

Town of Glastonbury

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ITEM #7 07-24-2018 Meeting

Richard J. Johnson Town Manager

July 20, 2018

The Glastonbury Town Council 2155 Main Street Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up to date on various topics.

1. Bond Refunding

As briefly reported at the July 10, 2018 meeting, Moody's and Standard & Poors have reaffirmed the Town's Aaa and AAA credit ratings. I have attached the reports issued by both agencies. As you will read, management and financial practices are rated highly. At the February 27, 2018 meeting, Council authorized a bond refunding of up to \$6 million subject to market conditions. Per the bond sale on July 12, 2018 a refunding of \$4.095 million was issued achieving \$250,000 + in savings over years 2019-2026. This includes savings in debt service of \$80,000± over years 2019, 2020, and 2021. A very successful result.

2. Household Hazardous Waste Event

The next Household Hazardous Waste collection day is scheduled for Saturday, August 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Regional Collection Facility located on Olcott Road in Manchester.

3. Summer Show: Bye, Bye Birdie

The annual summer show hosted by Youth and Family Services is scheduled for the evenings of August 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at Glastonbury High School. This year's performance is Bye, Bye Birdie.

4. Social Media Summary

Council Member Beckett asked a question concerning Glastonbury's various social media platforms. This is something that Communications Coordinator, Kathryn Paquette, continues to develop. A list of current platforms is attached.

5. Poet Laureate

In her July 9th letter, Sandy Sergio expresses her thanks and gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Glastonbury's first Poet Laureate and forwards her report of activities for the 2017-2018 year.

6. Welles Village Summer Program Open House

The annual Welles Village Activity Council for Youth Open House is scheduled for 5:20-7:00 pm. on Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at the Housing Authority Offices at 25 Risley Road.

7. Chick-fil-A Grand Opening

The Grand Opening for the new Chick-fil-A is scheduled for Thursday, July 26th. As part of the grand opening, the first 100 visitors will receive a free chicken sandwich per week for the next year. I understand this will attract many who will cam put the night before. Arrangements are in place accordingly.

8. State of Connecticut HEARTsafe Community Designation

I am pleased to advise the State Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association has again recognized Glastonbury as a HEARTsafe Community. This designation is for the three years starting July 10, 2018. Congratulations to all for this important designation.

9. Town Attorney - Assessment Appeals

Some years ago legal services for tax foreclosures were transitioned from the town attorney so to streamline the process. This was done with the understanding of Shipman & Goodwin that a more cost effective solution was available. A Request for Qualifications was conducted when making this transition. I would like to add Assessment Appeals to this approach again to achieve cost efficiencies. As with the foreclosure process, the process is generally straight forward and largely guided by Town staff.

10. POCD Next Steps

The TP&Z is completing its review of the ten-year update to the Plan of Conservation and Development. I expect the document to be forwarded for Council review in September.

11. Annual Senior Picnic

The Annual Senior Citizens Picnic is scheduled on Wednesday, August 1st from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the RCC.

12. CIRMA - Members Equity Distribution

The Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) has approved a member equity distribution. Glastonbury has received \$104,215 which will be deposited to the Insurance Reserve Fund for LAP and Workers' Compensation. Good news for all CIRMA member towns.

13. Governor Ella T. Grasso

The attached page describes a 100th birth anniversary commemorative event planned for former Governor Ella T. Grasso.

14. Bulky Waste - Closure Fund

When the Bulky Waste Facilities reaches capacity, certain closure actions will be required by Connecticut DEEP. While the facility is expected to have decades of useful life remaining, the thought is to establish a closure fund.

Periodically, when required by operations, the town competitively bids for the removal of fill. This is differentiated from ongoing operations. The proposal is to allocate a share of the sale of fill revenue to the closure fund. This does not influence operating revenues but allows revenues generated from the facility to help fund future closeout requirements unless advised otherwise, a specific proposal will be developed for action.

15. Council Rules of Procedure

When adopting the Rules of Procedure for 2017-2019, the discussion was to revisit the Citizen Award of Merit outside of the Rules. I have been asked recently how Council can best recognize members of the community and others. A referral to the Policy and Ordinance Review Committee is suggested accordingly.

Sincerely

Richard J. Johnson Town Manager

RJJ/sal Attachments

MOODY'S

CREDIT OPINION

9 July 2018



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Glastonbury (Town of) CT

Update to credit analysis

Summary

Glastonbury, Connecticut (Aaa stable) benefits from a sizeable tax base with very strong resident wealth and income levels. The town's financial position is stable and is supported by formalized fund balance policies. The town's debt burden is low, and the town proactively manages its debt, pension, and OPEB liabilities.

The town's liquidity is very strong relative to maturing short-term notes and Glastonbury has a history of accessing capital market.

