

State of the Town

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introduction
Philip Trapani, Selectman

Progress Report: How Are We Doing As A Town?
Matt Vincent, Selectman

9:15 a.m. Financial Overview
Sandy Gerraughty, Finance Committee
Harry LaCortiglia, Community Preservation

9:35 a.m. Updated Educational Priorities
Carol Jacobs - Superintendent

9:50 a.m. Updated Land Use Priorities
Harry LaCortiglia, Planning Board
Jim DiMento, Parks & Recreation Committee
Steven Przyjemski, Conservation Commission

10:25 a.m. Questions & Comments
Beverly Enos – Moderating

11:55 a.m. Wrap-Up
Philip Trapani - Selectman

WELCOME!!!!

A photograph of a two-story yellow building with a white roof and two large brown chimneys. The building has many windows and a central entrance. In front of the building is a green lawn and a parking lot with several cars. To the right, there are trees and an American flag on a pole. A sign in the foreground lists the town officers.

State of the Town

Selectmen Report

Matt Vincent, Chairperson

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Chairman: Matt Vincent
Selectmen: [illegible]
Treasurer: [illegible]
Clerk: [illegible]
Assessors: [illegible]
Health Officer: [illegible]
Fire Marshal: [illegible]
Police Chief: [illegible]
School Committee: [illegible]
Library Board: [illegible]
Planning Board: [illegible]
Zoning Board: [illegible]
Board of Health: [illegible]
Board of Education: [illegible]
Board of Selectmen: [illegible]

Board of Selectmen

- The executive arm of the town government.
- Three members who are elected for three-year terms.
- Appoint the Town Administrator, Fire and Police Chiefs, Building Inspection Services, and members to several town boards and committees.
- Issue the warrants for Town Meetings and make recommendations on the warrant articles.
- Hold public hearings on important town issues.
- Oversee traffic issues and traffic rules and regulations.
- Serve as the licensing board responsible for issuing and renewing licenses in more than 20 categories, including common victualler, food vendor, liquor, lodging house, open-air parking lot, inflammables, special events and entertainment.

FY2008 July 1, 2007- June 30, 2008

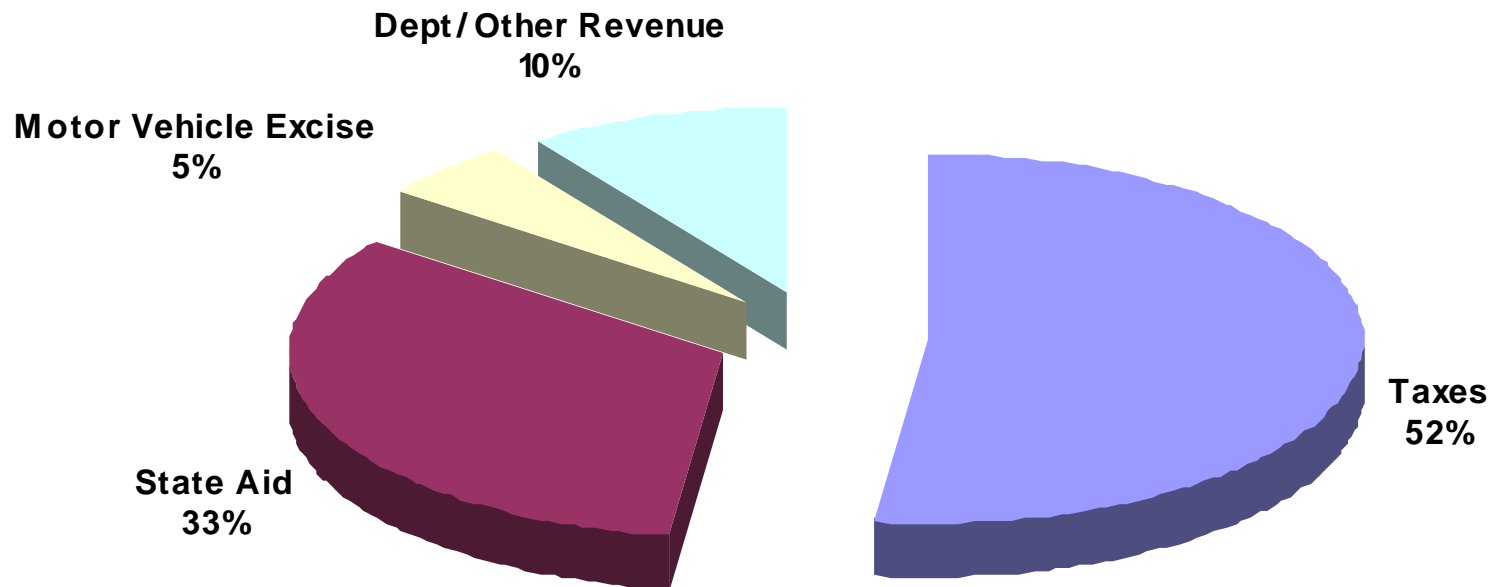
- Reorganization of Fire Department command structure.
- Analysis of Fire Department staffing needs.
- Rework Budget process timeline and data with FinCom.
 - Move up budget process by 6 weeks (Jan 15th, rather than Mar 1st)
 - Work with department heads to create draft budgets accounting for various revenue scenarios; establish budget priorities
 - Create state-of-the-town meeting
 - Close communication with state legislators
- Establish initial Standard Operating Procedures for BOS and TA office.
- Work with Board of Assessors to increase tax abatement and work-off programs for seniors.
- Restructure certain parts of the town's debt.
 - Create tax savings for residents, improve bond situation, and generate additional income (more than \$200,000) for town for FY2009.
- Reestablish Annual Report, generate reports for 2002-2007.
- Oversee CAI/Georgetown Group Land License.
- Auction properties town has received in tax title.

Goals for FY2009

- Continue to improve communication amongst boards, committees and town departments.
 - Improve knowledge management!
- Improve communications with town
 - Media Advisory Committee: expand web presence, provide additional content from meetings
- Develop long term plan for capital improvements and budget forecasting.
- Finalize standard operating procedures for BoS and Town Administrator.
- Focus efforts on economic development opportunities and grant writing.
- Find more ways “to make community happen”

FY2008

Source of Revenue



FY2008 State Aid

A. EDUCATION:

Distributions and Reimbursements:

1. Chapter 70	4,294,072
2. School Transportation <i>Chs. 71, 71A, 71B and 74</i>	0
3. Retired Teachers' Pensions <i>Ch. 32, s. 20 (2) (c)</i>	0
4. Charter Tuition Reimbursements <i>Ch. 71, s. 89</i>	5,885

Offset Items – Reserve for Direct Expenditure:

5. School Lunch <i>1970, Ch. 871</i>	9,087
6. School Choice Receiving Tuition <i>Ch. 76, s. 12B, 1993, Ch. 71</i>	314,368

Sub-Total, All Education Items	4,623,412
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B. GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

Distributions and Reimbursements:

1. Lottery, Beano & Charity Games	838,575
2. Additional Assistance	52,998
3. Local Share of Racing Taxes <i>1981, Ch. 558</i>	0
4. Regional Public Libraries <i>Ch. 78, s. 19C</i>	0
5. Police Career Incentive <i>Ch. 41, s. 108L</i>	51,254
6. Urban Renewal Projects <i>Ch. 121, ss. 53-57</i>	0
7. Veterans' Benefits <i>Ch. 115, s. 6</i>	16,222
8. Exemptions: Vets, Blind & Surviving Spouse <i>Ch. 58, s. 8A; Ch. 59 s. 5</i>	12,000
9. Exemptions: Elderly <i>Ch. 59, s. 5, Cl. 41, 41B, 41C</i>	6,024
10. State Owned Land <i>Ch. 58, ss. 13-17</i>	201,479

Offset Item - Reserve for Direct Expenditure:

11. Public Libraries <i>Ch. 78, s. 19A</i>	9,272
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Sub-Total, All General Government	1,187,824
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C. TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS, FISCAL 2008

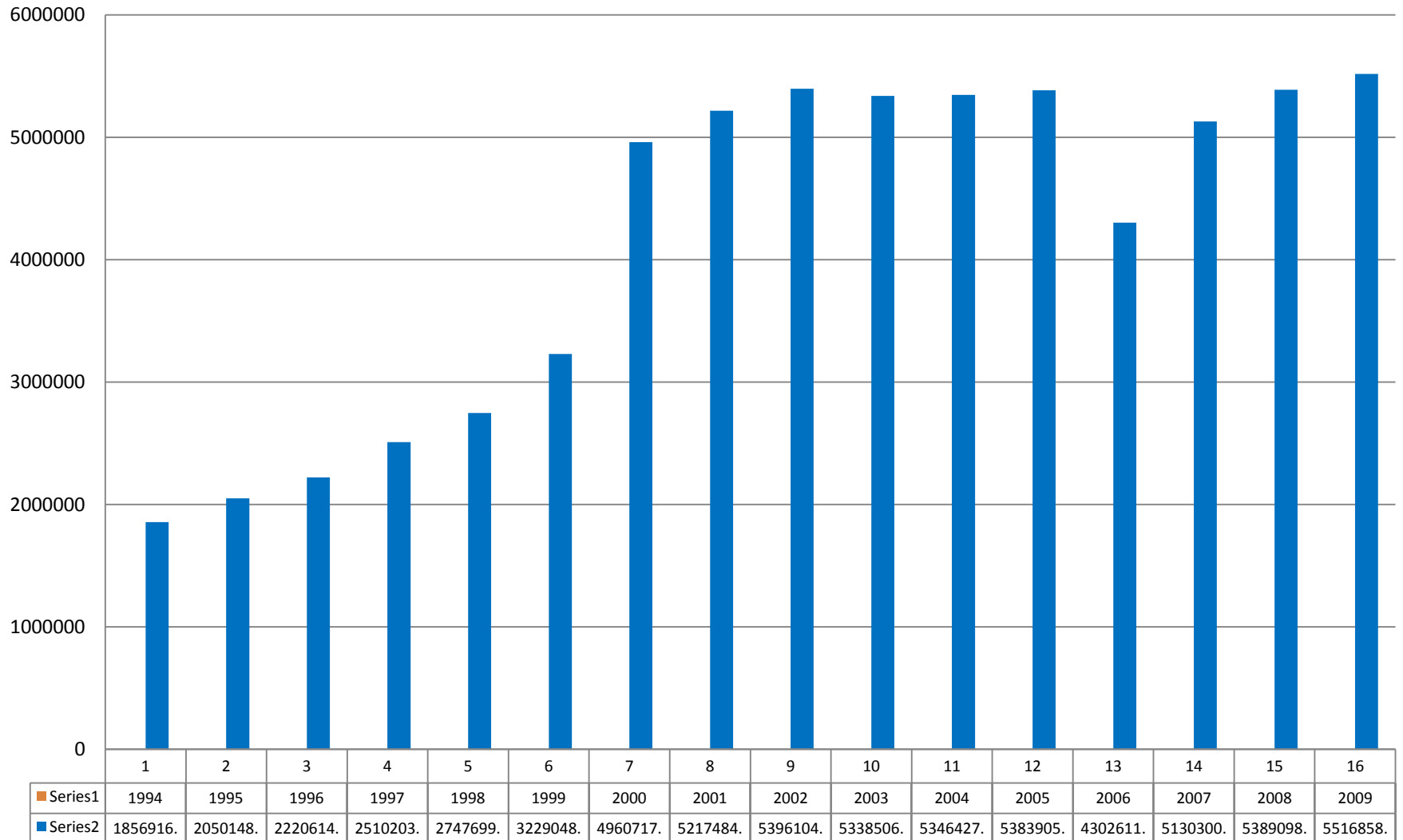
5,811,236

Assessments: 422,138

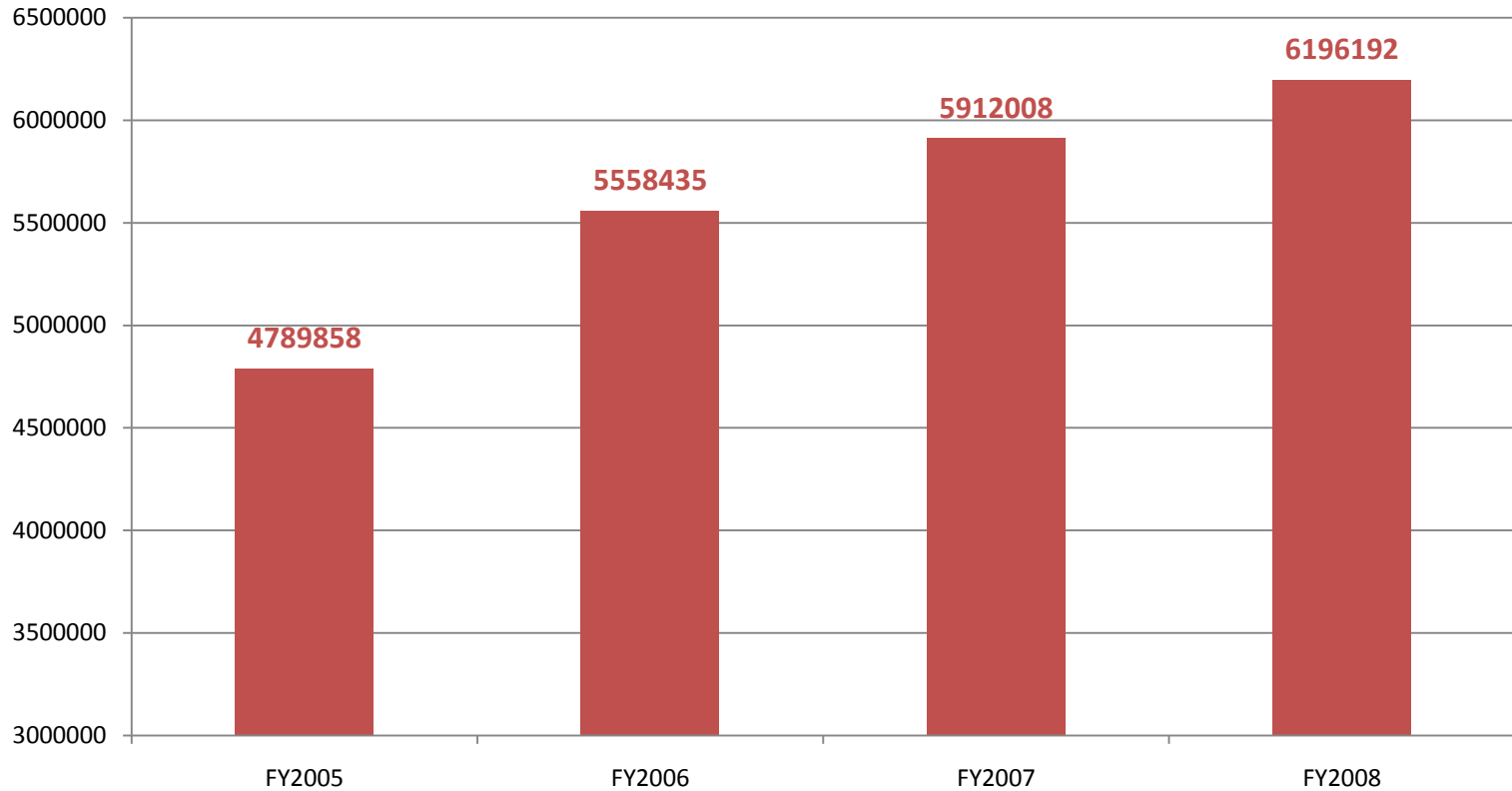
Net: 5,389,098

NET STATE AID (LESS ASSESSMENTS)

State Aid



Fixed Costs

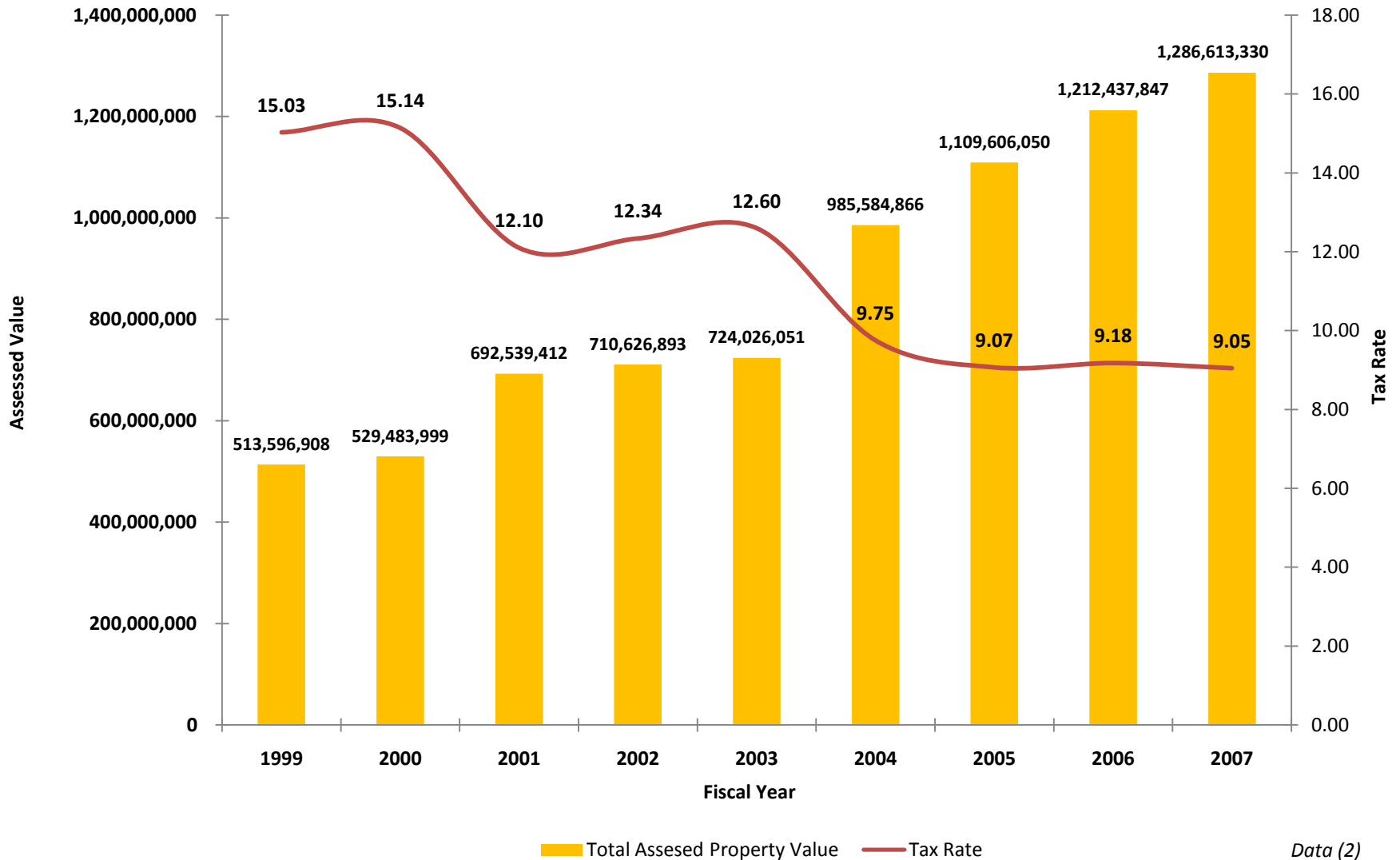


- Property Tax Receipts for FY2009 are expected to increase by \$295,498
- Fixed costs between FY2008 and FY2009 are expected to increase by \$284,184

