

Town of Merton

North Lake, Wisconsin

Financial Statements

Including Independent Auditors' Report

As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

TOWN OF MERTON

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Town Board of
Town of Merton

Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Merton (the Town of Merton), Wisconsin, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Merton's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Adverse Opinion on Discretely Presented Component Units

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Matters Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on the Discretely Presented Component Units paragraph, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly the financial position of the discretely presented component units of the Town of Merton, Wisconsin, as of December 31, 2023, or the changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Unmodified Opinions on Governmental Activities, Each Major Fund and Aggregate Remaining Fund Information

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Merton Wisconsin, as of December 31, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Adverse and Unmodified Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Merton and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse and unmodified audit opinions.

Matters Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on the Discretely Presented Component Units

The financial statements do not include financial data for the Town's legally separate component units. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the financial data for the component units to be reported with the financial data of the Town's primary government unless the Town also issues financial statements for the financial reporting entity that include the financial data for its component units. The Town has not issued such reporting entity financial statements. Because of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the assets/deferred outflows of resources, liabilities/deferred inflows of resources, net position, revenues and expenses of the discretely presented component units have not been determined.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Merton's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Merton's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Town of Merton's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. Our opinions on the basic financial statements are not affected by this missing information.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplementary information as listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described above, it is inappropriate to and we do not express an opinion on the supplementary information referred to above.

Baker Tilly US, LLP

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
February 21, 2024

TOWN OF MERTON

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
As of December 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities
ASSETS	
Cash and investments	\$ 3,152,626
Receivables	
Taxes	5,102,424
Delinquent personal property taxes	832
Accounts	2,527
Due from other governments	8,754
Accrued interest	5,295
Deposits	20
Prepaid items	121,124
Inventories	118,722
Capital Assets	
Land	614,501
Right of way	71,361
Intangible assets	14,200
Construction in progress	1,066
Other capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation/amortization)	<u>10,067,552</u>
Total Assets	<u>19,281,004</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Deferred outflows related to pension	918,638
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefit obligations - town retiree benefits plan	3,840
Deferred outflows related to other postemployment benefit obligations - local retiree life insurance fund	<u>55,484</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>977,962</u>
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	128,599
Accrued liabilities	79,209
Unearned revenue	326,177
Deposits payable	167,715
Noncurrent liabilities	
Due within one year	662,396
Due in more than one year	<u>2,786,138</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,150,234</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
Unearned revenue	5,101,609
Deferred inflows related to pension	516,487
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefit obligations - town retiree benefits plan	12,858
Deferred inflows related to other postemployment benefit obligations - local retiree life insurance fund	<u>79,751</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>5,710,705</u>
NET POSITION	
Net investment in capital assets	8,029,398
Restricted for	
Park improvements	110,723
Capital improvements and land acquisition	36,689
Library operations	94,831
Fire departments	52,917
Unrestricted	<u>2,073,469</u>
TOTAL NET POSITION	<u>\$ 10,398,027</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERTON

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues				Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities					
General government	\$ 626,303	\$ 18,420	\$ 750	\$ 17,722	\$ (589,411)
Public safety	1,751,356	249,737	333,455	-	(1,168,164)
Public works	1,991,992	23,124	326,317	725,431	(917,120)
Health and sanitation	984,181	1,005,118	12,217	-	33,154
Library	735,990	1,954	173,675	-	(560,361)
Parks and recreation	10,000	-	-	44,029	34,029
Interest and fiscal charges	87,427	-	-	-	(87,427)
Total governmental activities	\$ 6,187,249	\$ 1,298,353	\$ 846,414	\$ 787,182	(3,255,300)
General Revenues					
Taxes					
					1,829,213
Property taxes, levied for general purposes					521,333
Property taxes, levied for library purposes					943,636
Property taxes, levied for debt service					3,056
Other taxes					159,039
Intergovernmental revenues not restricted to specific programs					243,900
Investment income					46,538
Gain on sale and disposal of assets					54,404
Miscellaneous					3,801,119
Total general revenues					3,801,119
Change in net position					545,819
NET POSITION - Beginning of Year					9,852,208
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR					\$ 10,398,027

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERTON

BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
As of December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds					Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Library Operations	American Rescue Plan Grant	Debt Service Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
ASSETS						
Cash and investments	\$ 2,592,367	\$ 85,412	\$ 327,380	\$ 55	\$ 147,412	\$ 3,152,626
Receivables						
Taxes	3,760,548	577,834	-	764,042	-	5,102,424
Accounts	2,527	-	-	-	-	2,527
Due from other governments	8,170	584	-	-	-	8,754
Deposits	20	-	-	-	-	20
Delinquent personal property taxes	832	-	-	-	-	832
Accrued interest	5,295	-	-	-	-	5,295
Due from other funds	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Prepaid items	103,560	17,564	-	-	-	121,124
Inventories	118,722	-	-	-	-	118,722
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,593,541	\$ 681,394	\$ 327,380	\$ 764,097	\$ 147,412	\$ 8,513,824
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES						
Liabilities						
Accounts payable	\$ 124,319	\$ 4,280	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128,599
Accrued liabilities	32,889	4,449	-	-	-	37,338
Due to other funds	-	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Unearned revenue	297	-	325,880	-	-	326,177
Deposits payable	167,715	-	-	-	-	167,715
Total Liabilities	<u>325,220</u>	<u>8,729</u>	<u>327,380</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>661,329</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources						
Unavailable revenue	5,295	-	-	-	-	5,295
Unearned revenue	3,759,733	577,834	-	764,042	-	5,101,609
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>3,765,028</u>	<u>577,834</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>764,042</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,106,904</u>
Fund Balances						
Nonspendable	223,114	17,564	-	-	-	240,678
Restricted	230,669	77,267	-	55	147,412	455,403
Assigned	263,241	-	-	-	-	263,241
Unassigned	1,786,269	-	-	-	-	1,786,269
Total Fund Balances	<u>2,503,293</u>	<u>94,831</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>147,412</u>	<u>2,745,591</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 6,593,541	\$ 681,394	\$ 327,380	\$ 764,097	\$ 147,412	

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental funds are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. See Note II. A.	10,768,680
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension do not relate to current financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds. See Note V. A.	918,638
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB do not relate to current financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds. See Note V. E.	59,324
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension do not relate to current financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds. See Note V. A.	(516,487)
Some receivables that are not currently available are reported as unavailable revenues in the fund financial statements but are recognized as revenue when earned in the government-wide statements. See Note III. B.	5,295
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB do not relate to current financial resources and are not reported in the governmental funds. See Note V. E.	(92,609)
Accrued interest is not due and payable in the current period and therefore is not reported in the funds.	(41,871)
Some liabilities, including long-term debt, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. See Note IV. F.	(3,448,534)

NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES \$ 10,398,027

TOWN OF MERTON

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds					Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Library Operations	American Rescue Plan Grant	Debt Service Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	
REVENUES						
Taxes	\$ 1,833,113	\$ 521,333	\$ -	\$ 943,636	\$ -	\$ 3,298,082
Intergovernmental	585,347	161,550	273,809	-	-	1,020,706
Licenses and permits	314,960	-	-	-	-	314,960
Fines, forfeitures and penalties	14,927	-	-	-	-	14,927
Public charges for services	1,011,885	1,954	-	-	-	1,013,839
Public improvement revenue	-	-	-	-	6,000	6,000
Investment income	217,734	341	17,820	-	8,005	243,900
Miscellaneous	<u>27,882</u>	<u>12,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,007</u>
Total Revenues	<u>4,005,848</u>	<u>697,303</u>	<u>291,629</u>	<u>943,636</u>	<u>14,005</u>	<u>5,952,421</u>
EXPENDITURES						
Current						
General government	540,885	-	-	-	-	540,885
Public safety	1,387,761	-	240,292	-	-	1,628,053
Public works	1,263,918	-	-	-	-	1,263,918
Health and sanitation	984,181	-	-	-	-	984,181
Library	-	665,608	-	-	-	665,608
Park and recreation	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Capital Outlay	635,512	-	33,517	-	20,944	689,973
Debt Service						
Principal	-	-	-	617,658	-	617,658
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>4,478</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,164</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86,642</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>4,826,735</u>	<u>665,608</u>	<u>273,809</u>	<u>699,822</u>	<u>20,944</u>	<u>6,486,918</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>(820,887)</u>	<u>31,695</u>	<u>17,820</u>	<u>243,814</u>	<u>(6,939)</u>	<u>(534,497)</u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	261,579	-	-	-	-	261,579
Transfers out	-	-	(17,820)	(243,759)	-	(261,579)
Proceeds from sale of capital assets	41,338	-	-	-	-	41,338
Debt issued	<u>820,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>820,000</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>1,122,917</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(17,820)</u>	<u>(243,759)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>861,338</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	302,030	31,695	-	55	(6,939)	326,841
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>2,201,263</u>	<u>63,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,351</u>	<u>2,418,750</u>
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 2,503,293</u>	<u>\$ 94,831</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 55</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>	<u>\$ 2,745,591</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERTON

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES,
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$	326,841
<p>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:</p>		
<p>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of net position the cost of these assets is capitalized and they are depreciated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense in the statement of activities.</p>		
Capital outlay is reported as an expenditure in the fund financial statements but is capitalized in the government-wide financial statements		689,973
Some items reported as capital outlay were not capitalized		(127,676)
Some items were capitalized but not reported as capital outlay		44,114
Depreciation is recorded in the government-wide statements		(846,671)
Trade-in value received on disposal of capital assets		5,200
Net book value of assets retired		(20,193)
<p>Capital contributions are not reported in the fund financial statements, but are reported as revenue in the government wide financial statements.</p>		
		746,375
<p>Receivables not currently available are reported as revenue when collected or currently available in the fund financial statements but are recognized as revenue when earned in the government-wide financial statements.</p>		
		5,295
<p>Debt issued provides current financial resources to governmental funds, but issuing debt increases long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. Repayment of debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position</p>		
Debt issued		(820,000)
Principal repaid		617,658
<p>Some expenses in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.</p>		
Compensated absences		2,866
Accrued interest on debt		(785)
Net pension asset (liability)		(624,455)
Other postemployment benefits obligation - local retiree life insurance fund		69,281
Other postemployment benefits obligation - town retiree benefits plan		(1,264)
Deferred outflows of resources related to pension and other postemployment benefits		164,499
Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and other postemployment benefits		314,761
		314,761
CHANGE IN NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	\$	545,819

TOWN OF MERTON

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Custodial Fund</u> <u>Tax Collection</u> <u>Fund</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and investments	\$ 12,584,787
Receivables	<u>6,239,623</u>
Total Assets	<u>18,824,410</u>
LIABILITIES	
Due to other governments	<u>18,824,410</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>18,824,410</u>
Net Position	<u>\$ -</u>

TOWN OF MERTON

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Custodial Fund</u> <u>Tax Collection</u> <u>Fund</u>
ADDITIONS	
Tax collections	\$ <u>13,127,775</u>
DEDUCTIONS	
Payments to overlying districts	<u>13,127,775</u>
Net Change in Net Position	-
NET POSITION - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>-</u>
NET POSITION - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

TOWN OF MERTON

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TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the Town of Merton, Wisconsin, (the "Town") conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as applicable to governmental units. The accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles is the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

A. REPORTING ENTITY

This report includes all of the funds of the Town. The reporting entity for the Town consists of the primary government and its component units. Component units are legally separate organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable or other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that their exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading. The primary government is financially accountable if (1) it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and it is able to impose its will on that organization, (2) it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government, (3) the organization is fiscally dependent on and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on, the primary government. Certain legally separate, tax exempt organizations should also be reported as a component unit if all of the following criteria are met: (1) the economic resources received or held by the separate organization are entirely or almost entirely for the direct benefit of the primary government, its component units, or its constituents; (2) the primary government or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to access, a majority of the economic resources received or held by the separate organization; and (3) the economic resources received or held by an individual organization that the primary government, or its component units, is entitled to, or has the ability to otherwise access, are significant to the primary government.

Component units are reported using one of three methods, discrete presentation, blended, or fiduciary. Generally, component units should be discretely presented in a separate column in the financial statements. A component unit should be reported as part of the primary government using the blending method if it meets any one of the following criteria: (1) the primary government and the component unit have substantively the same governing body and a financial benefit or burden relationship exists, (2) the primary government and the component unit have substantively the same governing body and management of the primary government has operational responsibility for the component unit, (3) the component unit serves or benefits, exclusively or almost exclusively, the primary government rather than its citizens, or (4) the total debt of the component unit will be paid entirely or almost entirely from resources of the primary government.

Component Units Not Presented

Townhall Library Foundation, Inc. and Friends of the Townhall Library

The government-wide financial statements do not include the Townhall Library Foundation, Inc. and Friends of the Townhall Library as discretely presented component units. The Townhall Library Foundation, Inc. and Friends of the Townhall Library are legally separate, tax-exempt organizations which should be reported as component units based on criteria noted in previous paragraphs. Townhall Library Foundation, Inc. and Friends of the Townhall Library are not audited and therefore audited financial information for the year ended December 31, 2023 is not available.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

B. GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and statement of activities display information about the reporting government as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity except for fiduciary funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange revenues.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. The Town does not allocate indirect expenses to functions in the statement of activities. Program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment, and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Taxes and other items not included among program revenues are reported as general revenues. Internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

Fund Financial Statements

Financial statements of the Town are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts, which constitute its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position/fund balance, revenues, and expenditures/expenses.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

B. GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Fund Financial Statements (cont.)

Funds are organized as major funds or nonmajor funds within the governmental statements. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental category. A fund is considered major if it is the primary operating fund of the Town or meets the following criteria:

- a. Total assets/deferred outflows of resources, liabilities/deferred inflows of resources, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of that individual governmental fund are at least 10% of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type, and
- b. The same element of the individual governmental fund that met the 10% test is at least 5% of the corresponding total for all governmental funds combined.
- c. In addition, any other governmental fund that the Town believes is particularly important to financial statement users may be reported as a major fund.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

- General Fund - accounts for the Town's primary operating activities. It is used to account for and report all financial resources except those accounted for and reported in another fund.
- Library Operations - Special Revenue Fund - used to account for and report financial resources legally restricted or committed to supporting expenditures for the Town's library operations.
- American Rescue Plan Grant - Special Revenue Fund - used to account for and report financial resources legally restricted or committed to supporting expenditures of a federally funded grant program to address the effects of COVID-19.
- Debt Service Fund - used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for the payment of general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs.

The Town reports the following nonmajor governmental funds:

Special Revenue Funds - used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditures for specified purposes (other than debt service or capital projects).

Park Improvement Fund
Land Acquisition and Capital Improvements
Fund

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

B. GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Fund Financial Statements (cont.)

In addition, the Town reports the following fund types:

Custodial Funds - used to account for and report assets controlled by the Town and the assets are for the benefit of individuals, private organizations, and/or other governmental units.

Tax Collection Fund

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred or economic asset used. Revenues, expenses, gains, losses, assets, and liabilities resulting from exchange and exchange-like transactions are recognized when the exchange takes place. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Taxes receivable for the following year are recorded as receivables and deferred inflows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider are met. Special assessments are recorded as revenue when earned. Unbilled receivables are recorded as revenues when services are provided.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

Fund Financial Statements

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when they are both measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the Town considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured interest on long-term debt, claims, judgments, compensated absences, and pension expenditures, which are recorded as a fund liability when expected to be paid with expendable available financial resources.

Property taxes are recorded in the year levied as receivables and deferred inflows. They are recognized as revenues in the succeeding year when services financed by the levy are being provided.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING, AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION (cont.)

Fund Financial Statements (cont.)

Intergovernmental aids and grants are recognized as revenues in the period the Town is entitled the resources and the amounts are available. Amounts owed to the Town which are not available are recorded as receivables and unavailable revenues. Amounts received before eligibility requirements (excluding time requirements) are met are recorded as liabilities. Amounts received in advance of meeting time requirements are recorded as deferred inflows.

Revenues susceptible to accrual include property taxes, miscellaneous taxes, public charges for services, special assessments and interest. Other general revenues such as fines and forfeitures, inspection fees, recreation fees, and miscellaneous revenues are recognized when received in cash or when measurable and available under the criteria described above.

Fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as described previously in this note.

All Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY

1. Deposits and Investments

Investment of Town funds is restricted by Wisconsin state statutes. Available investments are limited to:

- a. Time deposits in any credit union, bank, savings bank or trust company.
- b. Bonds or securities of any county, city, drainage district, technical college district, village, town, or school district of the state. Also, bonds issued by a local exposition district, a local professional baseball park district, a local professional football stadium district, a local cultural arts district, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority, or the Wisconsin Aerospace Authority.
- c. Bonds or securities issued or guaranteed by the federal government.
- d. The local government investment pool.
- e. Any security maturing in seven years or less and having the highest or second highest rating category of a nationally recognized rating agency.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

1. Deposits and Investments (cont.)

- f. Securities of an open-end management investment company or investment trust, subject to various conditions and investment options.
- g. Repurchase agreements with public depositories, with certain conditions.

