances, to \$5.97 million (8.1% of General Fund revenues). Available reserve levels are expected to decline \$4.8 million (pro-forma 6.4% of revenues) in fiscal 2005 as the town does not expect to fully replenish \$2.5 million appropriated from certified free cash to fund a snow removal deficit, capital expenditures and operating expenses. Despite consistent new growth revenues and an increase in state aid, management projects a further reduction in reserves in fiscal 2006 due primarily to continued pressure from pension and education expenditure increases. Voters have turned down two operating overrides in the last few years and town officials are not planning to propose another override for fiscal 2007, and service reductions are being considered to balance the budget. Moody's expects that the town will be challenged to maintain financial flexibility including satisfactory reserve levels in the near-term due to recent reliance on draws on reserves and increasing pressure from pension, salary and health care expenses. Future rating actions will incorporate the town's ability to regain structural balance and to replenish reserves to levels consistent with the Aa3 rating.

MANAGEABLE DEBT BURDEN WITH SIGNIFICANT STATE BUILDING AID

Moody's anticipates that the town's average 2.0% overall (unadjusted) debt burden will remain manageable, given an average retirement of principal (63.8% in 10 years), and significant state school building aid (64%). After adjusting for state building aid, the town's debt burden drops to a more modest 1.0%. Town officials began receiving state payments for construction of the high school in 2004, and for the middle school project in August 2005. With the large middle school and high school projects largely behind them, town officials expect more moderate debt issuance going forward. Management has cited the need for a \$10 million library expansion, a new middle school and a new fire station. The town has proposed a debt exclusion to the voters for the \$6.65 million fire station project, and plans to issue up to \$4 million in debt for the library in the next two to three years, if voters approve an additional debt exclusion. The balance of the project is expected to be funded by a state grant of approximately \$4 million and private fund raising. The town's second middle school project has been postponed pending new guidelines from the state's school construction reimbursement program.

KEY STATISTICS

2000 Population: 31,640

2005 Equalized Value: \$4.24 billion

Equalized Value per capita: \$127,864

Overall debt burden: 2.0%

Adjusted debt burden: 1.0%

Amortization of principal (10 years): 63.8%

Per Capita Income: 121.6% of the state

Median Family Income: 126.0% of the state

Fiscal 2004 General Fund balance: \$11.13 million (15.1% of revenues)

Fiscal 2004 Undesignated General Fund balance: \$2.3 million (3.2% of revenues)

Fiscal 2004 Stabilization Fund balance: \$953,000 (1.3% of revenues)

Post-sale Parity Debt Outstanding: \$77.69 million

Analysts

Susan Freiner Analyst Public Finance Group Moody's Investors Service

Sarrah Angelos Backup Analyst Public Finance Group Moody's Investors Service

Edith Behr Senior Credit Officer Public Finance Group Moody's Investors Service

Contacts

Journalists: (212) 553-0376 Research Clients: (212) 553-1653

© Copyright 2005, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and/or its licensors including Moody's Assurance Company, Inc. (together, "MOODY'S"). All rights reserved.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW AND NONE OF SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCED, REPACKAGED, FURTHER TRANSMITTED, TRANSFERRED, DISSEMINATED, REDISTRIBUTED OR RESOLD, OR STORED FOR SUBSEQUENT USE FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, BY ANY PERSON WITHOUT MOODY'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT. All information contained herein is obtained by MOODY'S from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, however, such information is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind and MOODY'S, in particular, makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability or fitness for any particular purpose of any such information. Under no circumstances shall MOODY'S have any liability to any person or entity for (a) any loss or damage in whole or in part caused by, resulting from, or relating to, any error (negligent or otherwise) or other circumstance or contingency within or outside the control of MOODY'S or any of its directors, officers, employees or agents in connection with the procurement, collection, compilation, analysis, interpretation, communication, publication or delivery of any such information, or (b) any direct, indirect, special, consequential, compensatory or incidental damages whatsoever (including without limitation, lost profits), even if MOODY'S is advised in advance of the possibility of such damages, resulting from the use of or inability to use, any such information. The credit ratings and financial reporting analysis observations, if any, constituting part of the information contained herein are, and must be construed solely as, statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities. NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY SUCH RATING OR OTHER OPINION OR INFORMATION IS GIVEN OR MADE BY MOODY'S IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSOEVER. Each rating or other opinion must be weighed solely as one factor in any investment decision made by or on behalf of any user of the information contained herein, and each such user must accordingly make its own study and evaluation of each security and of each issuer and guarantor of, and each provider of credit support for, each security that it may consider purchasing, holding or selling.