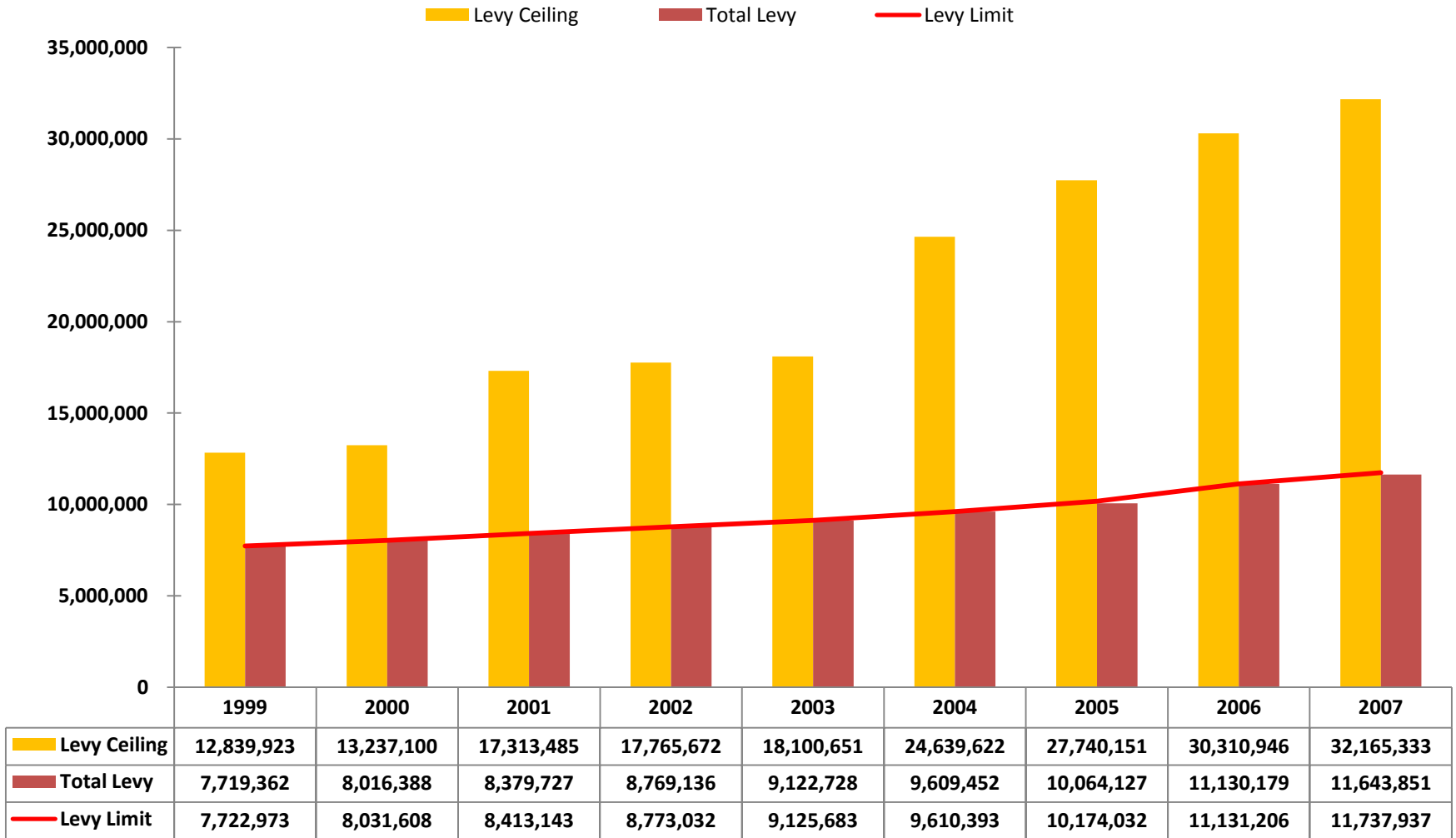
How do Property Taxes Work?

- A Common Misunderstanding:
 - The assessed value on my house has doubled in the last 5 years, so my taxes must be twice as much. >>> **Wrong!**
- Under Proposition 2-1/2
 - Levy Ceiling: a community cannot raise (levy) taxes exceeding 2.5 percent of the total full and fair cash value of all taxable property in the community.
 - Levy limit: limits the rate of increase from one year to the next. The levy limit restricts levy *increases* to 2.5 percent above the previous year's levy limit, plus increases to account for new growth which comes from the addition of new homes to the town as well as the value of improvements made to existing homes.
- The average property tax bill has increased by about 2.5 percent a year for each year since 1980