Credit strengths

- » History of stable operating performance
- » Satisfactory reserves supported by formalized policies
- » Strong wealth and income levels
- » Large and growing tax base
- » History of accessing capital markets

Credit challenges

» Narrow financial reserves relative to rating category peers

Rating outlook

The stable outlook incorporates our expectation that Glastonbury will maintain its strong credit quality given the town's conservative financial management, high resident wealth and income levels, and proactive management of its long-term liabilities.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

» Not applicable

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

- » Erosion of financial position
- » Tax base contraction
- » Material increase in debt burden or escalation of fixed costs

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE

Key indicators

Exhibit 1

Glastonbury (Town of) CT	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Economy/Tax Base					
Total Full Value (\$000)	\$5,742,992	\$5,441,509	\$5,749,529	\$5,895,699	\$5,953,139
Population	34,551	34,661	34,685	34,677	34,678
Full Value Per Capita	\$166,218	\$156,992	\$165,764	\$170,018	\$171,669
Median Family Income (% of US Median)	193.2%	192.8%	196.4%	194.8%	194.8%
Finances				-	
Operating Revenue (\$000)	\$159,399	\$161,344	\$160,256	\$165,626	\$176,297
Fund Balance (\$000)	\$24,206	\$26,693	\$25,483	\$26,845	\$26,437
Cash Balance (\$000)	\$28,929	\$31,550	\$30,192	\$31,353	\$31,384
Fund Balance as a % of Pevenues	15.2%	16.5%	15.9%	16.2%	15.0%
Cash Balance as a % of Revenues	18.1%	19.6%	18.8%	18.9%	17.8%
Debt/Pensions					
Net Direct Debt (\$000)	\$87,284	\$88,842	\$80,918	\$74,328	\$66,965
3-Year Average of Moody's ANPL (\$000)	\$83,837	\$95,856	\$109,568	\$117,254	\$130,593
Net Direct Debt / Full Value (%)	1.5%	1.6%	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%
Net Direct Debt / Operating Revenues (x)	0.5x	0.6x	0.5x	0.4x	0.4x
Moody's - adjusted Net Pension Liability (3-yr average) to Full Value (%)	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.2%
Moody's - adjusted Net Pension Liability (3-yr average) to Revenues (x)	0.5x	0.6x	0.7x	0.7x	0.7x

As of August 1, 2018 the town will have \$61.7M in direct debt for 1% of full value Source: Moody's Investors Service, audited financial statements

Profile

The Town of Glastonbury is located 10 miles southeast of the state capital of Hartford (B2 stable). The town's population was 34,677 as of 2016.

Detailed credit considerations

Economy and Tax Base: Sizeable tax base; strong resident wealth and income levels

Glastonbury's taxable valuations are expected to grow modestly in future years supported by its relatively stable housing values and several new development projects. The town's \$6 billion equalized net grand list (ENGL) is consistent with the statewide rating category median, but modestly below the nationwide median. The town's grand list has expanded at an average annual rate of 1.9% over the past five years, most recently growing 5.2% year-over-year in assessment year 2019.

Notable ongoing development in the town includes a 250 unit apartment development called the Tannery, which is expected to generate approximately \$980 thousand in annual tax revenues upon completion. Another smaller but still significant development, Glastonbury 1, is projected to create an additional 145 apartment units and generate \$400 thousand in annual property taxes for the town.

The tax base is diverse, with top ten taxpayers representing a low 5.1% of the net grand list (NGL). Glastonbury is comprised primarily of residential (77% of NGL) and commercial/industrial (14% of NGL) properties. The town's housing values have remained stable post-recession, with American Community Survey estimating median home values having ranged from \$343 thousand to \$349 thousand since 2010. The town's wealth and income indicators are very strong, evidenced by a median family income equal to 195% of the nation and a high full value per capita of \$171,669.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on www.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE

Financial Operations and Reserves: Stable reserves; balanced operations in fiscal 2018 despite challenging state funding environment

Available General Fund reserves have remained very stable over the past five years, with available fund balance as a percentage of revenues remaining within a narrow band of 15% to 17% since 2013. Audited fiscal 2017 available reserves were \$26.4 million, or a satisfactory 15% of revenues. While these levels are in line with state medians, they are below the national medians. These relatively low fund balance levels are mitigated by the town's stable operating performance that benefits from a substantial portion of its revenues coming from resilient and predictable property taxes.

Management reports that fiscal 2018 operating performance is positive, and the town anticipates incurring an approximate \$400 thousand to \$500 thousand surplus and growth to fund balance. Estimates for fiscal year-end available General Fund reserves is \$27 million, or approximately 16.8% of General Fund revenues. Positively, despite the State of Connecticut's fiscal uncertainties and its imposition of certain cuts to municipal aid, Glastonbury remained largely unaffected in fiscal 2018. The town's total statutory formula aid was reduced \$622 thousand, representing less than 1% of total General Fund revenues.

The fiscal 2019 adopted budget is balanced at \$161 million, or 2.35% larger than fiscal 2018's budget. The town's mill rate was increased by 1.24% and the budget reflects a \$1.8 million reduction in state aid, which management believes is very conservative.

Property taxes are the town's largest revenue source at 80.6% of total revenues. State aid, including aid for education and onbehalf payments by the state for the teachers' pension plan, comprised 16% of 2017 revenues, below the Connecticut medians for intergovernmental aid.

LIQUIDITY

General Fund cash has been stable for the past four years and was \$31.4 million, or 17.8% of revenues, as of fiscal 2017 year-end. Management estimates that the net cash position may increase slightly in fiscal 2018, consistent with the town's positive operating performance.

The town has \$1.3 million in short-term notes outstanding and available liquidity is expected to provide ample 24 times coverage.

Debt and Pensions: Manageable debt burden; proactive pension and OPEB management

The town's debt burden is an average 1% of ENGL, consistent with the state rating category median of 1% but above the national median of 0.6%.