The Town has adopted an investment policy. That policy follows the State Statute for allowable investments. The policy states that the Town will seek to collateralize certificates of deposit and other deposits in an amount equal to 100 percent of the investment less the amount insured by the State of Wisconsin and FDIC.

No policy exists for the following risks:

Credit risk

Investments are stated at fair value, which is the amount at which an investment could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties. No investments are reported at amortized cost. Adjustments necessary to record investments at fair value are recorded in the operating statement as increases or decreases in investment income. Investment income on commingled investments of municipal accounting funds is allocated based on average balances. The difference between the bank statement balance and carrying value is due to outstanding checks and/or deposits in transit.

The Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) is part of the State Investment Fund (SIF), and is managed by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board. The SIF is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, but operates under the statutory authority of Wisconsin Chapter 25. The SIF reports the fair value of its underlying assets annually. Participants in the LGIP have the right to withdraw their funds in total on one day's notice. At December 31, 2023, the fair value of the Town's share of the LGIP's assets was substantially equal to the amount as reported in these statements.

See Note IV. A. for further information.

2. Receivables

Property taxes are levied in December on the assessed value as of the prior January 1. In addition to property taxes for the Town, taxes are collected for and remitted to the county government as well as the local school district and technical college district. Taxes for all state and local governmental units billed in the current year for the succeeding year are reflected as receivables and due to other taxing units on the accompanying statement of fiduciary net position.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

2. Receivables (cont.)

Property tax calendar - 2023 tax roll:

Lien date and levy date	December 2023
Tax bills mailed	December 2023
Payment in full, or	January 31, 2024
First installment due	January 31, 2024
Second installment due	July 31, 2024
Personal property taxes in full	January 31, 2024
Tax sale - 2023 delinquent real estate taxes	October 2026

Delinquent real estate taxes as of July 31 are paid in full by the county, which assumes the collection thereof. No provision for uncollectible accounts receivable has been made for the Town because they have the right by law to place substantially all delinquent bills on the tax roll, and other delinquent bills are generally not significant.

During the course of operations, transactions occur between individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds. Short-term interfund loans are reported as "due to and from other funds." Long-term interfund loans (noncurrent portion) are reported as "advances from and to other funds." Interfund receivables and payables between funds within governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of net position.

3. Inventories and Prepaid Items

Governmental fund inventories, if material, are recorded at cost based on the LIFO method using the purchases method of accounting.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

4. Capital Assets

Government-Wide Statements

Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial cost of more than \$5,000 for general capital assets and \$5,000 for infrastructure assets, and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. All capital assets are valued at historical cost, or estimated historical cost if actual amounts are unavailable. Donated capital assets are recorded at their estimated acquisition value at the date of donation.

Depreciation and amortization of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an allocated expense in the statement of activities, with accumulated depreciation and amortization reflected in the statement of net position. Depreciation and amortization is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. The range of estimated useful lives by type of asset is as follows:

Buildings and improvements	12 - 40 Years
Machinery and Equipment	5 - 40 Years
Infrastructure	20 - 50 Years
Land Improvements	10 - 20 Years
Intangibles	8 - 9 Years

Fund Financial Statements

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

5. Deferred Outflows of Resources

A deferred outflow of resources represents a consumption of net position/fund balance that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until that future time.

6. Compensated Absences

Payments for vacation and sick leave will be made at rates in effect when the benefits are earned. Accumulated vacation and sick leave liabilities at December 31, 2023 are determined on the basis of past and current salary rates and include salary related payments.

The Town also provides a severance payment equal to 30 days of pay at the current wage rate to those eligible, full-time employees who retire from the Town after 10 years of service. There were no severance payments during the year. The number of employees currently eligible to receive a severance payment is five. The total amount outstanding at year end to be paid in the future is \$42,154 and is shown in the government-wide statement of net position as part of vested compensated absences.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

7. Long-Term Obligations

All long-term obligations to be repaid from governmental resources are reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements. The long-term obligations consist primarily of notes payable and vested compensated absences.

Long-term obligations for governmental funds are not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. The face value of debts (plus any premiums) is reported as other financing sources and payments of principal and interest are reported as expenditures.

8. Deferred Inflows of Resources

A deferred inflow of resources represents an acquisition of net position/fund balance that applies to a future period and therefore will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that future time.

9. Equity Classifications

Government-Wide Statements

Equity is classified as net position and displayed in three components:

- a. Net investment in capital assets - Consists of capital assets including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances (excluding unspent debt proceeds) of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.
- b. Restricted net position - Consists of net position with constraints placed on their use either by 1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or, 2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. Unrestricted net position - All other net positions that do not meet the definitions of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

Fund Statements

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

9. Equity Classifications (cont.)

Fund Statements (cont.)

Governmental fund balances are displayed as follows:

- a. **Nonspendable** - Includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in spendable form or because legal or contractual requirements require them to be maintained intact.
- b. **Restricted** - Consists of fund balances with constraints placed on their use either by 1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or 2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- c. **Committed** - Includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the highest level of decision making authority. Fund balance amounts are committed through a formal action (resolution) of the Town Board. This formal action must occur prior to the end of the reporting period, but the amount of the commitment, which will be subject to the constraints, may be determined in the subsequent period. Any changes to the constraints imposed require the same formal action of the Town Board that originally created the commitment.
- d. **Assigned** - Includes spendable fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. The Town Board has, by resolution, adopted a financial policy authorizing the Town Clerk to assign amounts for a specific purpose. Assignments may take place after the end of the reporting period.
- e. **Unassigned** - Includes residual positive fund balance within the general fund which has not been classified within the other above mentioned categories. Unassigned fund balance may also include negative balances for any governmental fund if expenditures exceed amounts restricted, committed, or assigned for those purposes.

The Town considers restricted amounts to be spent first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless there are legal documents / contracts that prohibit doing this, such as in grant agreements requiring dollar for dollar spending. Additionally, the Town would first use committed, then assigned and lastly unassigned amounts of unrestricted fund balance when expenditures are made.

See Note IV. G. for further information.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE I - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont.)

D. ASSETS, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION OR EQUITY (cont.)

10. Pension

The fiduciary net position of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting. This includes for purposes of measuring the following:

- Net Pension Liability (Asset),
- Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions,
- Pension Expense (Revenue).

Information about the fiduciary net position of the WRS and additions to/deductions from WRS' fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the WRS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

11. Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the total OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, the Town OPEB Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms.

The fiduciary net position of the Local Retiree Life Insurance Fund (LRLIF) has been determined using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. This includes for purposes of measuring the following:

- Net OPEB Liability (Asset),
- Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to Other Post-Employment Benefits,
- OPEB Expense (Revenue).

Information about the fiduciary net position of the LRLIF and additions to/deductions from LRLIF's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by LRLIF. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE II – RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AND THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The governmental fund balance sheet includes a reconciliation between fund balance - total governmental funds and net position - governmental activities as reported in the government-wide statement of net position. The details of this reconciliation include the following items.

Capital assets used in governmental funds are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Land	\$	614,501
Right of way		71,361
Intangibles (non-depreciable)		14,200
Construction in progress		1,066
Buildings		3,512,621
Machinery and equipment		2,604,361
Infrastructure		12,656,352
Land improvements		479,224
Intangibles (depreciable)		34,107
Accumulated depreciation/amortization		<u>(9,219,113)</u>
Combined Adjustment for Capital Assets	\$	<u>10,768,680</u>

NOTE III - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. LIMITATIONS ON THE TOWN'S TAX LEVY

Wisconsin law limits the Town's future tax levies. Generally, the Town is limited to its prior tax levy dollar amount (excluding TIF Districts), increased by the greater of the percentage change in the Town's equalized value due to net new construction or zero percent. Changes in debt service from one year to the next are generally exempt from this limit with certain exceptions. The Town is required to reduce its allowable levy by the estimated amount of fee revenue it collects for certain services, if those services were funded in 2013 by the property tax levy. Levies can be increased above the allowable limits if the amount is approved by referendum.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Town's deposits and investments at year end were comprised of the following:

	Carrying Value	Statement Balances	Associated Risks
Deposits	\$ 813,061	\$ 168,265	Custodial credit
LGIP	1,858,129	1,858,129	Credit
Certificates of deposit	190,000	190,000	Custodial credit
Certificates of deposit - SWEEP	12,875,866	12,875,866	Custodial credit
Petty cash	357	-	N/A
 Total Deposits and Investments	 \$ 15,737,413	 \$ 15,092,260	
 Reconciliation to financial statements			
Per statement of net position			
Unrestricted cash and investments	\$ 3,152,626		
Per statement of fiduciary net position	12,584,787		
 Total Deposits and Investments	 \$ 15,737,413		

Deposits in each local and area bank are insured by the FDIC in the amount of \$250,000 for time and savings accounts (including NOW accounts) and \$250,000 for demand deposit accounts (interest-bearing and noninterest-bearing). In addition, if deposits are held in an institution outside of the state in which the government is located, insured amounts are further limited to a total of \$250,000 for the combined amount of all deposit accounts.