MOODY'S hereby discloses that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by MOODY'S have, prior to assignment of any rating, agreed to pay to MOODY'S for appraisal and rating services rendered by it fees ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,400,000. Moody's Corporation (MCO) and its wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary, Moody's Investors Service (MIS), also maintain policies and procedures to address the independence of MIS's ratings and rating processes. Information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities, and between entities who hold ratings from MIS and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually on Moody's website at www.moodys.com under the heading "Shareholder Relations - Corporate Governance - Director and Shareholder Affiliation Policy."

Moody's Investors Service Pty Limited does not hold an Australian financial services licence under the Corporations Act. This credit rating opinion has been prepared without taking into account any of your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should, before acting on the opinion, consider the appropriateness of the opinion having regard to your own objectives, financial situation and needs.

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

Exhibit 7.1 - Page 1 of 9

2014	110,000	134,750	11,931	13,819	5,541	5.541	370,000	546,860	85,000	20,987
<u>2013</u>	110,000	140,250	12,198	14,322	5,403	5,403	370,000	560,504	85,000	24,122
2012	110,000	145,750	12,628	14,988	5,568	5,568	370,000	573,685	85,000	27,150
2011	110,000	151,250	12,167	14,734	5,568	5,568	370,000	586,173	85,000	30,019 115,019
2010	110,000 46,750	156,750	11,930	14,717	5,568	5,568	370,000 227,966	597,966	85,000	117,728
2009	110,000	162,250	11,501	14,501	5,568	5,568	370,000 239,066	990,609	85,000	120,278
2008	110,000	167,200	11,262	14,371	5,568	5,568	370,000 249,704	619,704	85,000	122,722
2007	110,000 61,600	171,600	3,236	14,354	5,568	5,568	370,000 260,572	630,572	85,000	125,219
<u>2006</u>	110,000 66,550	176,550	10,976 3,179	14,155	5,568	5,568	370,000 413,521	783,521	85,000	150,534
Type of Payment	Principal 1,760,000 Interest	Total	Principal Interest	Total –	gram Principal 105,896 Interest	Total –	Principal Interest	Total	Principal Interest	Total
Purpose	Light Upgrade 1,760,000		Assabet River CWMP Princips 1,760,000 Interest		Title V Loan Program 105,896		11/19/2004 Oak Middle School Princips 7,400,000 Interest		11/19/2004 North Shore School Principa 1.250.000 Interest	
Date of <u>Issue</u>	8/15/2001		7/26/2001 2/1/2005		8/1/2004		11/19/2004		11/19/2004	
Issue No.	10		11		12		13		4	

