



TOWN OF CONCORD

Office of the Town Manager

Operational Status Reports & Departmental Updates

For the Week Ending May 19, 2023

General Administration:



Concord's Select Board issued a proclamation announcing "Concord Public Works Week" on April 24th, 2023.

Concord Public Works Week is from May 21-27, 2023.

The American Public Works Association theme this year is: "Connecting the World Through Public Works saying: "public works connects us all through infrastructure and service, enhancing the quality of life for the communities these professionals serve".

From Moody's Investment Service – Credit Opinion, May 17th, 2023

Town of Concord, MA
Update to credit analysis

Summary:

Concord (Aaa stable) benefits from a strong economy bolstered by high property wealth and resident income. The financial position is stable with reserves that trend below the median.

for the highest rating category. The town adheres to conservative fiscal management and has been proactive in funding its long-term liabilities and relying on support from taxpayers for the approval of debt exclusions and general overrides to the Proposition 2½ tax levy limit.

The town's leverage and fixed costs are moderate but will likely increase over the next few years due to additional debt issuance for a new middle school.

Credit strengths:

» Very strong resident income and wealth

- » Stable financial position with strong fiscal management
- » History of voter support for operating overrides and debt exclusions to the tax levy limit

Credit challenges:

- » Below-average reserves for the rating category
- » Limited revenue raising flexibility under tax levy limit
- » Managing education and capital costs

Rating outlook:

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the town will continue to exercise conservative fiscal management to maintain a healthy financial position and manage an increase in debt issuance. The outlook also incorporates the strength of the housing market and ongoing voter support when needed to approve debt exclusions and general overrides to the tax levy limit.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade:

- » Not applicable

Factors that could lead to a downgrade:

- » Decline in available reserves and liquidity
- » Material increases in leverage beyond current expectations

Acting on the invitation from Congresswoman Lori Trahan, staff from the Town Manager's Office travelled to Capitol Hill earlier this week to attend Third District Day. Deputy Town Manager Megan Zammuto, Economic Vitality Manager Mimi Graney, Risk Compliance Manager Chris Carmody, and CMLP representative Laura Scott, were able to meet Congresswoman Trahan and talk with her staff about Concord's work on economic vitality, federal funding programs, and the municipal light plant (and electrification). Congresswoman Trahan spoke about her work on and advocacy for the CHIPS and Science Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and her role as an appropriator on the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee. Guests of Third District Day also heard from Congresswoman Trahan's colleagues including Senator Elizabeth Warren, Chairman Steny Hoyer, Representative Hakeem Jeffries, Senator Ed Markey, Representative Katherine Clark, and others.

Police Department:

Activity Log:

- Log items: 689
- Traffic enforcement: 64
- Motor vehicle stops: 79
- Motor vehicle crashes and/or paper exchanges: 13
- Arrests: 1

Community:

- Deric Maddaleni was sworn in as a new Concord Police Officer.
- Chief Mulcahy attended a Chiefs' training conference.

- Inspector Holsinger and officers on shift assisted with school bus evacuation drills at the schools for the week.
- Lieutenant Kevin Monahan and Detective Paladino attended a detectives' conference.
- Lieutenant Brian Goldman and Lieutenant Timothy Landers attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Concord Middle School.

Fire Department:

Calls for Service:

- The department responded to 108 calls for service during the period. Mutual aid was provided 7 times and received on 2 occasions. CFD Diver, FF Eric Harries responded as part of the district dive team to assist with the search for a drowning victim.

Training:

- Boat operations were the focus of training this past week. Crews worked in the rivers training on operating our boat in a current and techniques for making a rescue in moving water.

Fire Prevention:

- Several of our newer Firefighters accompanied by Lt. Ostroskey went to the simulation lab at PRO EMS in Cambridge. This is an opportunity for them to practice EMS skills in different "real world" settings.

Planning and Land Management:

- May 9th Planning Board meeting: The Planning Board had a productive discussion with members of the Public Works Commission, Historical Commission, and Public Works staff regarding the draft Scenic Roads Bylaw Rules & Regulations. The Board will now finalize the draft regulations, schedule a public hearing, and inform property owners and stakeholders. The Board granted site plan approval for the renovation of 794 Elm Street from Asian Gourmet to a Dunkin's and issued a Scenic Roads Decision for the removal of a portion of a stone wall for a new driveway at 1134 Monument Street.
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2B: A final site walk was conducted on May 16th with representatives from MassDOT, Consultants, the Contractor and Subcontractors, and Town staff from Acton and Concord to identify work remaining to be done and work that needs repair along the section between Commonwealth Ave. in Concord and Wetherbee Street in Acton. The final punch list will be distributed next week, some of the invasive plant removal will not be done until July and some replanting of areas outside of existing farm fields may not be planted until the fall.
- Regional Housing Services Office meeting with the Advisory Committee: Members of the Advisory Committee from each of the participating towns met on Wednesday, May 17th to hear from the Lexington Planning staff about Lexington's successful effort to adopt MBTA Communities Zoning initiatives this spring. The Advisory Committee also nominated and voted to accept the Town of Natick as a new member of the RHSO.
- Massport Community Summer Jobs Program 2023: An application to the Massport summer jobs program was submitted this week for an office assistant to work with the Health Division on an initiative to identify properties that may have a private well for water supply, irrigation, or heat pumps and to develop a database and add a data-

layer to the Town's GIS. This information will be valuable when there are discussions about managing watersheds, groundwater resources, and brownfield redevelopment.

Department of Public Works:

- Annual Water Quality Report Available: The Division finalized the 2022 Annual Water Quality Report, which is now available to view, download, or print at www.concordma.gov/wqreport.pdf. This report contains important information about the source and quality of Concord's drinking water, as well as conservation messaging, details on Division programs, and highlights of activities completed within the Division in the past year. A notice about the availability of this report will be provided to all bill-paying customers as a message on the water bill for the month of June. Non-bill-paying customers will be notified via an upcoming mailing to all postal patrons, a News & Notice email and/or a press release in the Concord Bridge.
- Construction Bid Updates – The Engineering Division has been reviewing final plans and bid documents for several projects to be advertised in the next couple of weeks. The projects include the Main St/Walden St Improvements and 2023/2024 Road Pavement Management contracts for treating selected streets with micro surfacing, fog sealing, cold in-place recycling, and bonded wearing course. Engineering has also been assisting the School Department with the final design and preparation for the bidding on improvements to the Concord Carlisle High School access road.
- FEMA Training: Last week Aaron Miklosko, Highway & Grounds Superintendent, attended FEMA's Logistics Team Instructor-Led Training held at the FDNY Training facility at Fort Totten, Queens, NY. Aaron is also a Logistics Specialist for FEMA's Urban Search & Rescue Task Force, Massachusetts Task Force 1. This training provided knowledge and skills for emergency response personnel for planned and emergency response events. The training focused on managing, maintaining and transporting equipment and supplies used during disasters or planned events. These skills and information will be very helpful for the public safety team working on planning for the Concord 250th Celebration.