Included in the town's debt burden is \$1.3 million of short-term bond anticipation notes, which we anticipate will be effectively taken out at maturity due Glastonbury's demonstrated track record of market access and healthy liquidity position.

The town maintains a five-year Capital Improvement Program that will result in an additional \$6.6 million in borrowing through fiscal 2021, which will be coordinated to coincide with maturation of existing debt. Additionally, management is committed to maintaining annual debt service to approximately 5% of annual expenditures.

DEBT STRUCTURE

All debt is fixed rate and amortization of principal is below average, with 87.5% repaid within ten years. Debt service costs in fiscal 2017 comprised a manageable 5% of General Fund expenditures.

DEBT-RELATED DERIVATIVES

The town is not party to any interest rate swaps or other derivative agreements.

PENSIONS AND OPEB

Glastonbury maintains its own locally administered defined benefit pension plan for all town employees, with the exception of teachers and certain school administrators who are covered under the state plan. The town fully funds its required contribution for its plan, which was a combined \$6.3 million in fiscal 2017, or a manageable 3.6% of General Fund expenditures. The three-year average adjusted net pension liability (ANPL), under Moody's methodology for adjusting reported pension data, is \$130 million, or 0.7 times General Fund revenues. Positively, the town has taken proactive measures to gradually manage the down the plan's discount rate, reducing the plan's assumed rate of return from 7.5% in 2013 to 6.9% in 2017. The town has articulated a goal of ultimately reducing the plan's discount rate to 6.25%.

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE

Most teachers participate in the state administered plan, for which the town is not legally responsible for any contributions. In fiscal 2017, the state made a \$18.6 million contribution on behalf of the district. When including the town's share of the TRS ANPL to the adjusted liabilities of the town managed plans, the ANPL increases to \$567 million, representing a high 9.5% of full value.

Glastonbury contributed \$925 thousand for OPEB in fiscal 2017, which represents 70% of the annual OPEB actuarially determined contribution. The town maintains an OPEB trust fund and long-term liability is 17.6% funded.

Total fixed costs for fiscal 2017, including debt service, required pension contributions and retiree healthcare payments, represented a moderate 9.2% of expenditures.

Management and Governance: Conservative budgeting and formal fund balance policy

Management budgets conservatively, practices long-term capital planning and is guided by a minimum reserve policy of no less than 12% of General Fund expenditures. Management's proactive efforts to build its OPEB trust and its gradual reduction of its assumed rate of investment return for its locally managed defined benefit plan are positive for the town's credit profile.

Connecticut Cities have an Institutional Framework score of Aa, which is high. Institutional Framework scores measure a sector's legal ability to increase revenues and decrease expenditures. Connecticut cities' major revenue source, property taxes, is not subject to any caps. Unpredictable revenue fluctuations tend to be minor, or under 5% annually. Across the sector, fixed and mandated costs are generally greater than 25% of expenditures. Connecticut has public sector unions and additional constraints, which limit the ability to cut expenditures. Unpredictable expenditure fluctuations tend to be minor, under 5% annually.

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Summary:

Glastonbury, Connecticut; General Obligation; Note

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US\$4.095 mil GO rfdg bnds ser 2018B o	lue 08/01/2025	
Long Term Rating	AAA/Stable	New
US\$2.735 mil GO bnds ser 2018A due 0	7/15/2038	
Long Term Rating	AAA/Stable	New
US\$1.305 mil GO BANs dtd 07/26/201	8 due 07/25/2019	
Short Term Rating	SP-1+	New
Glastonbury GO bnds		
Long Term Rating	AAA/Stable	Affirmed

Rationale

S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AAA' long-term rating to Glastonbury, Conn.'s series 2018A and series 2018B general obligation (GO) bonds. At the same time, we affirmed our 'AAA' long-term rating on the town's existing GO debt. The outlook is stable.

S&P Global Ratings also assigned its 'SP-1+' short-term rating to the town's series 2018 GO bond anticipation notes, which will mature on July 25, 2019.

Glastonbury's full-faith-and-credit pledge, payable from the levy of an unlimited-ad valorem tax on all taxable property in the town secures the series 2018 bonds and notes. We understand that officials intend to use proceeds from the series 2018A to permanently finance various general-purpose projects, including the acquisition of land. We understand the town will use proceeds from the series 2018B bonds to refund the town's series 2009A and series 2009B bonds, which were originally issued to fund various school and general-purpose projects.

The short-term rating on the notes reflects our criteria for evaluating and rating BANs. In our view, Glastonbury maintains a very strong capacity to pay principal and interest when the notes come due. We view the town's market risk profile as low because it has strong legal authority to issue long-term debt to take out the notes and is a frequent debt issuer that regularly provides ongoing disclosure to market participants. We understand officials intend to use proceeds from the series 2018 note issuance to provide temporary financing for various general-purpose projects, including the acquisition of land.

Glastonbury's GO debt is eligible to be rated above the sovereign because we believe the town can maintain better credit characteristics than the U.S. in a stress scenario. Under our criteria "Ratings Above The Sovereign: Corporate And Government Ratings--Methodology And Assumptions" (published Nov. 19, 2013, on RatingsDirect), Glastonbury has a predominantly locally derived revenue source, with approximately 80.9% of general fund revenue coming from

property taxes. The town also has independent taxing authority and independent treasury management from the federal government.