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

Issue No.	Date of Issue	Type of Purpose Payment	<u>2006</u>	2007	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	2011	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	2014
	Existing Debt Service Total P Total P Total I	iervice Total Principal Total Interest Total Payment	5,088,975 3,689,711 8,778,686	5,121,517 3,262,292 8,383,809	5,116,661 3,067,011 8,183,672	5,106,900 2,854,976 7,961,876	4,992,329 2,625,363 7,617,692	4,912,566 2,399,291 7,311,857	4,903,027 2,173,176 7,076,203	4,867,432 1,944,620 6,812,052	4,862,303 1,716,404 6,578,707
l izi	xisting Debt S	Existing Debt Service by Funding Source Tax Levy Tax Levy (Exempted) Light & CATV Sewer & Other Total	342,734 7,649,086 762,312 24,554 8,778,686	310,106 7,305,377 743,573 24,753 8,383,809	301,932 7,136,056 720,914 24,770 8,183,672	291,853 6,948,603 696,520 24,900 7,961,876	182,316 6,743,845 666,415 25,116 7,617,692	178,047 6,540,752 567,925 25,133 7,311,857	172,038 6,332,628 546,150 25,387 7,076,203	166,191 6,097,280 524,025 24,556 6,812,052	160,823 5,891,968 501,725 24,191 6,578,707
Ι α	ebt Service Fi	Debt Service Funded Via Tax Levy Tax Levy Tax Rate Impact (4.250B) Average Tax Bill (\$346,425)	342,734 \$0.08 \$27.93	310,106 \$0.07 \$25.27	301,932 \$0.07 \$24.61	291,853 \$0.07 \$23.79	182,316 \$0.04 \$14.86	178,047 \$0.04 \$14.51	172,038 \$0.04 \$14.02	166,191 \$0.04 \$13.55	160,823 \$0.04 \$13.11
		SBA Funding (Floral) SBA Funding (Floral) SBA Funding (HS) Net Tax Levy Exempted Tax Rate Impact (4.250B) Average Tax Bill (\$346,425)	7,649,086 (585,681) (3,206,732) 3,856,673 \$0.91	7,305,377 (585,681) (3,206,732) 3,512,964 \$0.83	7,136,056 (585,681) (3,206,732) 3,343,643 \$0.79 \$272.52	6,948,603 (585,681) (3,206,732) 3,156,190 \$0.74 \$257.24	6,743,845 (585,681) (3,206,732) 2,951,432 \$0.69 \$240.55	6,540,752 (585,681) (3,206,732) 2,748,339 \$0.65	6,332,628 (585,681) (3,206,732) 2,540,215 \$0.60	6,097,280 (585,681) (3,206,732) 2,304,867 \$0.54	5,891,968 (585,681) (3,206,732) 2,099,555 \$0.49 \$171.12
l		Combined	\$0.99 \$342.27	\$0.90 \$311.59	\$0.86 \$297.13	\$0.81 \$281.03	\$0.74 \$255.41	\$0.69 \$238.51	\$0.64 \$221.06	\$0.58 \$201.40	\$0.53 \$184.23

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

<u>2023</u>						5,670	5,670	370,000	41,394	411,394			
2022						5,670	5,670	370,000	57,443	427,443			
2021			15,698	0	15,698	5,541	5,541	370,000	73,260	443,260			
2020			13,241	259	13,500	5,541	5,541	370,000	88,754	458,754	80,000	1,650	81,650
2019			13,602	518	14,120	5,541	5,541	370,000	103,785	473,785	80,000	4,900	84,900
2018	110,000 2,750	112,750	14,040	802	14,842	5,541	5,541	370,000	118,585	488,585	80,000	8,100	88,100
2017	110,000 8,250	118,250	14,422	1,085	15,507	5,541	5,541	370,000	133,384	503,384	80,000	11,300	91,300
<u>2016</u>	110,000	123,750	14,746	1,368	16,114	5,541	5,541	370,000	148,185	518,185	80,000	14,500	94,500
2015	110,000 19,250	129,250	15,075	1,652	16,727	5,541	5,541	370,000	162,754	532,754	85,000	17,747	102,747
Type of Payment	Principal Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
Purpose	Light Upgrade Principa 1,760,000 Interest		Assabet River	1,760,000 Interest		Title V Loan Program Principa 105,896 Interest	•	11/19/2004 Oak Middle School	7,400,000 Interest		11/19/2004 North Shore School	1,250,000 Interest	
Date of Issue	8/15/2001		7/26/2001	2/1/2005		8/1/2004		11/19/2004			11/19/2004		
Issue No.	10		11			12		13			4		