Bank accounts are also insured by the State Deposit Guarantee Fund in the amount of \$400,000. However, due to the nature of this fund, recovery of material principal losses may not be significant to individual municipalities. This coverage has not been considered in computing custodial credit risk.

Custodial Credit Risk

Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a financial institution failure, the Town's deposits may not be return to the Town.

The Town does not have any deposits exposed to custodial credit risk.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS

A. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (cont.)

Custodial Credit Risk (cont.)

Investments

For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

As of December 31, 2023, \$3,615,593 of the Town's investments were exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Certificates of Deposit - SWEEP

Uninsured and uncollateralized	\$ <u>3,615,593</u>
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Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligations.

The Town has investments in the external Wisconsin Local Government Investment Pool which is not rated.

B. RECEIVABLES

All of the receivables on the balance sheet are expected to be collected within one year except for delinquent personal property taxes.

Governmental funds report *unavailable or unearned revenue* in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. Property taxes levied for the subsequent year are not earned and cannot be used to liquidate liabilities of the current period. Governmental funds also defer revenue recognition in connection with resources that have been received, but not yet earned. At the end of the current fiscal year, the various components of *unavailable revenue* and *unearned revenue* reported in the governmental funds were as follows:

	<u>Unearned</u>	<u>Unavailable</u>
Property taxes receivable for subsequent year	\$ 5,101,609	-
Accrued interest collected after 60 days from year-end	<u>-</u>	<u>5,295</u>
 Total Unearned Revenue for Governmental Funds - Deferred inflows of resources	 <u>\$ 5,101,609</u>	 <u>\$ 5,295</u>

In addition, \$325,880 of unearned revenue related to ARPA funding and \$297 of unearned revenue related to garbage charges were shown in the governmental funds as a liability.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

C. CAPITAL ASSETS

Governmental Activities	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Capital assets not being depreciated/amortized				
Land	\$ 614,501	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 614,501
Right of way	42,527	28,834	-	71,361
Intangibles	14,200	-	-	14,200
Construction in progress	-	1,066	-	1,066
Total Capital Assets Not Being Depreciated/Amortized	<u>671,228</u>	<u>29,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>701,128</u>
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized				
Buildings and improvements	3,503,829	17,722	8,930	3,512,621
Machinery and equipment	2,520,587	181,803	98,029	2,604,361
Infrastructure	11,543,586	1,112,766	-	12,656,352
Land improvements	474,039	15,795	10,610	479,224
Intangibles	34,107	-	-	34,107
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized	<u>18,076,148</u>	<u>1,328,086</u>	<u>117,569</u>	<u>19,286,665</u>
Total Capital Assets	<u>18,747,376</u>	<u>1,357,986</u>	<u>117,569</u>	<u>19,987,793</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation/amortization for				
Buildings and improvements	(1,336,104)	(83,778)	6,251	(1,413,631)
Machinery and equipment	(1,296,171)	(139,239)	85,289	(1,350,121)
Infrastructure	(5,576,309)	(598,218)	-	(6,174,527)
Land improvements	(231,377)	(24,492)	5,836	(250,033)
Intangibles	(29,857)	(944)	-	(30,801)
Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	<u>(8,469,818)</u>	<u>(846,671)</u>	<u>97,376</u>	<u>(9,219,113)</u>
Net Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized	<u>9,606,330</u>	<u>481,415</u>	<u>20,193</u>	<u>10,067,552</u>
Total Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	<u>\$ 10,277,558</u>	<u>\$ 511,315</u>	<u>\$ 20,193</u>	<u>\$ 10,768,680</u>

Depreciation/amortization expense was charged to functions as follows:

Governmental Activities	
General government	\$ 53,138
Public safety	4,798
Public works	718,005
Library	<u>70,730</u>
Total Governmental Activities Depreciation/Amortization Expense	<u>\$ 846,671</u>

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

D. INTERFUND RECEIVABLES/PAYABLES AND TRANSFERS

Interfund Receivables/Payables

The following is a schedule of interfund receivables and payables including any overdrafts on pooled cash and investment accounts:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General Fund	Special Revenue Fund - American Rescue	\$ 1,500
Total, fund financial statements		1,500
Less fund eliminations		(1,500)
Total internal balances, government-wide statement of net position		\$ -

All amounts are due within one year.

The principal purpose of these interfunds is to transfer the unrestricted investment earnings from the ARPA fund to the Town's general fund. All remaining balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system (3) payments between funds are made.

Transfers

The following is a schedule of interfund transfers:

Fund Transferred To	Fund Transferred From	Amount	Principal Purpose
General Fund	Debt Service Fund	\$ 243,759	Repayment of short-debt issue
General Fund	Special Revenue Fund - American Rescue Plan Grant	17,820	Transfer unrestricted investment earnings
Total, fund financial statements		261,579	
Less fund eliminations		(261,579)	
Total transfer, government-wide statement of activities		\$ -	

Generally, transfers are used to (1) move revenues from the fund that collects them to the fund that the budget requires to expend them, (2) move receipts restricted to debt service from the funds collecting the receipts to the debt service fund and (3) use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

E. SHORT-TERM DEBT ACTIVITY

The Town issued short-term debt for \$240,000 in 2022 for the purpose of funding the 2023 fire department operations costs. The note was due and payable in full on April 30, 2023 and bore interest at a rate of 3.15 percent.

Short-term debt activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Issued	Redeemed	Ending Balance
Short-term note payable	\$ 240,000	\$ -	\$ 240,000	\$ -

F. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Long-term obligations activity for the year ended December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance	Amounts Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities					
Bonds and Notes Payable					
General obligation notes from direct borrowings and direct placements					
	\$ 2,714,692	\$ 820,000	\$ 617,658	\$ 2,917,034	\$ 659,878
Sub-totals	2,714,692	820,000	617,658	2,917,034	659,878
Other Liabilities					
Vested compensated absences					
	150,842	5,042	7,908	147,976	2,518
Net pension liability					
	-	246,674	-	246,674	-
Other postemployment benefits obligation – Town retiree benefits plan					
	34,199	1,264	-	35,463	-
Other postemployment benefits obligation – local retiree life insurance fund					
	170,668	-	69,281	101,387	-
Total Other Liabilities	355,709	252,980	77,189	531,500	2,518
Total Governmental Activities Long-Term Liabilities					
	\$ 3,070,401	\$ 1,072,980	\$ 694,847	\$ 3,448,534	\$ 662,396

In accordance with Wisconsin Statutes, total general obligation indebtedness of the Town may not exceed 5 percent of the equalized value of taxable property within the Town's jurisdiction. The debt limit as of December 31, 2023, was \$134,006,110. Total general obligation debt outstanding at year end was \$2,917,034.

General Obligation Debt

All general obligation notes payable are backed by the full faith and credit of the Town. Notes in the governmental funds will be retired by future property tax levies accumulated by the debt service fund.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

F. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS (cont.)

General Obligation Debt (cont.)

Governmental Activities

General Obligation Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements	Date of Issue	Final Maturity	Interest Rates	Original Indebtedness	Balance December 31, 2023
Bank loan	8/29/19	8/29/24	3.75%	\$ 1,274,000	\$ 274,073
State Trust Fund loan	8/18/20	3/15/30	3.00	1,201,400	866,162
Bank Loan	8/12/21	8/12/31	2.50	1,015,000	831,540
Bank Loan	10/31/22	10/31/27	3.00	154,300	125,259
Bank Loan	10/16/23	10/15/28	5.25	820,000	<u>820,000</u>
Total Governmental Activities - General Obligation Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements					<u>\$ 2,917,034</u>

Debt service requirements to maturity are as follows:

Years	Governmental Activities General Obligation Notes from Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements	
	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 659,878	\$ 104,164
2025	400,320	79,200
2026	415,351	64,169
2027	431,005	48,514
2028	413,518	32,268
2029-2031	<u>596,962</u>	<u>28,711</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 2,917,034</u>	<u>\$ 357,026</u>

The Town's outstanding notes from direct borrowings and / or direct placements related to governmental activities of \$2,050,872 contain event of default and / or termination provisions with possible finance-related consequences. Town management has evaluated the event of default and / or termination provisions with possible finance-related consequences and in the opinion of the Town management, the likelihood is remote that these provisions will have a significant effect on the Town's financial position or results of operations.

The Town's outstanding notes from direct borrowings and / or direct placements related to governmental activities of \$2,050,872 contain a provision that in an event of default, outstanding amounts become immediately due and payable.

