

Stoughton Town Crier

TOWN OF STOUGHTON UPDATED DECEMBER 17, 2024 ROBERTA HARBACK



All information taken from various Town of Stoughton pages



Selectboard Agenda

Tuesday Dec. 17, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

Great Hall Town Hall 3rd floor & virtually with Google Meets

In accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, which extends the Governor's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.C. 30A § 20", until March 31, 2025, this meeting will be conducted both in person and virtually via Google Meets.

To Join via Google Meets: gxc-oicb-znj
PHONE: 315-858-8257
PIN: 201 888 982#

The meeting will be recorded by SMAC cable television and broadcast live and may be livestreamed at www.stoughtontv.org. A recording of the meeting, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceeding will be posted on the Town's website and/or SMAC as soon as possible after the meeting if the live broadcast or livestreaming is unsuccessful. Times are approximate and items may be taken out of order at the Chair's discretion.

1. 7:00 p.m. **OPEN SESSION**
Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. 7:05 p.m. Citizens' Comments
3. 7:15 p.m. Select Board Comments
4. 7:25 p.m. Town Manager Comments
5. 7:30 p.m. Water & Sewer Rates Hearing
6. 7:50 p.m. Interview and consideration of appointment of Town Clerk -
Votes may be taken
 - Rogeria Medeiros-Kowalczykowski
7. 8:10 p.m. FY26 Budget Presentation
8. 8:30 p.m. Annual License Renewals - Votes may be taken
 - Attachment A (Complete Applications)
 - Attachment B (Incomplete Applications)
 - Attachment C (Non-renewed Applications)
9. 8:45 p.m. **Consent Agenda:**
 - a. Application for a Chanukah Dreidel Display and 1-Day Menorah Display - Shalom House Chabad
 - b. Ratification and final approval of executive session vote to approve the Stoughton Town Hall Employees Association and Stoughton Library Staff Association Memorandums of Agreement
10. 8:50 p.m. Special Town Meeting Warrant - Votes may be taken
 - a. Insert Articles into Special Town Meeting Warrant
 - b. Close Special Town Meeting Warrant
 - c. Set the Date for Special Town Meeting

Tom Calter
Town Manager
Keith Nastasia
Water/Sewer
Superintendent

Marc Tidelle
Town Engineer

Marc Tidelle
Town Engineer



STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SHS & OMS Winter Concerts

SHS Band & Choir Concert
Wednesday, December 18, 2024 • 7pm

OMS Choir Concert
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 • 7pm

OMS 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 • 7pm

OMS 6th Grade Band Concert
Wednesday, January 22, 2025 • 7pm

Concerts are held in the SHS Auditorium



All Ages Holiday Sing Along With David Polansky

Thursday, December 19th, 6:30-7:30pm.

Holiday Fun For Everyone!

All Ages
All Holidays
No Registration Required



Stoughton
Public Library

Stoughton Public Library

84 Park St., Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072 | 781-344-2711

<https://www.stoughton.org/657/library>



Happy Holidays

From your friends at Stoughton Media Access Corp.

As we get ready to kick-off 2025, we look forward to continuing our mission of serving as a vital resource for the Stoughton community by providing access to independent, local, Public, Education, Government related programming that are timely as they relate to events affecting the Town of Stoughton that inform, inspire and educate. We are dedicated to providing unbiased and equal access for all points of view to the public, local programmers and government stakeholders that ensure Stoughton residents have access to transparent and topical content. We strive to provide access to the equipment, studios and public spaces throughout Stoughton to foster the expression of all points of view for informational and entertainment purposes creating a forum with positive atmosphere in which all Stoughton residents belong.

We look forward to working with you in the New Year!

stoughtontv.com

781-341-1708

421 Page Street, Suite 2

Verizon: Public 28 / Education 26 / Government 24

Comcast: Public 1073 (HD) 9 (SD) / Education 6 / Government 8





Town Hall Pocket Park and Exterior Public Access Improvement Project

Public Survey Open – Please Voice Your Opinion

The Town of Stoughton would like your input. At the Annual Town Meeting in 2023 an Article was approved to prepare design plans for improvements to Town Hall parking and site improvements.

The project goals are to increase public parking and to improve traffic circulation, accessibility access and safety as well as enhance the appearance of Town Hall by providing a public pocket park with amenities and landscaping.

The design is complete. Use QR Code to view and complete survey or see Survey Notice at stoughton.org under News and Announcements. The Survey has a link to the plans.