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

Issue <u>No.</u>	Date of Issue	Type of Purpose Payment	f it 2015	<u>2016</u>	2017	2018	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	2021	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
	Existing Debt Service Total F Total I Total I	Service Total Principal Total Interest Total Payment	4,510,447 1,486,903 5,997,350	4,495,118 1,273,053 5,768,171	4,044,794 1,054,894 5,099,688	4,044,412 858,112 4,902,524	3,833,974 664,078 4,498,052	3,653,782 477,538 4,131,320	3,466,239 303,635 3,769,874	3,445,670 134,193 3,579,863	375,670 41,394 417,064
F	xisting Debt 5	Existing Debt Service by Funding Source Tax Levy Tax Levy (Exempted) Light & CATV Sewer & Other Total	155,157 5,685,844 129,250 27,099 5,997,350	144,047 5,473,888 123,750 26,486 5,768,171	91,300 4,864,259 118,250 25,879 5,099,688	88,100 4,676,460 112,750 25,214 4,902,524	84,900 4,388,660 0 24,492 4,498,052	81,650 4,030,629 0 19,041 4,131,320	3,748,635 0 21,239 3,769,874	3,574,193 0 5,670 3,579,863	0 411,394 0 5,670 417,064
	ebt Service F	Debt Service Funded Via Tax Levy Tax Levy Tax Rate Impact (4.250B) Average Tax Bill (\$346,425)	155,157 \$0.04 \$) \$12.65	144,047 \$0.03 \$11.74	91,300 \$0.02 \$7.44					·	
		Tax Levy (Exempted) SBA Funding (Floral) SBA Funding (HS) Net Tax Levy Exempted Tax Rate Impact (4.250B) Average Tax Bill (\$346,425)	5,685,844 (\$85,681) (3,206,732) 1,893,431 \$0.45 \$)	5,473,888 (585,681) (3,206,732) 1,681,475 \$0.40 \$137.05	4,864,259 (585,681) (3,206,732) 1,071,846 \$0.25 \$87.36	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(3,206,732) (3,206,732) (\$0.75) (\$261.36)
ı		Combined	\$0.48 \$166.97	\$0.43 \$148.79	\$0.27 \$94.80	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)	(\$0.75) (\$261.36)

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

Total	4,938,350 1,083,333 6,021,683	564,850 120,388 685,238	379,400 35,910 415,310	3,170,000 737,899 3,907,899	2,070,000 720,810 2,790,810	1,680,000 612,240 2,292,240	400,000 44,000 444,000	67,634 0 67,634	52,270,000 22,089,750 74,359,750	1,655,000 614,475 2,269,475
2027										
2026										
2025										
2024										1
Type of Payment	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total	Principal Interest Total
Purpose	Floral St (EXEMPT) 9,000,000	Floral St 1,000,000	Town Hall Addition 1,000,000	CATV Upgrade 5,300,000	Land Acquisition 3,000,000	Land Acquisition (HS) 2,400,000	Senior Center 1,000,000	Title V Loan Program 86,947	High School 58,900,000	Land Acquisition 2,000,000
Date of Issue	2/1/1996 2/1/2005	2/1/1996	2/1/1996 2/1/2005	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	6/1/1999	6/1/1/9	10/25/2000	8/15/2001	8/15/2001
Issue No.	-	-	7	т	4	٧.	9	7	∞	6

Exhibit 7.1 - Page 7 of 9

Exhibit 7.1 Combined Debt Service Schedule

Total	1,430,000 460,350	1,890,350	206,535 29,934	236,469	100,047	100,047	7,400,000	3,138,895	10,538,895	1,250,000	371,956	1,621,956
2027				COORDINATE OF THE PROPERTY OF								
<u>2026</u>												
2025							370,000	8,325	378,325			
2024		-					370,000	24,975	394,975			
Type of Payment	Principal Interest	Total _	Principal Interest	Total _	Principal Interest	Total _	Principal	Interest	Total _	Principal	Interest	Total
Purpose	Light Upgrade 1,760,000	Total	Assabet River CWMP 1,760,000	Total	Title V Loan Program Principal 105,896 Interest		11/19/2004 Oak Middle School	7,400,000 Interest		11/19/2004 North Shore School	1,250,000 Interest	
Date of <u>Issue</u>	8/15/2001		7/26/2001 2/1/2005		8/1/2004		11/19/2004			11/19/2004		
Issue No.	10		11		12		13			14		