The rating reflects our opinion of the following factors for Glastonbury, specifically its:

- Very strong economy, with access to a broad and diverse metropolitan statistical area (MSA);
- · Very strong management, with "strong" financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology;
- · Strong budgetary performance, with balanced operating results in the general fund and an operating surplus at the total governmental fund level in fiscal 2017;
- · Very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2017 of 17% of operating expenditures;
- · Very strong liquidity, with total government available cash at 31.5% of total governmental fund expenditures and 5.0x governmental debt service, and access to external liquidity we consider strong;
- Very strong debt and contingent liability position, with debt service carrying charges at 6.3% of expenditures and net direct debt that is 32.7% of total governmental fund revenue, as well as low overall net debt at less than 3% of market value and rapid amortization, with 84.0% of debt scheduled to be retired in 10 years; and
- · Strong institutional framework score.

Very strong economy

We consider Glastonbury's economy very strong. The town, with an estimated population of 34,737, encompasses 53 square miles in Hartford County in the Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford MSA, which we consider broad and diverse. The town has a projected per capita effective buying income of 184% of the national level and per capita market value of \$171,867. Overall, the town's equalized net grand list grew by 5.3% over the past year to \$6 billion in 2019.

Glastonbury is an affluent and predominantly residential suburb located approximately eight miles southeast from Hartford. State routes 2 and 3 cross the town, connecting residents with employment opportunities throughout the broad and diverse Hartford region. With an estimated local unemployment rate of just 3.3% in 2017, we believe Glastonbury's unemployment characteristics compare favorably relative to the county's (4.8%), the state's (4.7%), and the nation's (4.4%) averages.

In addition to the town's participation in the broader regional economy, government, health care, financial and insurance services, and commercial retail sectors anchor Glastonbury's local economic base. Its leading employers include the town and school district (1,029 employees), Healthtrax Inc., Fisery, United Financial Bancorp Inc., and Home Depot. Glastonbury's tax base remains very diverse, with the 10 leading taxpayers accounting for approximately 5.1% of the net taxable grand list.

Over the past five years, the town has realized steady, albeit modest growth in its grand list, which officials attribute to a healthy mix of commercial and residential development. During this period, the net taxable grand list increased 9.5%; the town reported 5.3% growth over the past year following a property revaluation effective Oct. 1, 2017. The town conservatively plans for growth in the grand list to average about 0.8% over the next several years. Management

reports commercial and medical office development near the town center, coupled with two multi-family residential complexes under construction (with approximately 400 units) should support modest increases in the tax base. In our view, these projections are reasonable and remain in alignment with historical trends.

Due to the overall strength and diversity of the town's local tax base and its embeddedness in the broader regional economy, we expect Glastonbury's economy to remain very strong over the two-year outlook period.

Very strong management

We view the town's management as very strong, with "strong" financial policies and practices under our Financial Management Assessment methodology, indicating financial practices are strong, well embedded, and likely sustainable.

Demonstrating the town's key budgeting practices is management's use of up to 10 years of historical data to forecast annual revenue and expenditure assumptions, and to identify any outlying line items. In preparation of its annual budget, management reviews each department's annual operation requests and prioritizes operating expenditures. Due to uncertainty of state aid over the past several years, finance officials conservatively estimate revenue from this source, and management monitors grand list growth closely to estimate changes in local tax revenue and mill rate.

During each fiscal year, the town monitors the budget regularly, reporting budget-to-actual results monthly. Furthermore, Glastonbury adheres to its formal investment policy and reports earnings and holdings monthly to the board of finance. The town also developed a comprehensive seven-year financial forecast (current year and six subsequent years) in its budget development process, which features a sensitivity analysis of key revenue and expenditure assumptions and tests budget performance under various conditions which allows the town to manage decisions and changes related to future operations, retirement benefits, capital projects, and debt service.

Management highlights include its strong focus on capital planning, evidenced by Glastonbury's five-year comprehensive capital improvement plan (CIP) that identifies projects and costs across all departments. The town updates its CIP annually and details pay-as-you-go funding, intergovernmental grants and reimbursements, and debt financing of all capital projects. Furthermore, management has historically met and sustained reserves in accordance with its fund balance policy. The formal policy calls for unassigned fund balance to be maintained at a minimum of 12% of the town's combined town, education, debt, and transfer budget. Management notes this minimum reserve target assists with managing cash flows in the event of a revenue shortfall and unexpected changes in expenditures.

The town also maintains a formal debt management policy, which stipulates the use of certain debt instruments and reporting requirements. The policy also formalizes measurable debt benchmarks and metrics, including annual debt service that will be no more than 10% of general fund expenditures and direct debt shall not exceed 2.5% of the town's equalized grand list. The town has historically met and sustained practices in accordance with this policy.

Strong budgetary performance

Glastonbury's budgetary performance is strong in our opinion. The town had near-balanced operating results in the general fund with a slight operating draw of 0.3% of expenditures following a one-time transfer for a land purchase, and surplus results across all governmental funds of 5.8% in fiscal 2017. General fund operating results of the town have been stable over the last three years, with a result of 0.9% in 2016 and a result of negative 0.8% in 2015.