The survey will be open until Wednesday, December 18th.

Hard copies of the survey as well as a copy of the plan are available at the Engineering Department on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

If you have any questions you may contact Marc Tisdelle at mtisdelle@stoughton-ma.gov or 781-341-1300 x9263. Thank you.



We have had some recycling questions come up recently so here is some info for you to pass on.



ALL recycling can go together.

No more separating paper from plastics. The recycling plant we go to does that for us.

If you buy a recycle barrel it must be 32 gallons or smaller.

We have free "RECYCLABLES" stickers here at the DPW to place on the barrels.

We have these guides in several languages.

If you know someone that needs them please let us know.

Any questions? please feel free to reach out to the office

Thank you!

B"H



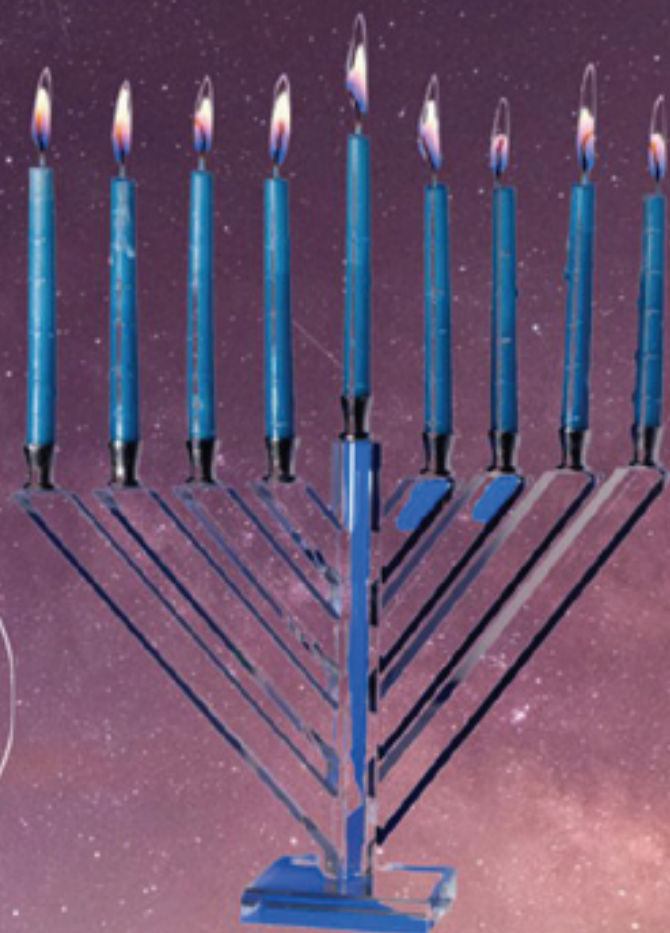
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

Stoughton Center Menorah Lighting

SECOND NIGHT
THURSDAY, DEC. 26TH
5:00 PM

SPONSORED BY:

Town of Stoughton Recreation
Department &
Shalom House Chabad



For more information
www.shalohhouse.com
781-344-6334

No Street Parking 1 a.m. to 6 a.m.

beginning
midnight December 1, 2024
through
April 1, 2025.

There is no authorized street or
municipal parking.

Vehicles are subject to being
ticketed and or towed



Town Hall Holiday Hours



Tuesday December 24 closing at noon

Wednesday December 25 closed

Thursday December 26 closed

Friday December 27 8:30- noon

Happy Holidays



Entrepreneurship
&
Building Wealth

Public Health
&
Education

Pursuing your purpose

Economic & Community
Development

Featured
Speakers
TBA!

What Is It Like To Be
Black In America?

Let's normalize this conversation!

Save The Date!

Monday January
20th 2025

10am-2pm

Stoughton Public Library

Presented By :
The MLK Jr. 2025
Committee

Debra Roberts
Bettye Sabree
Dr. Patricia Randolph
Christianna Odunze
Carma Pearl-Ohimor
Carla Smith
Eryn Roberts

Free Admission, Arts and Crafts For Children , Food and Drinks Will Be Available!