Property Tax Base and Rate

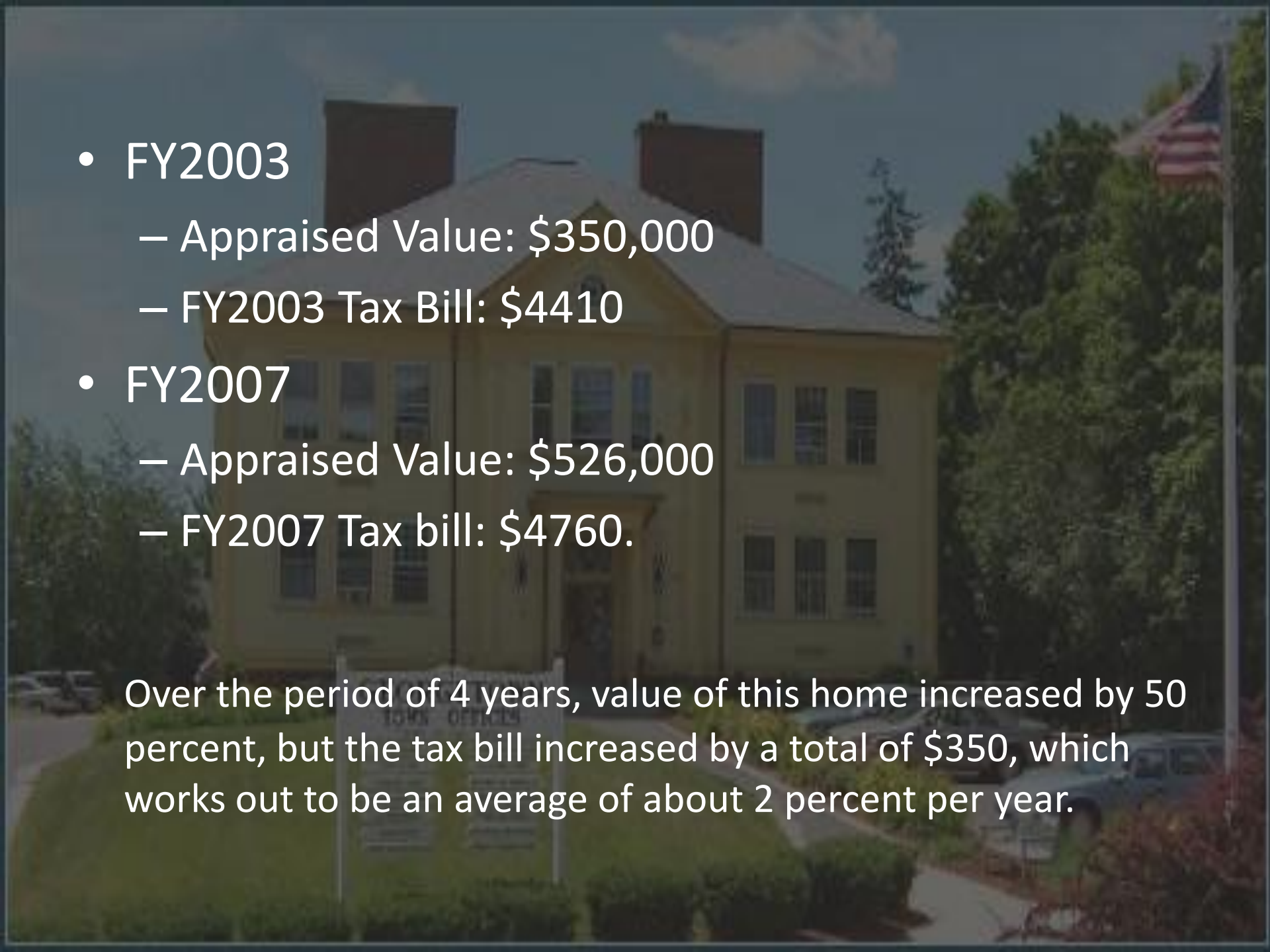


Levy Ceiling, Levy Limit, Levy



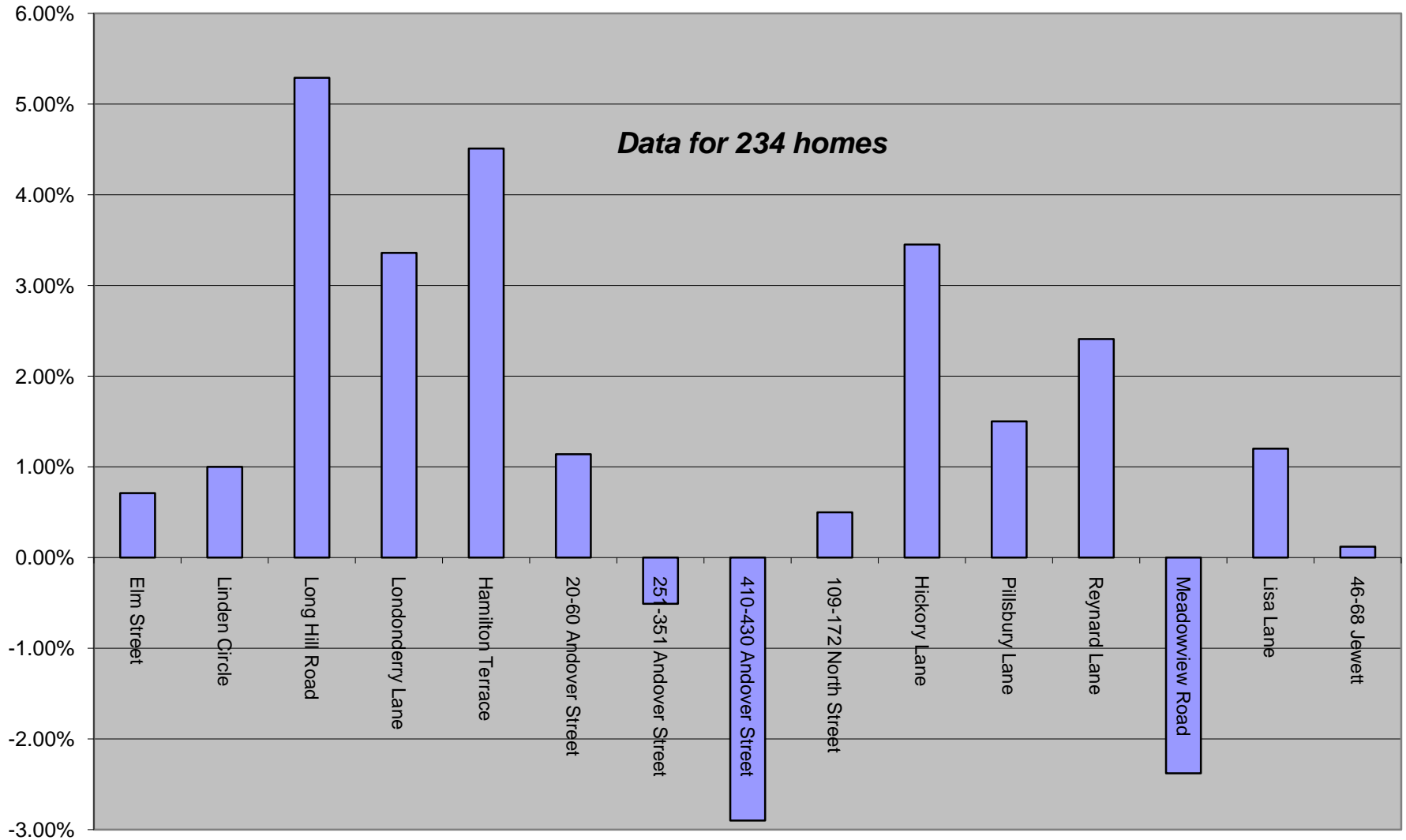
Fiscal Year

Data (2)

- 
- FY2003
 - Appraised Value: \$350,000
 - FY2003 Tax Bill: \$4410
 - FY2007
 - Appraised Value: \$526,000
 - FY2007 Tax bill: \$4760.

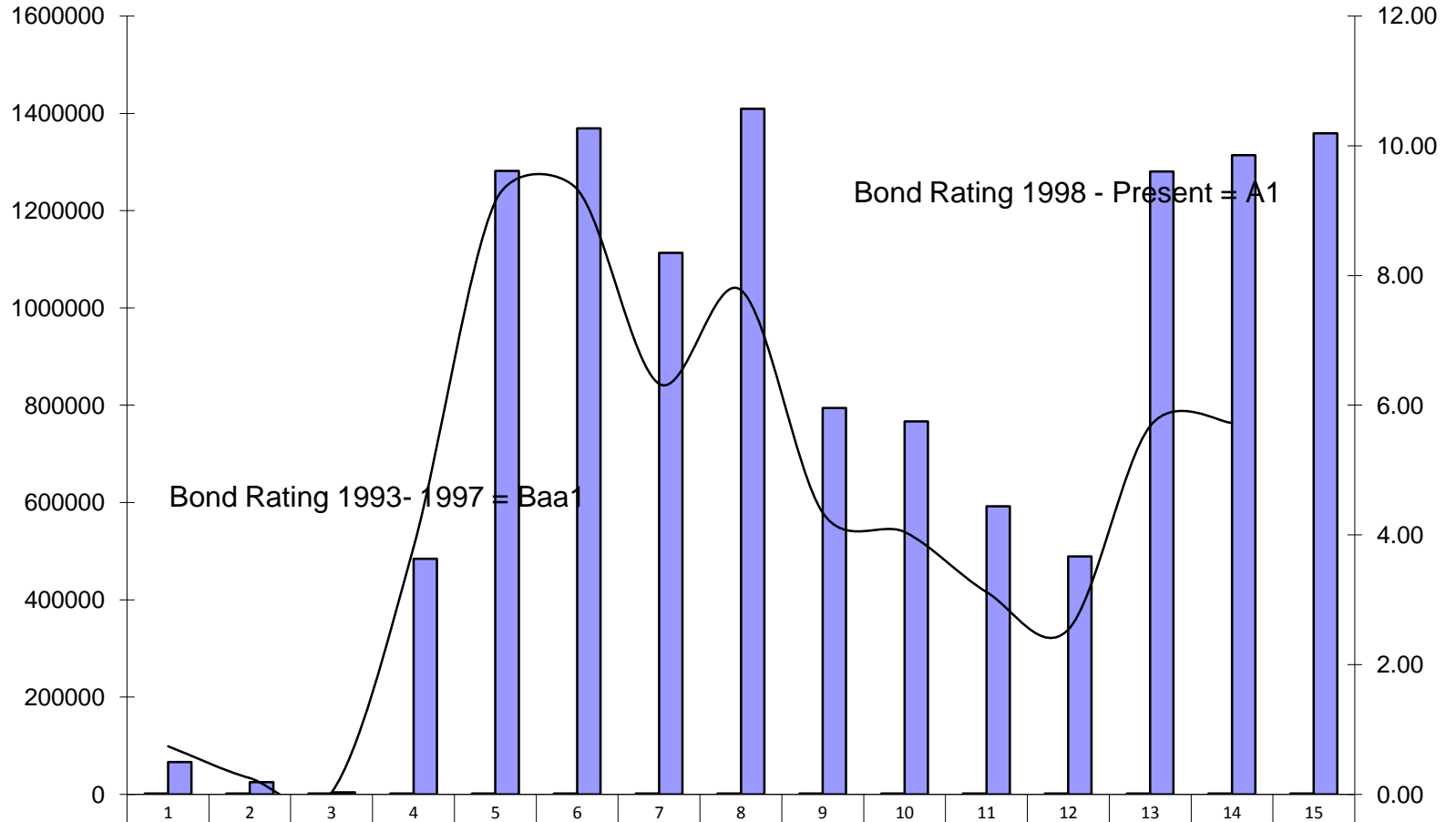
Over the period of 4 years, value of this home increased by 50 percent, but the tax bill increased by a total of \$350, which works out to be an average of about 2 percent per year.