We expect Glastonbury to maintain strong budgetary performance over the next several years, largely due to its strong budgeting development and monitoring framework, coupled with its overall manageable expenditure and fixed-cost profile. In addition, we believe the town has demonstrated its ability to operate in a less predictable state aid environment.

Connecticut's budget impasse last year, which extended four months into the 2018-2019 biennium, demonstrated significant state-level gridlock over revenue shortfalls and rising fixed costs that had a direct and harmful effect on municipal finances entering fiscal 2018. While the prospect for additional statutory aid cuts affects all local governments in the state, we believe Glastonbury maintains a predictable revenue profile that is largely independent of state or federal funds. The town benefits from a historically stable and very strong property tax base, which generates approximately 80.9% of general fund revenue. Intergovernmental (state) sources represent the second-highest share of general fund revenue at 16.1% (includes on-behalf payments made by the state to the Teachers' Retirement System), while charges for services constitute about 1.1%. Tax collections have remained very strong with collections exceeding 99% during the past five years.

Glastonbury finished fiscal 2017 with a deficit totaling \$406,520, which management primarily attributes to a one-time transfer (\$2.7 million) to the land acquisition fund for the purchase of a 700-acre parcel for open space preservation. However, management largely offset this transfer with cost savings from unexpended departmental appropriations and realized other savings from wages and benefits from staffing vacancies. At the same time, the town reported better-than-estimated revenue from licenses, permits, and conveyance taxes, totaling about \$1.5 million over budget.

The town's adopted fiscal 2018 operating budget totals \$160 million, or a 2.89% increase, and includes an annual \$575,000 appropriation of available reserves for contingencies. In addition, the town increased the mill rate by 3.57% to 37.7 mills, but reduced the motor vehicle mill rate to 32 mills from 34.6 mills. Officials entered the fiscal year expecting a roughly \$1.21 million (or 13.8%) decline in state revenue. To stem the uncertainty of state aid revenue during the four-month state budget impasse and the potential for mid-year state revenue reductions, finance officials reduced non-essential departmental appropriations and placed tight controls on spending. Based on these measures to make expenditure adjustments and enhance revenue, the town projects an approximately \$1.36 million operating surplus, again reflecting strong budgetary performance.

For fiscal 2019, the town adopted a \$162.3 million operating budget, with an annual \$575,000 appropriation of fund balance. In May 2018, the state legislature revised the 2018-2019 biennial budget—due in part to better-than-expected income tax receipts—to restore some funding and shield municipalities from additional state aid reductions in fiscal 2019. Although the restoration of grants have offered some budget certainty, Glastonbury conservatively plans for further reductions in state aid and tight control of operating costs. While the town anticipates new grand list growth will likely support better-than-budget tax receipts and expenditure reduction measures will support better-than-budgeted operations, management noted that it could implement further adjustments should the state cut funding during the year.

Therefore, based on management's demonstrated capacity to manage fiscal uncertainty by adjusting operating expenditures or raising revenue from its very strong local revenue base, we expect Glastonbury to maintain at least stable budgetary performance over the next two years.

Very strong budgetary flexibility

Glastonbury's budgetary flexibility is very strong, in our view, with an available fund balance in fiscal 2017 of 17% of operating expenditures, or \$26.4 million. Over the past three years, the total available fund balance has remained at a consistent level overall, totaling 17% of expenditures in 2016 and 17% in 2015.

Due to strong and stable budgetary performance over the past three fiscal years, Glastonbury has built its reserve position slightly to approximately \$26.4 million from \$25.4 million in fiscal 2015. In addition, Glastonbury's formal reserve policy stipulates that it maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance of 12% of general fund expenditures and net transfers, a target it has historically met and sustained.

Based on officials' expectation that the town will sustain positive operating performance in fiscal 2018 and, at least, balanced operations for fiscal 2019, we do not expect its very strong overall flexibility position to deteriorate over the next two years.

Very strong liquidity

In our opinion, Glastonbury's liquidity is very strong, with total government available cash at 31.5% of total governmental fund expenditures and 5.0x governmental debt service in 2017. In our view, the town has strong access to external liquidity if necessary.

The majority of Glastonbury's cash is invested in money market funds and certificates of deposits, and therefore we have included all the town's investments with maturities of less than one year in our calculation of liquidity. Furthermore, Glastonbury is a regular market participant that has issued debt frequently over the past 20 years, including GO bonds and BANs.

Finance officials also confirmed that the town does not currently have any contingent liquidity risks from financial instruments with payment provisions that change on the occurrence of certain events. In addition, it does not currently have any variable-rate or direct-purchase debt. For these reasons, and given the strong and stable budgetary environment, we believe the town's liquidity profile should remain very strong.

Very strong debt and contingent liability profile

In our view, Glastonbury's debt and contingent liability profile is very strong. Total governmental fund debt service is 6.3% of total governmental fund expenditures, and net direct debt is 32.7% of total governmental fund revenue. Overall net debt is low at 1.0% of market value, and approximately 84.0% of the direct debt is scheduled to be repaid within 10 years, which are in our view positive credit factors.

Following the current bond issue, Glastonbury will have approximately \$61.7 million of total direct debt outstanding, of which \$1.3 million is in BANs. Furthermore, the town has neither overlapping nor underlying debt. Based on projections outlined in its five-year capital improvement program, Glastonbury could use a combination of pay-as-you go and bond financing for up to \$17.05 million over the next two years. However, management officials indicate that the magnitude and timing of future debt issuances could change depending on the availability of state grants, changes in local fiscal conditions, and prioritization of infrastructure needs.