Other Debt Information

Estimated payments of vested compensated absences, the net pension liability, and other postemployment benefits obligations are not included in the debt service requirement schedules. The vested compensated absences and other postemployment benefits obligations attributable to governmental activities will be liquidated primarily by the general fund.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

G. NET POSITION/FUND BALANCES

Net position reported on the government wide statement of net position at December 31, 2023, includes the following:

Governmental Activities

Net Investment in Capital Assets	
Land	\$ 614,501
Right of way	71,361
Intangible assets	14,200
Construction in progress	1,066
Other capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization	10,067,552
Less: Long-term debt outstanding	(2,917,034)
Add: Unspent capital-related proceeds	<u>177,752</u>
Total Net Investment in Capital Assets	<u>8,029,398</u>
Restricted	
Park improvements	110,723
Capital improvements and land acquisition	36,689
Library operations	94,831
Fire departments	<u>52,917</u>
Total Restricted	<u>295,160</u>
Unrestricted	<u>2,073,469</u>
Total Governmental Activities Net Position	<u>\$ 10,398,027</u>

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

G. NET POSITION/FUND BALANCES (cont.)

Governmental Funds

Governmental fund balances reported on the fund financial statements at December 31, 2023, include the following:

Nonspendable	
Major Funds	
General Fund	
Delinquent personal property taxes	\$ 832
Prepaid items	103,560
Inventories	<u>118,722</u>
Total	<u>\$ 223,114</u>
Special Revenue Fund	
Library Operations - prepaid items	<u>\$ 17,564</u>
Restricted	
Major Funds	
General Fund	
Capital improvements - unspent proceeds	\$ 177,752
Fire departments - payment in lieu of water tank	<u>52,917</u>
Total	<u>\$ 230,669</u>
Special Revenue Fund	
Library Operations	<u>\$ 77,267</u>
Debt Service Fund	
Debt Payments	<u>\$ 55</u>

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE IV - DETAILED NOTES ON ALL FUNDS (cont.)

G. NET POSITION/FUND BALANCES (cont.)

Governmental Funds (cont.)

Restricted (cont.)

Nonmajor Funds

Special Revenue Funds

Park improvement	\$	110,723
Land acquisition and capital improvements		36,689
Total	\$	<u>147,412</u>

Assigned

Major Fund

General Fund

Fund balance applied to 2024 budget	\$	115,500
Town hall office remodel		9,150
F550 truck chassis		53,791
Town-wide reassessment		84,800
Total	\$	<u>263,241</u>

Unassigned

Major Fund

General Fund	\$	<u>1,786,269</u>
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NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Plan description. The WRS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. WRS benefits and other plan provisions are established by Chapter 40 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Benefit terms may only be modified by the legislature. The retirement system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). The system provides coverage to all eligible State of Wisconsin, local government and other public employees. All employees, initially employed by a participating WRS employer on or after July 1, 2011, expected to work at least 1,200 hours a year and expected to be employed for at least one year from employee's date of hire are eligible to participate in the WRS.

ETF issues a standalone Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which can be found at <http://etf.wi.gov/about-etf/reports-and-studies/financial-reports-and-statements>.

Additionally, ETF issued a standalone Wisconsin Retirement System Financial Report, which can also be found using the link above.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

Vesting. For employees beginning participation on or after January 1, 1990, and no longer actively employed on or after April 24, 1998, creditable service in each of five years is required for eligibility for a retirement annuity. Participants employed prior to 1990 and on or after April 24, 1998, and prior to July 1, 2011, are immediately vested. Participants who initially became WRS eligible on or after July 1, 2011, must have five years of creditable service to be vested.

Benefits provided. Employees who retire at or after age 65 (54 for protective occupation employees, 62 for elected officials and State executive participants) are entitled to receive an unreduced retirement benefit. The factors influencing the benefit are: (1) final average earnings, (2) years of creditable service, and (3) a formula factor.

Final average earnings is the average of the participant's three highest years' earnings. Creditable service is the creditable current and prior service expressed in years or decimal equivalents of partial years for which a participant receives earnings and makes contributions as required. The formula factor is a standard percentage based on employment category.

Employees may retire at age 55 (50 for protective occupation employees) and receive reduced benefits. Employees terminating covered employment before becoming eligible for a retirement benefit may withdraw their contributions and forfeit all rights to any subsequent benefits.

The WRS also provides death and disability benefits for employees.

Post-retirement adjustments. The Employee Trust Funds Board may periodically adjust annuity payments from the retirement system based on annual investment performance in accordance with s. 40.27, Wis. Stat. An increase (or decrease) in annuity payments may result when investment gains (losses), together with other actuarial experience factors, create a surplus (shortfall) in the reserves, as determined by the system's consulting actuary. Annuity increases are not based on cost of living or other similar factors. For Core annuities, decreases may be applied only to previously granted increases. By law, Core annuities cannot be reduced to an amount below the original, guaranteed amount (the "floor") set at retirement. The Core and Variable annuity adjustments granted during recent years are as follows:

Year	Core Fund Adjustment %	Variable Fund Adjustment %
2013	(9.6)	9.0
2014	4.7	25.0
2015	2.9	2.0
2016	0.5	(5.0)
2017	2.0	4.0
2018	2.4	17.0
2019	0.0	(10.0)
2020	1.7	21.0
2021	5.1	13.0
2022	7.4	15.0

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

Contributions. Required contributions are determined by an annual actuarial valuation in accordance with Chapter 40 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The employee required contribution is one-half of the actuarially determined contribution rate for General category employees and Executives and Elected Officials. Starting January 1, 2016, the Executives and Elected Officials category was merged into the General Employee Category. Required contributions for protective employees are the same rate as general employees. Employers are required to contribute the remainder of the actuarially determined contribution rate. The employer may not pay the employee required contribution unless provided for by an existing collective bargaining agreement.

During the reporting period, the WRS recognized \$54,123 in contributions from the town.

Contribution rates for the plan year reported as of December 31, 2023 are:

Employee Category	Employee	Employer
General (Executives and Elected officials)	6.50%	6.50%
Protective with Social Security	6.50%	12.00%
Protective without Social Security	6.50%	16.40%

Pension Liability, Pension Expense (Revenue), Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2023, the Town reported a liability of \$246,674 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021 rolled forward to December 31, 2022. No material changes in assumptions or benefit terms occurred between the actuarial valuation date and the measurement date. The Town's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Town's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating employers. At December 31, 2022, the Town's proportion was 0.00465625 percent, which was a decrease of 0.00003076 percent from its proportion measured as of December 31, 2021.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Town recognized pension expense (revenue) of \$122,210.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

At December 31, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between projected and actual experience	\$ 392,875	\$ 516,150
Changes in assumptions	48,506	-
Net differences between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	419,042	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	914	337
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	57,301	-
Totals	\$ 918,638	\$ 516,487

\$57,301 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from the WRS Employer's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability (asset) in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31:	Deferred Inflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources (net)
2024	\$ 14,320
2025	71,482
2026	73,346
2027	185,702

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

Actuarial assumptions. The total pension liability in the December 31, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Actuarial Valuation Date:	December 31, 2021
Measurement Date of Net Pension Liability (Asset):	December 31, 2022
Experience Study	January 1, 2018-December 31, 2020 Published November 19, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal
Asset Valuation Method:	Fair Value
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return:	6.8%
Discount Rate:	6.8%
Salary Increases:	
Wage Inflation	3.0%
Seniority/Merit	0.1% - 5.6%
Mortality:	2020 WRS Experience Mortality Table
Post-retirement Adjustments*:	1.7%

** No post-retirement adjustment is guaranteed. Actual adjustments are based on recognized investment return, actuarial experience and other factors. 1.7 percent is the assumed annual adjustment based on the investment return assumption and the post-retirement discount rate.*

Actuarial assumptions are based upon an experience study conducted in 2021 that covered a three-year period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. The Total Pension Liability (Asset) for December 31, 2022 is based upon a roll-forward of the liability (asset) calculated from the December 31, 2021 actuarial valuation.

Long-term expected return on plan assets. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

Asset Allocation Targets and Expected Returns* As of December 31, 2022

Core Fund Asset Class	Asset Allocation %	Long-Term Expected Nominal Rate of Return %	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return %**
Public Equity	48	7.6	5
Public Fixed Income	25	5.3	2.7
Inflation Sensitive	19	3.6	1.1
Real Estate	8	5.2	2.6
Private Equity/Debt	15	9.6	6.9
Total Core Fund***	115	7.4	4.8
<u>Variable Fund Asset</u>			
U.S. Equities	70	7.2	4.6
International Equities	30	8.1	5.5
Total Variable Fund	100	7.7	5.1

*Asset Allocations are managed within established ranges; target percentages may differ from actual monthly allocations.