2025 2026 2027 Total	370,000 77,581,816 8,325 30,059,940 378,325 107,641,756	0 2,751,194 378,325 98,272,853 0 6,213,559 0 404,150 378,325 107,641,756	(\$206,731) (\$.206,731) (\$0.75)	GL 18)
2024 20:	370,000 37 24,975 394,975 37	0 394,975 37 394,975	(3,206,732) (3,20 (3,206,732) (3,20 (\$0.75) ((\$2,75) (\$2,20)	7 (32,03)
Type of Purpose Payment	cipal est nent	ervice by Funding Source Tax Levy Tax Levy Light & CATV Sewer & Other Total	mpact (4.250B) ax Bill (\$346,425)) ted mpact (4.250B) xx Bill (\$346,425)	Combined
Issue Date of No. Issue	Existing Debt Service Total Principal Total Interest Total Payment	Existing Debt Service by Funding Source Tax Levy Tax Levy Light & CATV Sewer & Other Total	Debt Service Funded Via Tax Levy Tax Levy Tax Rate II Average Ti Average Ti SBA Funding (Floral SBA Funding (HS) Net Tax Levy Exemp Tax Rate II Average Ti	

School Enrollment Projections FIGURE 8.1

_		1721			1 040	1013		5		<u> </u>		0 0 2 7	100	020	000	-			
+	1	? .	1.034				ŀ	1.001	+ 10.	C00.1	,	0.727	50.1	0.7/7	1221	+		•	
+	4	-	2	3	4	2	k- 5	9	7	x	8-9	6	01		12	9-12	TOTAL	preschool	
993	285	311	308				1753	289	316	300	\$06	792	180	195	239	006	3558	89	3626
1994	346	316	329		308	281		247	286	321	854	263	268	194	202	927	3688		3764
966	330	3998	329				L	280	257	275	812	268	256	265	189	978	3793		3880
966	342	381	375				L	321	288	252	861	243	255	254	249	1001	3964	9/	4040
766	330	365	400				1_	330	331	291	952	196	225	264	239	924	4067	105	4172
866	403	381	365		395	354		356	328	338	1022	241	861	226	254	919	4247	134	4381
666	359	466	395					352	356	328	1036	366	234	202	219	921	4386	126	4512
000	393	420	471				2518	389	361	367	1117	290	280	245	213	1028	4663	135	4798
100	385	475	444				L _	427	400	364	1611	324	296	283	236	1139	4946	131	5077
007	407	442	483						426	395	1244	343	330	287	274	1234	5168	150	5318
003	398	484	464						438	437	1311	356	343	324	289	1312	5407	157	5564
004	384	449	489			463	2753		444	441	1377	413	360	334	320	1427	5557	174	5731
2005	394	452	466	502	П	502	Ш	461	486	443	1390	425	402	345	344	1516	5688	188	2876
7000	202	137	071		,,,	727	7976	503	734	780	1450	-	177	203	347	1573	5010		
2002	417	465	400	469				473	\$00	470	1450	453	427	418	390	1674	5967		
2008	380	488	481				L	530	479	512	1521	435	455	404	414	1709	6035		
2000		445	\$0\$	L		767	┖	493	537	482	1511	475	437	445	400	1758	8609		
2010	8	947	460			504	┸	494	499	539	1533	446	477	428	442	1793	6173		
2011		636	193	L				504	501	502	1507	200	449	467	424	1840	6203		
2012	603	468	188	3				808	511	504	1523	465	503	439	463	1870	6251		
2013	900	1	18	8	513			808	515	514	1537	467	468	492	435	1862	6243		
2014	400	468	489	183		526	2870	486	515	518	1519	476	469	458	488	1881	6280		
\Box																			
Births	*	Ĵ		۵		survivals					٦					П			
960	397	2001	385			_	k-1	1-2	2-3	3 - 4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7 - 8	6-8	9-10	10 - 11	11 - 12	
6	4	2002	407						,			, 000						0,000	
866	460	2003	398			2000-01	1.209		0.996	1.055	1.050	0.986	1.028	1.008	-	1.021	1.011	0.963	
1999	854	2004	385			70-1007	1.148	10.1	566.0	1.041	1.009	010.1	988	1 026	0.942	1019	0.970	1.007	
	7007	CDD7	5 Vear Ave =	0.80		2003-03	1.167		1 000	1.050	0.998	9660	1018	1 007	0.901	1 011	0.767	0.088	
+	-					2004-05	1.177	1.038	1.027	1 004	966.0	966 0	0.988	0.998	0.964	0.973	0.958	1.030	
\vdash	P.	Projections		Ш															
100	446	2006	397	0.891		ave	1.170	1.034	1.002	1.040	1.013	1.001	1.014	1.005	0.927	1.005	0.979	0.991	
2007	468	2007	417																
003	426	2008	380																
004	457	2009	407																
	449																		
Assumed	-																		
	600	2010	100	0.891															
		2011	110	0.891															
800		2012	(1)	0.891															
2008	÷.	2013	(10)	0.891															
2009		2014	004	0.891											-				
					Ī				Ì	Ì	Ì	Ì	İ	Ì	Ī	Ì			

