



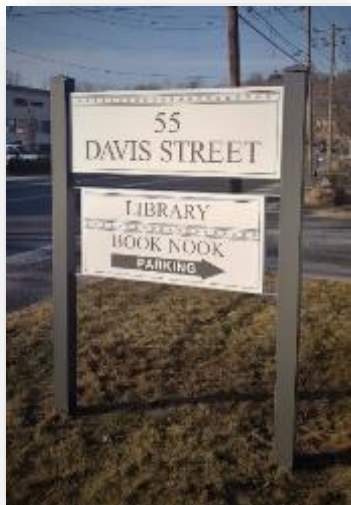
WATERTOWN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: FROM MAIN STREET TO DAVIS STREET

Presentation to Town Council
March 6, 2023

BOOKS BUILD MINDS, PEOPLE BUILD LIBRARIES

In recent years, we have devoted about 2,000 new and repurposed meeting and event space for the people of Watertown and Oakville

From Main Street to Davis Street



The Woodward Atrium is our \$700,000 expansion that will enhance our ability to meet community needs for gatherings, meetings and exhibitions.

In Oakville, our \$60,000 investment to transform the ground floor of the Oakville Branch Library has given a vibrant home for **The Book Nook**, our town's only bookstore, run by The Friends of the Watertown Library.

PERFORMANCE

Borrowers, library hours, events and programs on the rise

- ▶ We served 11,069 registered borrowers in 2022, an increase from 2021 after a previous dip due to the COVID-19 restrictions.
- ▶ We increased our service hours at the Main Library and Oakville Branch, conforming both hours and staff resources to serve peak demand—including Saturdays during the school year.
- ▶ We increased our programming and events at the Main Library, drawing new participants and boosted foot traffic through our doors.
- ▶ 46% of Oakville and Watertown residents have a library card.

[State average: 37%]

[45% is considered excellent]

PERFORMANCE

A VERY careful steward of public resources

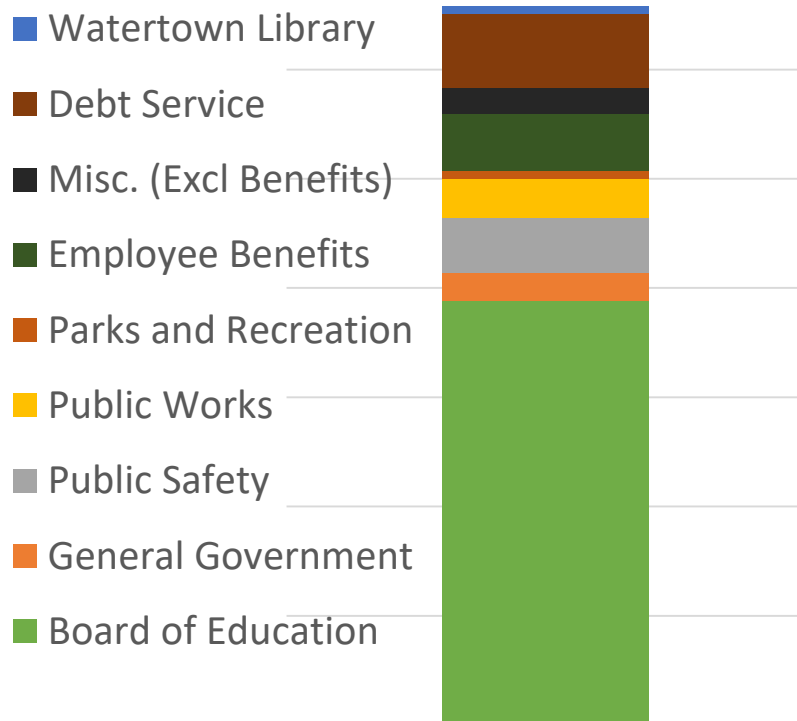
On a per-capita basis, support for the Library is very much in line with area communities

Library Appropriations Per Capita		% of Town Revenue
Woodbury	\$67.99	1.94
Thomaston	\$57.21	1.43
Statewide Average	\$50.63	1.16
Middlebury	\$47.76	1.06
Bethlehem	\$39.64	1.14
Southbury	\$37.71	1.06
Watertown	\$35.55	0.93
Terryville	\$35.43	0.96

PARTNERSHIP

A **VERY** careful steward of public resources

FY 2022-2023
TOWN OF WATERTOWN BUDGET



The Town:

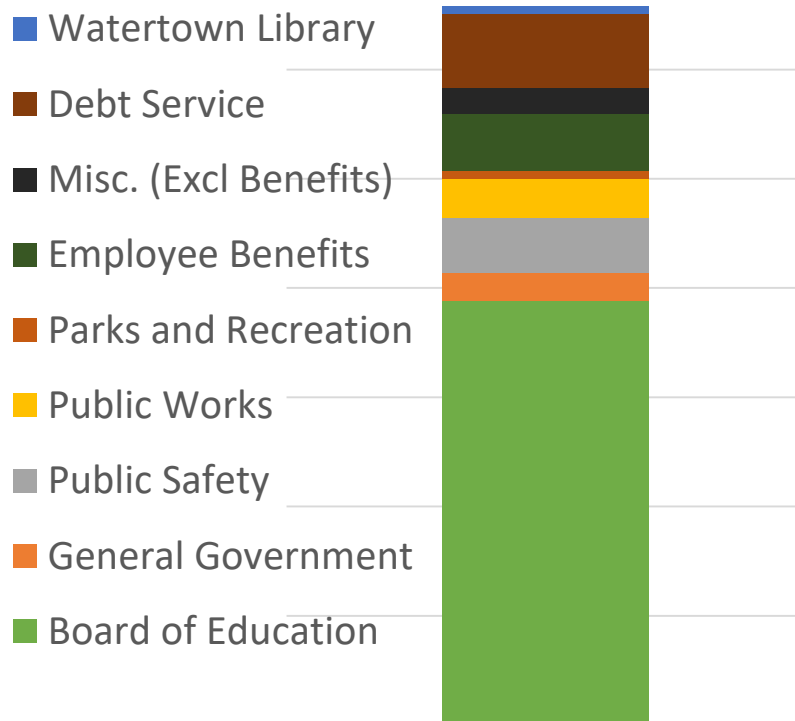
Annual appropriation funds ongoing services and operations:

- Books, newspapers, magazines, and DVDs
- Access to online information, e-books, audiobooks, and video streaming
- Staff wages and benefits

PARTNERSHIP

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FY 2022-2023
TOWN OF WATERTOWN BUDGET



The Library:

Responsible for ALL capital projects, aided by local foundations and The Friends of the Watertown Library

- Last 10 years: Over \$1 million
 - The Woodward Atrium and the new Book Nook in Oakville
 - Water drainage improvements
 - Updated Wi-Fi service
 - New HVAC and energy efficient lighting at the Main Library
 - Entrance, stairs, restrooms and circulation desk at Main Library
- In 2022
 - \$33,000 from the state “Everybody Learns COVID Grant” to improve air quality at the Main and Branch Libraries
 - \$28,000 for the technology system in the Woodward Atrium to allow for in-person and remote participation
 - \$13,000 to update our firewall and management system
 - \$7,000 to replace our 25+ year-old telephone equipment

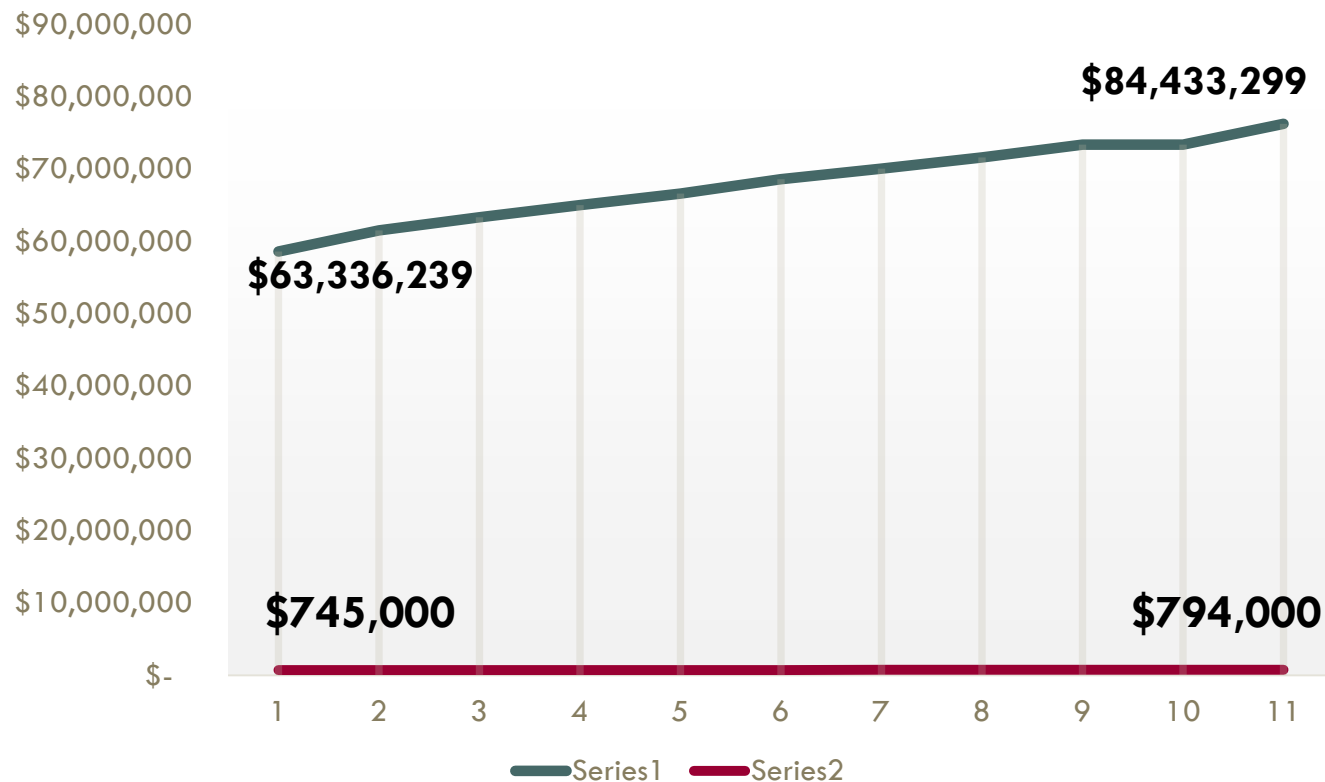
BY THE NUMBERS

A VERY careful steward of public resources

We have been frugal with the Town appropriation—which has only grown 6.5% over the past 10 years.

Our FY '24 request is \$31,000 over last year, representing an 11-year average of approximately one percent per year.

2013-2022: Town v. Library Budgets



FY 2013-2022		AVG
Town Budget Growth	33%	3.3%
Library Budget Growth	6.5%	0.65%

FY 2024 Request		AVG
\$825,000	4.5%	1%

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

“It’s time to renew our library.”

We begin 2023 with renewed energy as an anchor to the renewal taking place on Main Street and a reliable mainstay on Davis Street.

Thank you for your support—and the resources—to help us fulfill our role as a community center for all generations.



THANK YOU.