**New England Pension Consultants Long Term US CPI (Inflation) Forecast: 2.5%.

***The investment policy used for the Core Fund involves reducing equity exposure by leveraging lower-volatility assets, such as fixed income securities. This results in an asset allocation beyond 100%. Currently an asset allocation target of 15% policy leverage is used subject to an allowable range of up to 20%.

Single discount rate. A single discount rate of 6.8 percent was used to measure the total pension liability (asset) for the current and prior year. This single discount rate was based on the expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 6.8 percent and a municipal bond rate of 4.05 percent (Source: Fixed-income municipal bonds with 20 years to maturity that include only federally tax-exempt municipal bonds as reported in Fidelity Index's "20-year Municipal GO AA Index" as of December 31, 2022. In describing this index, Fidelity notes that the Municipal Curves are constructed using option-adjusted analytics of a diverse population of over 10,000 tax-exempt securities). Because of the unique structure of WRS, the 6.8 percent expected rate of return implies that a dividend of approximately 1.7 percent will always be paid. For purposes of the single discount rate, it was assumed that the dividend would always be paid. The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments (including expected dividends) of current plan members. Therefore, the municipal bond rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

A. EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (cont.)

Sensitivity of the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the discount rate of 6.8 percent, as well as what the Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (5.8 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (7.8 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease to Discount Rate (5.8%)	Current Discount Rate (6.8%)	1% Increase to Discount Rate (7.8%)
Town's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$818,704	\$246,674	\$(146,833)

Pension plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in separately issued financial statements available at <https://etf.wi.gov/about-etf/reports-and-studies/financial-reports-and-statements>

At December 31, 2023, the Town reported a payable to the pension plan which represents contractually required contributions outstanding as of the end of the year.

B. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; workers compensation; and health care of its employees. All of these risks are covered through the purchase of commercial insurance, with minimal deductibles. Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There were no significant reductions in coverage compared to the prior year.

C. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Claims and judgments are recorded as liabilities if all the conditions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board pronouncements are met. The liability and expenditure for claims and judgments are only reported in governmental funds if it has matured. Claims and judgments are recorded in the government-wide statements and proprietary funds as expenses when the related liabilities are incurred.

The Town signed several contracts in 2023 for purchases and services to be received in 2024 and beyond, including a F550 truck for \$53,791 and town revaluation services for \$84,800.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

C. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (cont.)

From time to time, the Town is party to various pending claims and legal proceedings. Although the outcome of such matters cannot be forecasted with certainty, it is the opinion of management and the town attorney that the likelihood is remote that any such claims or proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the Town's financial position or results of operations.

The Town has received federal and state grants for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies. Such audits could lead to requests for reimbursements to the grantor agency for expenditures disallowed under terms of the grants. Management believes such disallowances, if any, would be immaterial.

D. JOINT VENTURES

Lake Country Municipal Court System

The Town and 19 other communities of Lake Country jointly operate the local municipal court, which is called the Lake Country Municipal Court System and provides non-criminal citation processing.

The governing committee is made up of citizens from each community. Local representatives are appointed by the chief executive officer of each community. The committee recommends its own budget which is ratified by each community member. The committee also controls the financial affairs of the courts.

Financial information of the court as of December 31, 2023 is available directly from the municipal court in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

The Town of Merton does not have an equity interest in the Lake Country Municipal Court System.

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB)

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP)

Plan description. The Town's defined benefit OPEB plan, Town Retiree Benefits Plan (TRBP), provides OPEB for all permanent full-time general and public works employees of the Town. TRBP is a single-employer defined benefit OPEB plan administered by the Town. Article 11 of the State Compiled Statutes grants the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms and financing requirements to the Town Board. No assets are accumulated in a trust that meets the criteria in paragraph 4 of Statement 75.

Benefits provided. TRBP provides healthcare benefits for retirees and their dependents. The benefit terms provide for retirees to remain on the Town's health insurance plan at the retiree's cost.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP) (cont.)

Employees covered by benefit terms. At January 1, 2023, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Active plan members with health insurance coverage	12
Active plan members opting out of health insurance coverage	<u>3</u>
Total plan members	<u>15</u>

Total OPEB Liability

The Town's total OPEB liability of \$35,463 was measured as of January 1, 2023, and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

Actuarial assumptions and other inputs. The total OPEB liability in the January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	3.00 percent, average, including inflation
Healthcare cost trend rates	7.0 percent for 2023, decreasing 0.5 percent per year to an ultimate rate of 4.5 percent for 2028 and later years
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	100 percent of projected health insurance premiums for retirees

The discount rate of 4.31 percent was based on a yield for 20-year tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher (or equivalent quality on another rating scale).

Mortality rates were based on the SOA Pub-2010 Headcount Weighted Mortality Table fully generational using Scale MP-2021.

The actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2023 valuation were based on employer history, WRS actuarial studies, national trend surveys, and professional judgement.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP) (cont.)

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability

	Total OPEB Liability
Balances at January 1, 2023	\$ 34,199
Service cost	4,994
Interest	882
Differences between expected and actual experience	(2,571)
Changes in assumptions and other inputs	(2,041)
Net changes	1,264
Balances at December 31, 2023	\$ 35,463

There were no changes of benefit terms for the January 1, 2023 actuarial valuation.

Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 2.25 percent in 2022 to 4.31 percent in 2023. Health care trend rates have been updated to an initial rate of 7.0 percent decreasing annually to an ultimate rate of 4.5 percent.

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Town, as well as what the Town's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (3.31 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (5.31 percent) than the current discount rate:

	1% Decrease (3.31%)	Discount Rate (4.31%)	1% Increase (5.31%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 36,495	\$ 35,463	\$ 34,376

Sensitivity of the total OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates. The following presents the total OPEB liability of the Town, as well as what the Town's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1-percentage-point lower (6.0 percent decreasing to 3.5 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.0 percent decreasing to 5.5 percent) than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	1% Decrease (6.0% Decreasing to 3.5%)	Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (7.0% Decreasing to 4.5%)	1% Increase (8.0% Decreasing to 5.5%)
Total OPEB liability	\$ 32,524	\$ 35,463	\$ 38,706

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP) (cont.)

OPEB Expense (Revenue) and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Town recognized OPEB expense (revenue) of \$(370). At December 31, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 11,225
Changes of assumptions	1,697	1,633
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,143	-
Total	\$ 3,840	\$ 12,858

\$2,143 reported as deferred outflows related to OPEB resulting from the actuarially estimated employer-paid contributions for retiree health benefits subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the OPEB liability in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year Ended December 31:	Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources (net)
2024	\$ (4,846)
2025	(2,736)
2026	(2,653)
2027	(926)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF)

Plan description. The LRLIF is a multiple-employer, defined benefit OPEB plan. LRLIF benefits and other plan provisions are established by Chapter 40 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the Group Insurance Board have statutory authority for program administration and oversight. The plan provides post-employment life insurance benefits for all eligible employees.

ETF issues a standalone Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which can be found at <https://etfonline.wi.gov/about-eftr-reports-and-studies/financial-reports-and-statements>.

Additionally, ETF issued a standalone Retiree Life Insurance Financial Report, which can be found at the link above.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF) (cont.)

Benefits provided. The LRLIF plan provides fully paid up life insurance benefits for post-age 64 retired employees and pre-65 retirees who pay for their coverage.

Contributions. The Group Insurance Board approves contribution rates annually, based on recommendations from the insurance carrier. Recommended rates are based on an annual valuation, taking into consideration an estimate of the present value of future benefits and the present value of future contributions. A portion of employer contributions made during a member's working lifetime funds a post-retirement benefit.

Employers are required to pay the following contribution based on employee contributions for active members to provide them with Basic Coverage after age 65. There are no employer contributions required for pre-age 65 annuitant coverage. If a member retires prior to age 65, they must continue paying the member premiums until age 65 in order to be eligible for the benefit after age 65.

Contribution rates for the plan year reported as of December 31, 2023 are:

Coverage Type	Employer Contributions
50% Post Retirement Coverage	40% of member contributions
25% Post Retirement Coverage	20% of member contributions

Member contributions are based upon nine age bands through age 69 and an additional eight age bands for those age 70 and over. Participating members must pay monthly contribution rates per \$1,000 of coverage until the age of 65 (age 70 if active). The member contribution rates in effect for the plan year are as listed below:

Life Insurance Member Contribution Rates For the Plan Year

<u>Attained Age</u>	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Supplemental</u>
Under 30	\$0.05	\$0.05
30-34	0.06	0.06
35-39	0.07	0.07
40-44	0.08	0.08
45-49	0.12	0.12
50-54	0.22	0.22
55-59	0.39	0.39
60-64	0.49	0.49
65-69	0.57	0.57

Disabled members under age 70 receive a waiver-of-premium benefit.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF) (cont.)