Percent Difference: FY06 vs FY07 tax bill

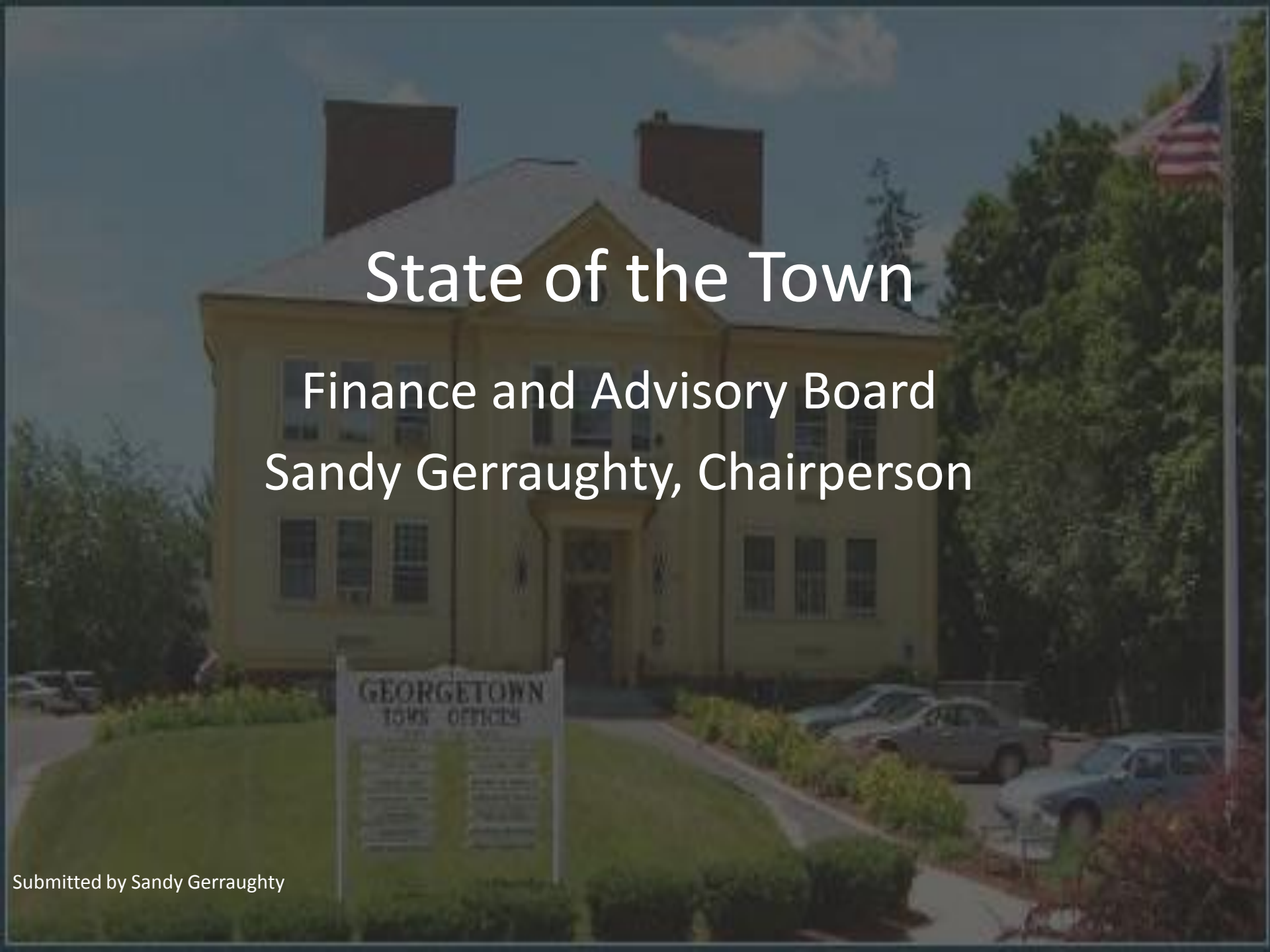


Stabilization Fund

Stabilization Fund Balance



Fiscal Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Stabilization Fund Balance	66,726	25,304	3,931	484,138	1,281,62	1,368,73	1,113,26	1,409,09	793,979	766,481	592,331	489,299	1,280,17	1,313,89	1,358,84
As % of Budget	0.74	0.25	0.03	3.81	9.14	9.33	6.33	7.77	4.34	4.05	3.12	2.54	5.68	5.73	

A photograph of a two-story, light-colored building with a gabled roof and two prominent chimneys. The building is surrounded by greenery and trees. An American flag is visible on a tall pole to the right. In the foreground, there is a sign for the Georgetown Town Offices. Several cars are parked in a lot to the right of the building.

State of the Town

Finance and Advisory Board

Sandy Gerraughty, Chairperson

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

1000 Main Street
Georgetown, MA 01858
Phone: (978) 865-1234
Fax: (978) 865-1235
Email: info@georgetownma.gov
Website: www.georgetownma.gov

The Role of the Finance and Advisory Board

- The Finance and Advisory Board essentially has two statutory functions.
 - Overseeing the preparation of submission of the municipal budget
 - Administering the reserve fund.
- Positions are appointed by Town Moderator for 3 year term

Process

- Fiscal Year – July through June
- Budget Process
 - Meet with Dept Heads and Boards
 - Review Warrant Articles
 - Present a balanced budget at ATM
 - Provide detailed financial analysis

Today's Situation

- Overall expense increase surpasses revenue increase
- Fixed costs rise over 2 ½ percent tax
- Increase in volunteer workload due to decrease in Town Hall staff
- Acting Finance Director position result of decrease in staff – no more financial analysis

How Did We Get Here?