1993-2005 are actual enrollments
 Projections were calculated by taking a 5 year average of the birth to kindergarden survival for years 1996-2005 and multiplying the average survival factor by the births recorded in 2001-2004
 Assumed births for 2005-09 were calculated taking the average of the previous four years of recorded births
 Assumed births for 2005-09 were calculated taking the average of the previous four years of recorded births

SHREWSBURY PRE-K - 12 SCHOOL FACILITIES STUDY

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS 1997 - 2005

Town Manager's Report 25 Feb 97

1997 - 2001 Very Good Accuracy / 2001-2005 Committee Estimates could have variance.

		1.103	1.036	1.019	1.030	1.042		1.012	1.025	1.008		0.882	0.969	0.994	0.998				
	k	1	2	3	4	5	K - 5	-6	7	8	6 - 8	9	10	11	12	9 - 12	Total*	pre-	
						-												sch.	
1997	231	270	249	242	230	232	1454	269	227	250	746	231	212	281	264	988	3188		
1988	199	238	275	258	255	240	1465	242	273	229	744	225	229	207	264	925	3134		
1989	238	201	250	280	265	265	1499	240	243	265	748	216	211	238	205	870	3117	39	3156
1990	259	265	212	248	284	271	1539	274	242	244	760	222	215	226	230	893	3192	59	3251
1991	281	303	259	224	261	296	1624	269	271	256	796	197	227	222	211	857	3277	66	3343
1992	264	294	306	257	229	276	1626	310	282	276	868	217	197	228	220	862	3356	68	3424
1993	285	311	308	311	281	257	1753	289	316	300	905	267	199	195	239	900	3558	68	3626
1994	346	316	329	327	308	281	1907	247	286	321	854	263	268	194	202	927	3688	76	3764
1995	339	366	329	327	324	318	2003	280	257	275	812	268	256	265	189	978	3793	87	3880
1996	342	381	375	340	341	323	2102	321	288	252	861	243	255	254	249	1001	3964	76	4040
1997	368	377	395	382	350	355	2228	327	329	290	946	222	235	253	253	965	4138		
1998	390	406	391	402	394	365	(2347	360	335	332	(1026)	256	215	234	253	(958	4332		
1999	420	430	421	398	414	410	2493	369	369	338	1076	293	248	214	234	988	4557		
2000	459	463	446	429	410	432	2638	415	379	372	1165	298	283	247	214	1042	4845		
2001	409	506	480	454	441	427	2718	437	425	382	1244	328	289	282	246	1144	5106		
2002	409	451	525	489	468	460	2801	433	448	429	1309	337	318	287	281	1222	5333		
2003	409	451	467	534	504	487	2853	465	443	451	1360	378	326	316	286	1306	5519		
2004	409	451	467	476	551	525	2879	493	477	4 47	1417	398	366	324	315	1404	5700		
2005	409	451	467	476	491	574	2868	531	506	581	1518	394	386	364	323	1468	5853		
Births		k		b-k		surviv	als												
1987	265	1992	264	0.996			k-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	
1988	283	1993	285	1.007													,		
1989	309	1994	346	1.120		91-92	1.046	1.010	0.992	1.031	1.061	1.047	1.048	1.018	0.848	1.000	1.004	0.991	
1990	312	1995	339	1.087		92-93	1.178	1.048	1.016	1.093	1.122	1.047	1.019	1.064	0.967	0.917	0.990	1.050	
1991	299	1996	342	1.144		93-94	1.109	1.058	1.062	0.990	1.000	0.961	0.990	1.016	0.877	1.004	0.995	1.036	
		Five yr	. Avg.	1.071		94-95	1.058	1.041	0.994	0.991	1.032	0.996	1.040		0.835	0.973	0.989	0.974	
						95-96	1.124	1.025	1.033	1.043	0.997	<u>1.009</u>	1.029	0.981	0.884	0.951	0.992	0.940	
	Ť	ection																	
1992	344		368			aver.	1.103	1.036	1.019	1.030	1.042	1.012	1.025	1.008	0.882	0.969	0.994	0.998	
_		1998		1.071															
1994		1999		1.071		NI-4-			<u></u>		L		L		L	<u> </u>			
1995		2000	459	1.071		Notes:													
Assun	_				·	ł		actual										.1.6	
1996		2001		1.071				ere cald 6 and m		-			-			-		val for	
1997	382	2002		1.071		Joans	, 501-50	o and n	.a.upry11	ig tile a	Torage	.20101 1	y the D	a io 16	COIGEU	1992	33.		
1998	_	2003		1.071		į													
1999	_	2004	409			1		hs for 1	996-200	00 were	calcula	ated tak	ing the	average	e of the	previou	s four	years	
2000	382	2005	409	1.071		of reco	rded b	irths											