During the reporting period, the LRLIF recognized \$533 in contributions from the employer.

OPEB Liability, OPEB Expense (Revenue), and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEBs

At December 31, 2023, the Town reported a liability of \$101,387 for its proportionate share of the net OPEB liability. The net OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2022 rolled forward to December 31, 2022. No material changes in assumptions or benefit terms occurred between the actuarial valuation date and the measurement date. The Town's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the Town's share of contributions to the OPEB plan relative to the contributions of all participating employers. At December 31, 2022, the Town's proportion was .02661200 percent, which was an increase of .00226400 percent from its proportion measured as of December 31, 2021.

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Town recognized OPEB expense (revenue) of \$10,771.

At December 31, 2023, the Town reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 9,923
Changes in actuarial assumptions	36,427	59,847
Net differences between projected and actual investment earnings on plan investments	1,902	-
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	13,297	9,981
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	3,858	-
Total	\$ 55,484	\$ 79,751

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (CONT.)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF) (cont.)

\$3,858 reported as deferred outflows related to OPEB resulting from the LRLIF Employer's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability (asset) in the year ended December 31, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense (revenue) as follows:

Year ended December 31:	Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources (net)
2024	\$ (875)
2025	(1,286)
2026	517
2027	(5,490)
2028	(10,425)
Thereafter	(10,566)

Actuarial assumptions. The total OPEB liability in the actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Actuarial Valuation Date:	January 1, 2022
Measurement Date of Net OPEB Liability (Asset):	December 31, 2022
Experience Study:	January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2020, Published November 19, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method:	Entry Age Normal
20 Year Tax-Exempt Municipal Bond Yield*	3.72%
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return:	4.25%
Discount Rate:	3.76%
Salary Increases:	
Wage Inflation	3.0%
Seniority/Merit	0.10% - 5.60%
Mortality:	2020 WRS Experience Mortality Table

*Based on the Bond Buyers GO index.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF) (cont.)

Actuarial assumptions are based upon an experience study conducted in 2021 that covered a three-year period from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. The Total OPEB Liability for December 31, 2022 is based upon a roll-forward of the liability calculated from the January 1, 2022 actuarial valuation.

Long-term expected return on plan assets. The long-term expected rate of return is determined by adding expected inflation to expected long-term real returns and reflecting expected volatility and correlation. Investments for the LRLIF are held with Securian, the insurance carrier. Interest is calculated and credited to the LRLIF based on the rate of return for a segment of the insurance carriers' general fund, specifically 10-year A-Bonds (as a proxy, and not tied to any specific investments). The overall aggregate interest rate is calculated using a tiered approach based on the year the funds were originally invested and the rate of return for that year. Investment interest is credited based on the aggregate rate of return and assets are not adjusted to fair market value. Furthermore, the insurance carrier guarantees the principal amounts of the reserves, including all interest previously credited thereto.

State OPEB Life Insurance Asset Allocation Targets and Expected Returns As of December 31, 2022

Asset Class	Index	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Geometric Real Rate of Return
US Intermediate Credit Bonds	Bloomberg US Interim Credit	50.00%	2.45%
US Mortgages	Bloomberg US MBS	50.00%	2.83%
Inflation			2.30%
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return			4.25%

The long-term expected rate of return remained unchanged from the prior year at 4.25 percent. The long-term expected rate of return is determined by adding expected inflation to the expected long-term real returns and reflecting expected volatility and correlation. The expected inflation rate remained unchanged from the prior year at 2.30%.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

E. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (OPEB) (cont.)

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF) (cont.)

Single discount rate. A single discount rate of 3.76 percent was used to measure the total OPEB liability for the current year, as opposed to a discount rate of 2.17 percent for the prior year. The significant change in the discount rate was primarily caused by the increase in the municipal bond rate from 2.06 percent as of December 31, 2021 to 3.72 percent as of December 31, 2022. The Plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the discount rate for calculating the Total OPEB Liability is equal to the single equivalent rate that results in the same actuarial present value as the long-term expected rate of return applied to benefit payments, to the extent that the plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to make projected benefit payments, and the municipal bond rate applied to benefit payment to the extent that the plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be insufficient. The plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current play members through December 31, 2036.

The projection of cash flows used to determine the single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made according to the current employer contribution schedule and that contributions are made by plan members retiring prior to age 65.

Sensitivity of the Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate. The following presents the Town's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 3.76 percent, as well as what the Commission's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (2.76 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (4.76 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease to Discount Rate (2.76%)	Current Discount Rate (3.76%)	1% Increase to Discount Rate (4.76%)
Net OPEB liability	\$138,231	\$101,387	\$73,151

OPEB plan fiduciary net position. Detailed information about the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is available in separately issued financial statements available at <http://etf.wi.gov/publications/cafr.htm>.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
As of and for the Year Ended December 31, 2023

NOTE V - OTHER INFORMATION (cont.)

F. EFFECT OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ON CURRENT-PERIOD FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has approved the following:

- Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*
- Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*
- Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*

When they become effective, application of these standards may restate portions of these financial statements.

G. SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Pursuant to Town Ordinance, payments into the Land Acquisition and Capital Improvement Fund are made by subdividers in lieu of public land dedication for the acquisition or capital improvement of public sites and facilities to serve future community growth. Also pursuant to Town ordinance, payments into the Park Fund are made by developers and/or subdividers for the purpose of constructing park facilities. Payments received pursuant to these ordinances are classified as public improvement revenues. In addition, the payments received must be spent in accordance with the Town Ordinance and state statutes. Any unspent funds must be refunded to the current property owner.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 1,833,922	\$ 1,833,922	\$ 1,833,113	\$ (809)
Intergovernmental	548,394	564,894	585,347	20,453
Licenses and permits	236,128	236,128	314,960	78,832
Fines, forfeitures and penalties	28,100	28,100	14,927	(13,173)
Public charges for services	1,003,663	1,003,663	1,011,885	8,222
Investment income	25,000	38,200	217,734	179,534
Miscellaneous	21,411	22,711	27,882	5,171
Total Revenues	3,696,618	3,727,618	4,005,848	278,230
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
General government	549,405	557,255	540,885	16,370
Public safety	1,371,807	1,392,657	1,387,761	4,896
Public works	1,431,560	1,431,560	1,263,918	167,642
Health and sanitation	1,006,724	1,006,724	984,181	22,543
Park and recreation	3,600	10,200	10,000	200
Capital outlay	855,942	855,942	635,512	220,430
Debt service				
Interest and fiscal charges	1,000	4,478	4,478	-
Total Expenditures	5,220,038	5,258,816	4,826,735	432,081
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	(1,523,420)	(1,531,198)	(820,887)	710,311
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Transfers in	2,000	262,259	261,579	(680)
Proceeds from the sale of capital assets	2,000	2,000	41,338	39,338
Debt issued	855,942	855,942	820,000	(35,942)
Total Other Financing Sources	859,942	1,120,201	1,122,917	2,716
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$ (663,478)	\$ (410,997)	302,030	\$ 713,027
FUND BALANCE - Beginning of Year			2,201,263	
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR			\$ 2,503,293	

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - LIBRARY OPERATIONS
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES				
Taxes	\$ 521,333	\$ 521,333	\$ 521,333	\$ -
Intergovernmental	157,560	160,112	161,550	1,438
Public charges for services	1,000	1,000	1,954	954
Investment income	-	-	341	341
Miscellaneous	-	9,500	12,125	2,625
Total Revenues	<u>679,893</u>	<u>691,945</u>	<u>697,303</u>	<u>5,358</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current - Library				
Wages	344,846	337,238	314,828	22,410
Benefits	104,927	111,271	105,021	6,250
Materials	64,151	70,051	70,264	(213)
Automation	28,626	34,630	33,067	1,563
Supplies	10,000	10,000	8,370	1,630
Building and grounds maintenance	46,000	47,351	51,298	(3,947)
Utilities	16,000	16,000	18,468	(2,468)
Insurance	12,000	12,000	10,401	1,599
Town overhead	17,561	17,561	17,561	-
Other	35,782	35,843	36,330	(487)
Total Expenditures	<u>679,893</u>	<u>691,945</u>	<u>665,608</u>	<u>26,337</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	31,695	<u>\$ 31,695</u>
FUND BALANCE - Beginning of Year			<u>63,136</u>	
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR			<u>\$ 94,831</u>	