- 2002 realized significant shift
- Expenses increased 31.32% from 2002
- Revenues increased 28.51% from 2002
- Reduction in staff and town hall hours
- Future revenue will not cover anticipated expenses

Available Options

- Increase Taxes
- Further reduce town services
- Eliminate departments/programs
- Promote commercial growth
- Create new sources of revenue

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICE

Recommendations

- Formation of a Revenue Committee
- Long Term Budget Forecasting
- Long Term Capital Planning

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

A photograph of a two-story, light-colored building with a gabled roof and two large chimneys. The building is surrounded by greenery and trees. An American flag is visible on the right side. In the foreground, there is a sign that reads "GEORGETOWN TOWN OFFICES".

State of the Town

Georgetown Public Schools
Carol Jacobs, Superintendent

Vision Statement

The Georgetown Public Schools will provide a high quality education to all students so that they will graduate prepared to succeed in their lives beyond high school

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Mission/Belief Statements

- Dedicated to ALL students reaching highest potential
- Develop responsible , tolerant and successful individuals
- Promote academic excellence, creativity, innovation and achievement of personal excellence
- Provide welcoming, inclusive and safe schools
- Create lifelong learners who contribute to the shaping of society
- Foster pride in self, school, community, country and world.

Goals and Objectives

- Long Term Goals

- Execute a strategic plan
- Increase student performance
- Meet state mandates
- Provide comprehensive programs that support and challenge ALL students
- Provide safe, secure and student-centered schools
- Expand partnerships

Goals and Objectives

- Short Term Goals
 - Write multi-year strategic plan
 - Complete alignment of curriculum/ Provide training
 - Develop focused action plans for student performance
 - NEASC- Write status report
 - Reduce reliance on fees
 - Develop a zero-based budget
 - Address some preventative maintenance/capital projects

Today's Situation

- Internal Strengths

- Strong administration and faculty
- Great student body
- Community partnerships
- Common vision- School Committee, admin & staff
- Strong indicators of excellence in many areas
- Strong support from parents and the community

Today's Situation

Challenges

- Lack of coordination/ alignment and services
- NEASC- Warning Status
- MCAS performance
- Need to remain competitive
- Credibility in the community

How Did We Get Here?

- Focus on individual schools not district
- Strategic vision and plan not well defined and widely distributed
- Lack of funding for community resources for learning according to NEASC
- Fiscal challenges within the community
- Perception of the schools/ closed system
- Lack of funding and focus on preventative maintenance of building and grounds

Available Options

- Key Strategies

- Write and distribute the strategic plan
- Develop and use a budget process that is credible, transparent , includes input from the community and identifies needs
- Improve communication between the town and schools

Recommendations

- Write, distribute and report on the strategic plan
 - Specific actions in 8 focus areas
 - State and local benchmarks
 - Strengthen infrastructure

Timeline- Write plan- June 2008

Report- At least annually

Recommendations

- Develop a budget process that is transparent and includes input from the community
 - Represents needs for quality education
 - Zero-based
 - Target funds to highest need/ programs
 - Create efficiencies
 - Focus groups/ televised sessions
 - Access on website

Timeline- Begin in FY 08 and on-going

Recommendation

- Improve communication between schools and the town
 - Open door policy
 - Coordinate with departments and boards
 - Effective use of media
 - Personal outreach and contact
 - Public reporting
 - Superintendent's coffees/ newsletters

Timeline- Begin in FY 09 and on-going

Closing Comment

To the Citizens of Georgetown
Thank you for your support of public
education. With your help, we will continue
to graduate successful students who will be
the pride of their community.

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Harry LaCortiglia, Board Member



Vision Statement

The Year is 2023...

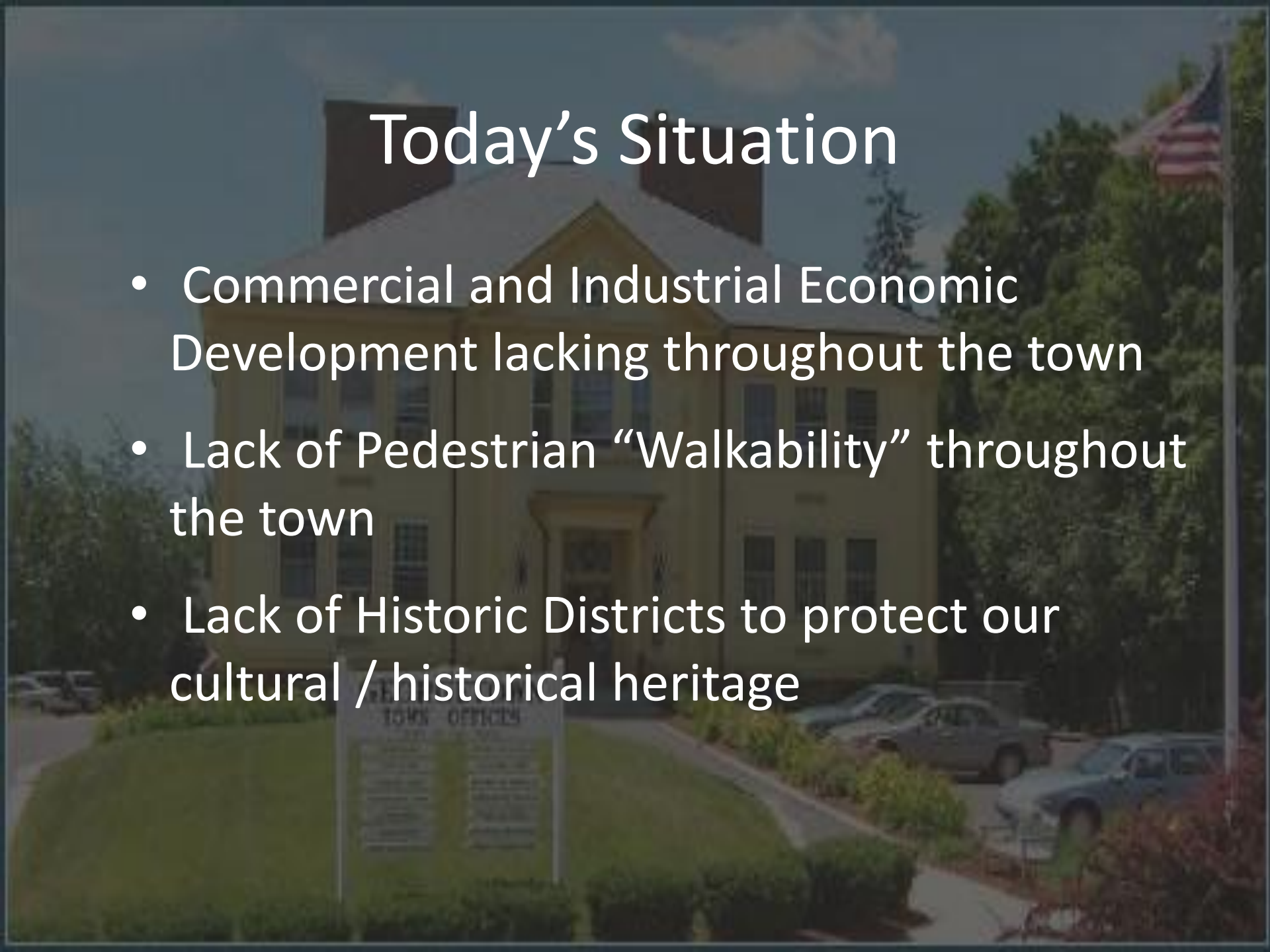
Georgetown remains a predominantly residential and family-oriented community with a semi-rural, small town identity.