Exhibit 9.1

Focus

Changes in Reporting and Funding Postemployment Benefit Costs

by Samuel R. Tyler, President, Boston Municipal Research Bureau

Change is coming in how state and local governments will be required to account for and report their costs and obligations related to postemployment benefits such as health and life insurance for retired public employees and eligible spouses. The reporting and funding of retiree benefits is somewhat comparable to addressing the pension liability over 15 years ago and is similar to what is required of for-profit entities. These changes have potential cost implications that cities and towns should understand before fiscal year 2007 and that may require a move to a standardized statewide approach as done with pension obligations.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB). A companion Statement No. 43 deals with related plans. The purpose of these statements is to improve the relevance and usefulness of financial reporting by requiring states and municipalities to identify, through actuarial analysis, the true costs of the OPEB earned by employees over their estimated years of active service. Massachusetts cities and towns primarily budget for OPEB on a pay-as-you-go basis and thus information about the nature and size of long-term financial obligations related to OPEB are not reported. The statements require public employers to determine the actuarial accrued liabilities associated with OPEB in a similar fashion to pensions and to report the extent that these liabilities are funded and the amount of the unfunded liability in footnotes in their financial statements. The reporting format would be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Meeting the requirements of the GASB statements will:

- Identify the OPEB unfunded actuarial accrued liability for each city and town.
- Change financial statements to reflect prospective liability but may not affect general fund balance.
- Require new expenditures for actuarial analysis every two or three years.
- Potentially require a reassessment of the business model for funding OPEB and health care.
- Result in eventual budget increases for OPEB expenses that could be substantial.

GASB Standards

The GASB is the independent, nonprofit organization established in 1984 for the purpose of creating and improving financial accounting and reporting standards for state and local governments. As the standard-setting body, GASB standards are the source of GAAP and auditors note any departures from GAAP in their opinions. Governments are usually expected to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP to be comparable to other governments when they issue bonds or notes.

The concept behind GASB's new statements is that OPEB, as with pensions, is a promise made to employees as a condition of their employment that is part of compensation each year. Similar to pensions, the cost of these future benefits is a part of the cost of providing public services today. Even though these benefits are not received until after employment has ended, they constitute compensation to attract and retain

on Municipal Finance

qualified employees and the expenses should be associated with the years of active service.

OPEB generally takes the form of health insurance and life insurance but may also include dental, vision, prescription and other healthcare benefits provided to retirees and eligible surviving spouses or dependents of deceased employees. In Massachusetts, the state and municipalities that offer OPEB are obligated to provide retirees and eligible spouses with at least 50 percent of health and life insurance benefits and each community may choose to pay a larger percentage and provide other benefits as well. For example, Boston pays the same percent of premiums for life and health insurance for its retired employees as it does for its active employees, which in fiscal year 2003 cost \$52.3 million.