However, due to what we believe to be rapid amortization of existing debt-management generally strives to retire debt at an amount similar to the amount that it will issue-we do not expect the town's direct debt profile to change

materially.

Glastonbury's combined required pension and actual other postemployment benefits (OPEB) contributions totaled 4.5% of total governmental fund expenditures in 2017. Of that amount, 3.9% represented required contributions to pension obligations, and 0.6% represented OPEB payments. The town made its full annual required pension contribution over the last three audited fiscal years, including in fiscal 2017.

Glastonbury administers a single-employer defined-benefit public employee retirement system (PERS), which provides pension benefits to substantially all full-time employees of the town. At June 30, 2017, the town reported a nearly \$51.3 million net pension liability, and PERS' fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability was 72.6%. The last actuarial valuation for PERS was June 30, 2017, using a 6.875% discount rate.

The town also administers certain retiree health benefits to town, police, and board of education retirees. Glastonbury's net OPEB liability at June 30, 2017 was about \$13.51 million, measured at a discount rate of 6.91%. For fiscal 2017, the town's actual contribution \$925,241, or 69.7% of the annual OPEB cost. The town established an OPEB trust, which had \$3.81 million in assets as of June 30, 2017. At this time, we do not expect fixed costs associated with the pension and OPEB to contribute significant pressure to the town's operating budget over the next two years.

Strong institutional framework

The institutional framework score for Connecticut municipalities is strong.

We lowered our predictability subfactor twice over the past two years, based on our view that local governments are operating in a less predictable environment when budgeting and forecasting state revenue. This action resulted from delayed passage of the state's biennial budget in 2017, which slowed payments to local governments, led to a period of significant budgetary stress, forced municipalities to adopt 2018 budgets amid significant uncertainty. While we view the state's creation of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB) in 2017 as a formal system support mechanism for identifying fiscal distress and providing assistance to municipalities, we continue to monitor MARB's efficacy and its potential effect on the legal and practical environment in which local governments operate in Connecticut. (For more information, please see the article, titled "Connecticut Rating Actions Do Not Affect Strong Institutional Framework Score on Local Governments," published April 19, 2018, on RatingsDirect.)

Outlook

The stable outlook reflects S&P Global Ratings' expectation that Glastonbury will continue to maintain very strong financial practices and policies that contributes to generally strong and predictable budgetary performance, which will likely support its strong budgetary flexibility and very strong liquidity. It also reflects the town's very strong underlying economy, which benefits from access to and participation in Greater Hartford labor market. In addition, we expect it will maintain a very strong debt and contingent liability profile, coupled with manageable pension and OPEB liabilities. For these reasons, we are unlikely to change the rating during the next two years.

Although unlikely over the next two years, given the town's strong-to-very strong underlying credit fundamentals, we could lower the rating if the town were to experience a substantial weakening of budgetary performance, Although

unlikely over the next two years, given the town's strong-to-very strong underlying credit fundamentals, we could lower the rating if the town were to experience a substantial weakening of budgetary performance--due to unexpected substantial cuts to state aid or otherwise--leading to a deterioration of available reserves and liquidity.

Related Research

- S&P Public Finance Local GO Criteria: How We Adjust Data For Analytic Consistency, Sept. 12, 2013
- Incorporating GASB 67 And 68: Evaluating Pension/OPEB Obligations Under Standard & Poor's U.S. Local Government GO Criteria, Sept. 2, 2015
- · Local Government Pension And Other Postemployment Benefits Analysis: A Closer Look, Nov.8, 2017
- · 2017 Update Of Institutional Framework For U.S. Local Governments

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at www.standardandpoors.com for further information. Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at www.capitaliq.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at www.standardandpoors.com. Use the Ratings search box located in the left column.

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Platform	Managed By	Frequency of Posts/ Engagement	Reach: Likes/Followers/Views (as of 7/9/2018)
Parks & Recreation Facebook Page	Anna	daily	2092/2109
Library Facebook Page	Barbara	daily	808/807
Fire Department Facebook Page	Chief/Dave Thurz, Brian Lombardo	weekly	1959/1962
Police Department Facebook Page	Corey Davis/ Steve Moyer	weekly	4143/4289
Town Facebook Page - General	Kathryn	daily	1512/1649
Senior Services Facebook Page	Patti	1-2x/month	95/100
Glastonbury Boathouse Facebook Page	Kathryn	2-3x/week	626/641/5121
Instagram - Glastonbury Boathouse	Kathryn	2-3x/week	877 followers
Linked in - Town and Boathouse	Kathryn	3-4x/year	135 followers

Alexandrina Sergio

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July 9, 2018

Richard Johnson, Manager Town of Glastonbury 2155 Main Street Glastonbury, CT 06033

Dear Richard,

My term as Glastonbury's first Poet Laureate has come to a close. I am tremendously honored to have been appointed to the position, and as well, have one more reason for feeling fortunate to be a resident of Glastonbury. Our town has been at the forefront of the statewide movement to expand community arts through promotion of poetry. At present there are 17 municipal poets laureate serving in Connecticut, as well as the State of Connecticut. Laureate. I have been proud to represent Glastonbury at statewide poetry events and have truly had a wonderful experience within the community. There is enthusiasm in Glastonbury for coming together informally around poetry and music: for listening, for performing, and for connecting with Glastonbury neighbors in ways that inevitably build community.