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
 BUDGET AND ACTUAL - SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN GRANT FUND
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
REVENUES				
Intergovernmental	\$ 596,811	\$ 596,811	\$ 273,809	\$ (323,002)
Investment income	2,000	18,500	17,820	(680)
Total Revenues	<u>598,811</u>	<u>615,311</u>	<u>291,629</u>	<u>(323,682)</u>
EXPENDITURES				
Current				
Public safety	240,292	240,292	240,292	-
Capital outlay	<u>356,519</u>	<u>356,519</u>	<u>33,517</u>	<u>323,002</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>596,811</u>	<u>596,811</u>	<u>273,809</u>	<u>323,002</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>2,000</u>	<u>18,500</u>	<u>17,820</u>	<u>(680)</u>
OTHER FINANCING USES				
Transfers out	<u>(2,000)</u>	<u>(18,500)</u>	<u>(17,820)</u>	<u>680</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
FUND BALANCE - Beginning of Year			-	
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR			<u>\$ -</u>	

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET) - WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

WRS Fiscal Year Ended	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
12/31/2014	0.00452394%	\$ (111,120)	\$ 644,151	17.25%	102.74%
12/31/2015	0.00469323%	76,264	701,645	10.87%	98.20%
12/31/2016	0.00485789%	40,041	721,724	5.55%	99.12%
12/31/2017	0.00493512%	(146,529)	717,881	20.41%	102.93%
12/31/2018	0.00490037%	174,339	743,718	23.44%	96.45%
12/31/2019	0.00478416%	(154,263)	749,894	20.57%	102.96%
12/31/2020	0.00474015%	(295,934)	785,339	37.68%	105.26%
12/31/2021	0.00468701%	(377,781)	806,432	46.85%	106.02%
12/31/2022	0.00465625%	246,674	832,656	29.62%	95.72%

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS - WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Town Fiscal Year Ended	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
12/31/2015	\$ 47,714	\$ 47,714	\$ -	\$ 701,645	6.80%
12/31/2016	47,634	47,634	-	721,724	6.60%
12/31/2017	48,815	48,815	-	717,881	6.80%
12/31/2018	49,829	49,829	-	743,718	6.70%
12/31/2019	49,118	49,118	-	749,894	6.55%
12/31/2020	53,011	53,011	-	785,339	6.75%
12/31/2021	54,435	54,435	-	806,432	6.75%
12/31/2022	54,123	54,123	-	832,656	6.50%
12/31/2023	57,301	57,301	-	842,669	6.80%

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS -
OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OBLIGATION - TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total OPEB Liability						
Service cost	\$ 3,696	\$ 4,041	\$ 3,810	\$ 4,469	\$ 5,158	\$ 4,994
Interest	1,416	1,452	1,663	1,176	890	882
Prior year activity	33,471	-	-	-	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(1,002)	(6,122)	(13,055)	(1,418)	(9,981)	(2,571)
Changes of assumptions	575	(883)	2,529	992	1,322	(2,041)
Net Change in Total OPEB Liability	38,156	(1,512)	(5,053)	5,219	(2,611)	1,264
Total OPEB Liability - Beginning	-	38,156	36,644	31,591	36,810	34,199
Total OPEB Liability - Ending	<u>\$ 38,156</u>	<u>\$ 36,644</u>	<u>\$ 31,591</u>	<u>\$ 36,810</u>	<u>\$ 34,199</u>	<u>\$ 35,463</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 709,893	\$ 730,375	\$ 756,782	\$ 765,590	\$ 789,426	\$ 840,123
Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	5.37%	5.02%	4.17%	4.81%	4.33%	4.22%

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
OBLIGATION - TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 743,718	\$ 749,894	\$ 785,339	\$ 806,433	\$ 832,656	\$ 842,669
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY - LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Plan Fiscal Year End	Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
12/31/17	0.02128800%	\$ 64,047	\$ 895,221	7.15%	44.81%
12/31/18	0.02202200%	56,824	729,000	7.79%	48.69%
12/31/19	0.02484600%	105,799	752,000	14.07%	37.58%
12/31/20	0.02725400%	149,917	710,000	21.12%	31.36%
12/31/21	0.02876000%	170,668	832,000	20.51%	29.57%
12/31/22	0.02661200%	101,387	733,000	13.83%	38.81%

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS - LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Town Fiscal Year End	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
12/31/18	\$ 3,143	\$ 3,143	-	\$ 743,718	0.42%
12/31/19	3,581	3,581	-	749,894	0.48%
12/31/20	3,917	3,917	-	785,340	0.50%
12/31/21	5,093	5,093	-	806,433	0.63%
12/31/22	3,823	3,823	-	832,656	0.46%
12/31/23	3,858	3,858	-	842,669	0.46%

See independent auditors' report and accompanying notes
to required supplementary information.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

Budgetary information is derived from the annual operating budget and is presented using the same basis of accounting for each fund as described in Note I. C.

The budgeted amounts presented include any amendments made. The Town may authorize transfers of budgeted amounts within departments. Transfers between departments and changes to the overall budget must be approved by a two-thirds action.

WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The amounts determined for each fiscal year were determined as of the calendar year-end and occurred within the fiscal year.

The Town is required to present the last ten years of data; however, accounting standards allow the presentation of as many years as are available until ten fiscal years are presented.

Changes in benefit terms. There were no changes of benefit terms for any participating employer in the Wisconsin Retirement System.

Changes in assumptions. Based on a three-year experience study conducted in 2021 covering January, 2018 through December 31, 2020, the ETF Board adopted assumption changes that were used to measure the total pension liability (asset) beginning with the year-end December 31, 2021, including the following:

- Lowering the long-term expected rate of return from 7.0% to 6.8%
- Lowering the discount rate from 7.0% to 6.8%
- Lowering the price inflation rate from 2.5% to 2.4%
- Lowering the post-retirement adjustments from 1.9% to 1.7%
- Mortality assumptions were changed to reflect updated trends by transitioning from the Wisconsin 2018 Mortality Table to the 2020 WRS Experience Mortality Table

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP)

The amounts determined for each fiscal year were determined as of the calendar year end and occurred within the fiscal year.

The Town is required to present the last ten years of data; however, accounting standards allow the presentation of as many years as are available until ten fiscal years are presented.

TOWN OF MERTON

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

TOWN RETIREE BENEFITS PLAN (TRBP) (cont.)

Changes in benefit terms. There were no changes of benefit terms for Town.

Changes in assumptions. The actuarial assumptions used in the January 1, 2023 valuation were based on employer history, WRS actuarial studies, national trend surveys, and professional judgement. The following assumptions have been updated:

- The discount rate of 4.31% was based on a yield for 20-year tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher (or equivalent quality on another rating scale).
- Health care trend rates have been updated to an initial rate of 7.0% decreasing annually to an ultimate rate of 4.5%.

LOCAL RETIREE LIFE INSURANCE FUND (LRLIF)

The amounts determined for each fiscal year were determined as of the calendar year-end and occurred within the fiscal year.

The Town is required to present the last ten years of data; however, accounting standards allow the presentation of as many years as are available until ten fiscal years are presented.

Changes in benefit terms. There were no changes of benefit terms for any participating employer in LRLIF.

Changes in assumptions. In addition to the rate changes detailed in the tables above, the State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund Board adopted economic and demographic assumption changes based on a three-year experience study performed for the Wisconsin Retirement System. These assumptions are used in the actuarial valuations of OPEB liabilities (assets) for the retiree life insurance programs and are summarized below.

The assumption changes that were used to measure the December 31, 2021 total OPEB liabilities, including the following:

- Lowering the price inflation rate from 2.5% to 2.4%
- Mortality assumptions were changed to reflect updated trends by transitioning from the Wisconsin 2018 Mortality Table to the 2020 WRS Experience Mortality Table

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

TOWN OF MERTON

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Special Revenue Funds</u>		
	<u>Park Improvement Fund</u>	<u>Land Acquisition and Capital Improvements Fund</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Funds</u>
ASSETS			
Cash and investments	<u>\$ 110,723</u>	<u>\$ 36,689</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>
FUND BALANCES			
Fund balances			
Restricted	<u>\$ 110,723</u>	<u>\$ 36,689</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>\$ 110,723</u>	<u>\$ 36,689</u>	<u>\$ 147,412</u>

TOWN OF MERTON

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds		
	Park Improvement Fund	Land Acquisition and Capital Improvements Fund	Total Nonmajor Funds
REVENUES			
Public improvement revenue	\$ 6,000	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Investment income	6,211	1,794	8,005
Total revenues	12,211	1,794	14,005
EXPENDITURES			
Capital outlay	20,944	-	20,944
Total expenditures	20,944	-	20,944
Net Changes in Fund Balances	(8,733)	1,794	(6,939)
FUND BALANCES - Beginning of Year	119,456	34,895	154,351
FUND BALANCES - END OF YEAR	\$ 110,723	\$ 36,689	\$ 147,412