OPEB Funding Requirements

The annual OPEB cost is similar in calculation to pensions, and is equal to the current year's estimated present value of benefits earned during the year (normal costs) and a component for amortization of the total unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities over a period not to exceed 30 years. The actuarial calculations are required to take into account the benefits expected to be earned by employees in the future and those benefits the employees have already earned. OPEB requires similar additional actuarial valuations, performed in accordance with GASB parameters, every two years for cities and towns with 200 or more members (both active employees and retirees) or every three years for plans with fewer than 200. Recognizing the potential added cost of these valuations, the standards allow towns with fewer than 100 plan members to estimate OPEB obligations using simplified methods and assumptions.

continued on page four

The new GASB standards are required to be implemented by the Commonwealth and cities and towns in phases based on a government's total annual revenues beginning in fiscal year 2007. Governments with total annual revenues of \$100 million or more start in fiscal year 2007, those with revenues over \$10 million but less than \$100 million in fiscal year 2008 and those under \$10 million in fiscal year 2009.

While GASB is requiring state and local governments to include a footnote in their financial statements noting the annual OPEB costs and the actuarial accrued liabilities, the statements themselves do not require any change in the funding of OPEB. However, the reporting and periodic updating of the OPEB liability and comparisons with other public entities will create pressure to reduce the liability. While the rating agencies are aware of this liability, credit reports will note the liability, providing further incentive to establish a funding plan to eliminate the unfunded OPEB liability over time.

State and Local Response

Currently, some towns, such as Wellesley, have secured special legislation authorizing them to create a special account from which to pre-fund OPEB expenses and amortized liabilities. The Wellesley legislation (Ch. 88, Acts of 2004) authorizes the town's retirement board to manage the fund and broadens its authority to invest funds beyond those investment vehicles now approved by the state. Legislation could be enacted that affords the same authority to all cities and towns. However, that approach would produce uneven results as the more affluent communities would begin to establish such funds based on actuarial assessments while other communities would approve only token funds or defer altogether and maintain the pay-as-you-go practice.

The Commonwealth's response to the GASB requirements could start with authorization of a study commission to evaluate and report, prior to fiscal year 2007, the estimate of the liability for the Commonwealth and cities and towns. Such a commission could make recommendations regarding what form of structure or business model is needed to manage this obligation and how the OPEB costs should be funded.

The potential cost implications of the GASB changes raise questions of the sustainability of supporting these costs in the mix of double-digit annual health insurance increases and pension increases that in percentage terms exceed the annual rate of revenue growth. This situation calls for a rethinking of the current business model for the management and funding of OPEB and health care in general. To help facilitate economies of scale and comparability, the long-term response to this obligation should move to a standardized statewide approach, as is the case with pension obligations. Absent any changes, state and local leaders may need to consider difficult changes in the public share of health care premiums for retired and active employees in the future.

At present, cities and towns should begin to understand the financial ramification of the GASB standards by requesting that their pension actuaries or others perform an actuarial analysis to determine the accrued liabilities associated with OPEB and the estimate of the normal cost and amortized unfunded liability for a period of 30 years. Knowledge of this potential cost will help guide budget and other financial decisions before the standards are phasedin, starting in two years.

The OIG recommends that the vendor conform to the rules and regulations of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Specific selections of the act are outlined in the guide that the OIG feels are especially important when procuring audit services. The Audit Committee Institute published Basic Principles for Audit Committees in 2002 that offers a foundation for audit committees to establish "best practices." One important principle is the implementation of a monitoring system. A partial listing of these principles is provided in the guide as well as the benefits the OIG believes your jurisdiction can gain from the implementation of a system to monitor audit services.

Reporting relationships between audit staff and local officials must be clearly defined to assist in the management of an audit service contract. In most cases, the vendor should report to the governing body of your jurisdiction to avoid conflicts of interest, appearance issues, or any allegations of impropriety.

Organizations like the Government Accountability Office, the National Association of Local Government Auditors, the Mid-America Intergovernmental Forum and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants have resources for your jurisdiction to use when developing standards, procedures, guidelines, Requests for Proposals, etc. A listing of these organizations and other helpful resources is provided at the end of the guide for assistance when procuring and administering audit services.

For a copy of this guide and other OIG publications, please visit our website at www.mass.gov/ig. The Office also has an attorney dedicated to answering Chapter 30B related questions. Questions can be submitted by telephone by calling 617-722-8838. ■

1. M.G.L. Ch. 30B Sec. 1(b)(15).