Enclosed is a detailed report for the Town Council on Poet Laureate activities for the 2017-2018 year, as well as a brief overview of the position's three-year first. term. WN MANAG

With gratitude,

ANNUAL REPORT Glastonbury Poet Laureate Final Year of Three-Year Term, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

June 30 marked completion of my third and final year as Glastonbury's Poet Laureate. It has been both a tremendous honor and a delight to have served in this capacity. When I began my term as the first Town Poet, I stated that I had charged myself with seeking out the poetry that exists in Glastonbury and helping to "set it free to delight, fortify and connect us all." This attempt has involved a focus on presenting events featuring poets, musicians and speakers who live in or have strong connections with Glastonbury, and, when possible, has sought collaboration with local organizations as a way to engage a broader constituency. All appropriate programs featured live music, and all included refreshments. Breaking bread together (or, in this case, breaking cookies) is a time-honored way of encouraging sociability/a sense of community. It seems to have worked. When possible, open mike sessions were part of programs, and in every case, participants reading favorite or self-written poems were met with respect and warm response. I also found that when programs concluded, attendees would tend to stay a while and visit.

In January of 2016 I began writing a monthly poetry column in the Glastonbury Citizen, showcasing work by Glastonbury poets or those with Glastonbury connections. In addition I represented Glastonbury as a participant in activities of the Connecticut Coalition Of Poets Laureate (CCPL). This organization, in which former as well as current Laureates hold membership, published an anthology of poetry and essays by members. Glastonbury is represented in this volume, copies of which were presented to the three local libraries during Poetry Month in 2017.

And for those who like numbers—	
Over the three years of the first Poet Laureate's term:	
Poetry-themed public events:	31
 Town Poet solely produced: 	10
 Town Poet and local organizations produced collaboratively: 	8
 Town Poet participated by invitation in events 	
produced by local organizations:	6
 Town Poet participated in CCPL poetry activities 	7
Performers featured at local events:	
 Poets/speakers/readers: 	62
Musicians:	14
Open Mike Participants:	42
Monthly Poetry Columns published in The Glastonbury Citizen:	30
Local organizations collaborating with Town Poets	12

Following is a summary of the activities carried out in year three of my term.

- September 9, 2017: On The Green Fine Art & Craft Show, Hubbard Green: "Art Speaks. Poetry Answers". Nine local poets performed original poems based on artwork created by Glastonbury Arts members. Each artist spoke about his/her paintings/photographs, and poets performed additional poems having art as their themes. Poets were Cassandra Angelo, Andrea Barton, Clare Mazur, Esther McCune, Suzanne Niedzielska, Danielle Pieratti, Alexandrina Sergio, Isabelle Smith, and Andy Weatherwax. Artists were Susan Bosworth, Lisa Adrina Byron, Barbara Fraher, Linda Gotta, Carol Jeffries, Gail Schwartzkroin, Diane Stone, Debbie Temple and Pat Trapp. The event was a collaboration between Glastonbury Arts and Glastonbury Poet Laureate Alexandrina Sergio. 50 People.
- September 14, 2017: **Riverwood Poetry Series, West Hartford.** The Poet Laureate represented Glastonbury as a member of the Connecticut Coalition Of Poets Laureate at a reading of poems on themes of social justice and equality. Rennie Mcquilkin, State of Connecticut Poet Laureate was joined in the performance program by current and former poets laureate representing Canton, Glastonbury, Middletown, Milford, Seabury Community, Wallingford, Washington and West Hartford. 45 People.
- Saturday, October 21 "Favorite Poems and Poets: Talk, Discussion, Open Mike and Free Books"; Friends Room of the Welles Turner Memorial Library. Poet-lecturer Mark Sheridan spoke and led discussion on the life and work of selected American poets. There was also an open mike session, with 5 attendees each reading a favorite poem. Refreshments were served and there was a poetry book give-away. 15 People
- Wednesday, November 15, CT Coalition of Poets Laureate, Cheney Hall, Manchester. The Poet Laureate represented Glastonbury in a gala reading headlined by CT Poet Laureate Rennie McQuilkin and including Poets Laureate from, as well as Glastonbury, Windham, Manchester, Wallingford, New London, South Windsor, West Hartford, and the Seabury Community. +/-50 People
- Saturday, February 3, "And The Award Goes To...", Friends Room of The Welles Turner Memorial Library; an afternoon of prize-winning poetry and music. Featured poets were Michael Lepore, whose poetry collection Moral Injury was recipient of the 2017 Gold Medal Award from the Military Writers Society of America, and Danielle Pieratti, whose poetry collection Fugitives won the 2017 Connecticut Book Award for Poetry. Also performing was Emmy award winning guitarist and composer Steve Nystrup. Refreshments were served and books and CDs were available for sale and signing. 49 people