Goals and Objectives

- Protect Natural and Cultural Heritage
- Provide Variety of Housing that complements Town Character
- Support Economic Development
- Promote Ease of Movement around Town
- Maintain Civic Strength: strong schools, community, & leadership

Today's Situation

- Commercial and Industrial Economic Development lacking throughout the town
- Lack of Pedestrian “Walkability” throughout the town
- Lack of Historic Districts to protect our cultural / historical heritage

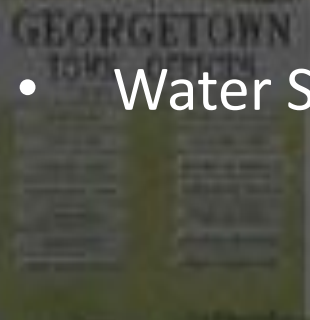


Today's Situation

Address Future Needs:

Facilities ...

- Schools
- Active Recreational Lands
- Water Supply



How Did We Get Here?

- Lack of a “Vision” consensus
- Lack of long term Planning
- Psychological State of Denial regarding Buildout

Available Options

- Do Nothing --- then complain about how the town has gone downhill...
- or -
- Consider implementing the following recommendations

Recommendations

- Create ED Committee
- Create a Downtown Overlay District
- Create Historic Districts

Recommendations

- School Facilities Committee Report
- Park and Rec / CPC Purchase proposal
- Recreational Path
- "Safe - Yield" Analysis for our Water Supply
- Full Time Planner

A photograph of a two-story yellow building with a white roof and two large chimneys. The building has a central entrance with a small portico. In front of the building is a green lawn and a sign that reads "GEORGETOWN TOWN OFFICES". To the right of the building, there are trees and a flagpole with an American flag. Several cars are parked in a lot to the right of the building.

State of the Town

Park and Recreation Commission

Jim Dimento, Chairman

Vision Statement

- To provide active recreational locations that will allow the safe pursuit of active recreational activities for all town residents.
- To provide clean and safe passive recreational areas where people can enjoy outdoor activities of their choosing.
- To promote the use and enjoyment of the outdoors through activities and events.

Goals and Objectives

- To meet the active and passive recreational goals of community
- To understand the present and future needs of the community and to reserve or develop the necessary areas to allow maximum recreational use
- To maintain the present recreational areas in a fashion the maximizes the use to the community
- Identify voids in recreational areas and facilities the hinder the enjoyment of the parks by gender, age, or disability, and to progress the rectification of the situation.

Today's Situation

Georgetown needs an additional 40 acres of active recreational areas

- West Street fields are over used
- American Legion Park needs improvements to street access, parking area, water management, and beach,
- More maintenance is needed for playground and grass
- Addition is needed on building if summer program is to ever happen.
- Need to increase the access and use of the town owned waterfront for swimming and boating
- Need to upgrade and better maintain present facilities.
- Lack of land for future park on the south side of 95.

How Did We Get Here?

- Lets not go there!!!



Recommendations

- Use CPC money to invest in land for recreational areas and parks
- Require more park locations from developers looking for variances
- Make moderate continued investment to existing facilities to enhance the value to the community.



SWIMMING IN MICHIGAN, USA









State of the Town

Conservation Commission

Steve Przyjemski, Agent

Vision Statement

- Apply the Local and State regulations to protect and enhance the quality of life for the citizen's of Georgetown and its natural resources.

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Goals and Objectives

- To work towards creating more high quality Open Space for future generations
- To work with home owners, developers, and other town groups to minimize 'cumulative damage' to the resource
- To continue to uphold the Wetland Protection Bylaws and Regulations for the benefit of the town.

Function/ Benefits of the Wetlands

- Water Quality and Water Supply
- Storm Water and Flood Damage Prevention
- Wildlife Habitat and Fisheries

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TOWN OFFICES

Financial Value of Wetlands and Resources

- Helping to provide the community with pure drinking water
- Eliminate property damage through flooding
—wetlands function and storm water control
- Provide 'passive recreation' facilities



Open Space

- Camp Denison
- Hampshire Woods
- Littles Hill
- Bailey Lane
- Lufkin's Brook
- Spruce Pond
- Pentucket Acres
- Parker River Landing
- Pentucket Pond



How Did We Get Here?

State Wetland Regulation

- Wetland Protection Act adopted 1972
- River Protection Act adopted in 1996

Local Wetland regulations

- Bylaw adopted on May 5th 1986
- Regulations adopted on June 23rd 2003

Going forward

- The Commission will continue to uphold the State and Local Regulations to protect and enhance the quality of life for the citizen's of Georgetown and its natural resources for present and future generations.
- Aid homeowners in understanding the workings of the State WPA and the Local By-Laws

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Community Preservation Committee

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

1991-1992

1993-1994

1995-1996

1997-1998

1999-2000

2001-2002

2003-2004

2005-2006

2007-2008

2009-2010

2011-2012

2013-2014

2015-2016

2017-2018

2019-2020

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Vision Statement

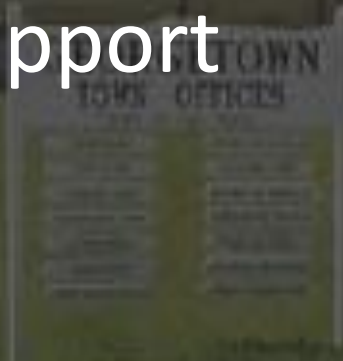
- To provide the Town with the resources necessary to achieve the goals of the Town's Vision Statement

*(While still preserving the aspects of the Town that make it such a desirable place to live)

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Goals and Objectives

- *Open Space* Preservation
- *Historical* Preservation
- *Community Housing* Support
- *Active Recreational* Creation & Support



Committee is comprised of:

- Conservation Commission
- Historical Commission
- Park & Rec Commission
- Planning Board
- Housing Authority
- Open Space Committee
- AHTF

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICE

How Did We Get Here?

- Adopted by ballot vote in 2001
- \$1,286,978 already received from the State so far...
- State Match *may* decrease next year

Available Options

- Every year the town voters approve (or disapprove) the projects brought to Annual Town Meeting
- CPC only “Recommends” ---
The Annual Town Meeting VOTERS
make the final decisions!

Recommendation

- Thoughtful, careful, and prudent actions regarding saving vs. spending of the funds.
- Come to the CPC Public Info Meeting on:
April 22, 2008
- Attend Annual Town Meeting

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES

Recommendation

- For further information surf to:

April 22, 2008

www.georgetowncpc.com



A photograph of the Georgetown Town Offices, a two-story yellow building with a white roof and two large chimneys. The building has a central entrance with a small portico. In front of the building is a green lawn and a parking lot with several cars. A sign in the foreground reads "GEORGETOWN TOWN OFFICES". An American flag is visible on the right side of the image.

Questions & Answers

Beverly Enos, Town Moderator

GEORGETOWN
TOWN OFFICES