- Tuesday, March 26: The Glastonbury Town Council Issued a proclamation recognizing April as National Poetry Month. The Poet Laureate accepted the Proclamation, and delivered it to the Welles Turner Library for display throughout the month of April.
- Wednesday, April 18: The Poet Laureate, by invitation, performed at Willimantic's Windham Theatre Guild at an event to honor internationally acclaimed former Eastern Connecticut book publishing house Curbstone Press and its founder Alexander Taylor. Other invited readers were poets Stephen Straight and Doug Anderson. +/-60 people
- Friday, April 20: "The Natural World, Poetically Speaking", program of Glastonbury Audubon Center featuring Joan Hofmann, Canton Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate was special guest, read a selection of nature-themed poems and introduced the featured poet. 20 people.
- Saturday, April 28: "From Epic Poem To Epic Punk," a Poetry Month event honoring classic poetry and the ways in which it influences contemporary literature and music. Featuring authors GHS teacher Mark and Sheri Dursin, discussing and reading from Labors Of An Epic Punk, their newly published YA novel based on Homer's Odyssey; three GHS students, Ohm Patel, Nicole Nguyen, and Cindy Li, reading passages from The Odyssey; and vocalist-guitarist Jim Henderschedt, performing thematically related songs. Refreshments were provided and books were available for sale and signing. 50 people.
- Tuesday, May 22: The Poet Laureate was the Keynote Speaker for the GHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony at the GHS Auditorium. Her address included a selection of relevant poems. 350 people.

I am grateful beyond measure for the support of Town Manager Richard Johnson and Town Staff, Welles Turner Memorial Library Director Barbara Baily and Library Staff, and the members of the Glastonbury Town Council. The kindness shown to me by town employees and officials (to say nothing of the seemingly magical provision of solutions for any problems I presented to them) have helped to make my three year service truly satisfying and pleasurable.

Glastonbury is becoming increasingly aware that "Poetry, like bread, is for everyone" (Roque Dalton), and I look ahead with great anticipation as a poet with yet a different style and approach becomes the town's next Poet Laureate.

former Governor Ella T. Grasso 100th birth anniversary Commemorative Rally of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities

-INVITATION-

To: All 169 Connecticut cities and towns

From: Ella Grasso 100th Birth Anniversary Committee c/o Mickey Danyluk, Town of Windsor Locks Municipal Historian 53 Grove Street Windsor Locks, CT 06096

What: Invitation to a State Capitol Rally commemorating former Gov. Grasso

When: Sunday, June 2, 2019 2:00 pm

May 10th 2019 marks the 100th birth anniversary of Ella Tambussi Grasso, born of immigrant parents in Windsor Locks who distinguished our State by rising from Representative to Secretary of State to Congresswoman to 83rd Governor of our State of Connecticut—the first woman nationally elected in her own right.

The <u>Grasso 100th Birth Anniversary Committee</u> invites representatives of each Connecticut town and city to gather at the State Capitol building in Hartford on Sun. June 2, 2019 for a Commemorative Rally at 2:00 pm.

The <u>Committee</u> asks that each town and city appoint a representative to attend the event. The <u>Committee</u> that the name of the appointed representative and their respective email contact be forwarded to <u>Committee</u> member Chet Pohorylo at <u>DCPohorylo@yahoo.com</u>

The <u>Committee</u> extends an invitation to all to attend events planned in Ella's hometown of Windsor Locks during its Heritage Week.

The <u>Committee</u> suggests that school systems reference in their curricula former Governor Grasso whose statue peers from above at the State Capitol building.

TOWN MANAGER

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Mickey Danyleck

HERITAGE WEEK 2019

(tentative/evolving as of 7/11/18) Observing the 100th birth anniversary of former Governor Ella T. Grasso

Sunday, May 26th 7:00 am Memorial Mass at St. Mary's Church followed by Coffee Hour in the Parish Center (former town hall building); Reading of Town Proclamation and travel about the town to her grave and places she frequented

Monday, May 27th Memorial Day commemoratives (cemetery wreath laying commemoratives at cemeteries and WL-W'P bridge/parade/Memorial Hall program) with Grasso family invited to ride in a car in the parade or walk the route; gathering at 10 am at Noden-Reed Park; 10:30 am kick off for parade

Tuesday, May 28th speaker* in the Ella Grasso Conference Rm at Mario Gatti Town Office Building (town hall) 6:30 pm (or 7 pm?)

Wednesday, May 29th speaker* in the Ella Grasso Conference Rm at Mario Gatti Town Office Building (town hall) 6:30pm (or 7pm?)

Thursday, May 30th viewing of the CPTV documentary "ELLA" at WL Senior Center Luncheon/repeat viewing of the CPTV documentary "ELLA" in the Ella Grasso Conference Rm at Mario Gatti Town Office Building (town hall) 6:30 pm (or 7pm?) followed by speaker*

Friday, May 31st set up for Heritage Day tomorrow at the WL Middle School/Marathon reading of Susan Bysiewicz biography "ELLA" in the Haskell Homestead Rm of the WL Public Library throughout the day by Municipal Historian and interested others beginning at 10:30 am

Saturday, June 1st Heritage Day Fair at Middle School with student exhibits and speakers* consonant with Ella Grasso theme

Sunday, June 2nd train ride to Hartford from WL (time to be determined) or travel to Capitol building with representatives of the 169 cities and towns comprising CT

*speakers: suggested Jim, Suzanne, Chris Grasso, Susan Bysiewicz, Con O'Leary, First Selectman Chris Kervick (as their personal schedules permit)