TOWN OF STOUGHTON

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

10 Pearl Street – Stoughton, MA 02072 (781) 341-1300 Fax (781) 297-2879

December 11, 2024

Re: Moody's Aa2 Credit Opinion

To the Citizens of Stoughton,

I recently read a post written by a local activist claiming that the Town leaders were refusing to publicize the Town bond rating until after the upcoming election. I really don't understand why she would make such a claim when she has never requested that information. We are very proud of the Town's bond rating and our financial standing among all Massachusetts communities. Attached please find Moody's executive summary of its credit opinion for the Town of Stoughton, published on 10/17/2024. Please note that the Town proudly maintains its Aa2 bond rating. The report references the Town's **"positive financial operations driven by conservative budget practices"** as one of the Town's credit strengths.

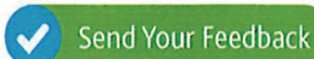
I recognize that the Moody's credit opinion differs dramatically from that cascaded by the activist who claims that the Town has no budgeting guardrails. Stoughton's Town leaders work closely with the Massachusetts DOR, Moody's and our independent auditors to ensure that conservative fiscal policies are followed. That is the reason that Stoughton is held in such high regard by those whose job it is to monitor the financial performance and practices of 351 cities and towns across Massachusetts. The Town of Stoughton is on a strong financial footing and growing stronger each year.

Sincerely,

Thomas Calter
Stoughton Town Manager

CREDIT OPINION

17 October 2024



Contacts

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Asia Pacific 852-3551-3077
Japan 81-3-5408-4100
EMEA 44-20-7772-5454

Town of Stoughton, MA

Update to credit analysis

Summary

The credit profile for the [Town of Stoughton, Massachusetts](#) (Aa2 issuer and GOLT, MIG 1 BAN) will remain stable, as management continues to implement conservative budgetary practices and raise revenues through rate assessments on services. The town additionally benefits from its location as a relatively affordable Boston suburb; demand has resulted in tax base growth and some new development. Long term liabilities and fixed costs are manageable.

On October 17, 2024 we assigned an Aa2 rating to the town's general obligation limited tax (GOLT) bonds.

Credit strengths

- » Diverse economy supported by commercial and industrial development
- » Positive financial operations driven by conservative budgetary practices
- » Modest leverage and fixed costs

Credit challenges

- » Available fund balance ratio below medians
- » Limited revenue raising flexibility under Proposition 2 ½ tax levy limit

Rating outlook

Moody's does not assign outlooks to local governments with this amount of debt outstanding.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

- » Available fund balance exceeding 40% of revenue
- » Growth and diversification of local economy
- » Decline in leverage as a percent of revenue

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

- » Decline in available fund balance ratio to below 20%
- » Contraction of local economy resulting in worsened resident incomes and/or equalized value per capita
- » Significant increase in leverage

Key indicators

Exhibit 1

Stoughton (Town of) MA

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Aa Medians
Economy					
Resident income ratio (%)	123.5%	125.1%	116.7%	N/A	115.2%
Full Value (\$000)	\$4,014,565	\$4,681,174	\$4,681,174	\$5,187,578	\$2,753,876
Population	28,742	29,028	29,051	N/A	22,803
Full value per capita (\$)	\$139,676	\$161,264	\$161,136	\$178,568	\$168,209
Annual Growth in Real GDP	-1.5%	7.0%	2.3%	N/A	4.9%
Financial Performance					
Revenue (\$000)	\$151,073	\$150,696	\$147,489	\$161,221	\$49,930
Available fund balance (\$000)	\$46,711	\$44,677	\$44,628	\$42,396	\$27,007
Net unrestricted cash (\$000)	\$69,683	\$64,425	\$90,663	\$96,135	\$36,277
Available fund balance ratio (%)	30.9%	29.6%	30.3%	26.3%	54.0%
Liquidity ratio (%)	46.1%	42.8%	61.5%	59.6%	75.9%
Leverage					
Debt (\$000)	\$114,464	\$108,862	\$127,203	\$121,388	\$35,831
Adjusted net pension liabilities (\$000)	\$121,065	\$130,696	\$154,326	\$88,892	\$55,367
Adjusted net OPEB liabilities (\$000)	\$139,014	\$176,098	\$145,495	\$123,553	\$5,248
Other long-term liabilities (\$000)	\$2,139	\$3,424	\$4,020	\$4,444	\$1,716
Long-term liabilities ratio (%)	249.3%	278.1%	292.3%	209.8%	244.9%
Fixed costs					
Implied debt service (\$000)	\$7,963	\$8,197	\$7,636	\$8,884	\$2,465
Pension tread water contribution (\$000)	\$3,863	\$3,386	\$2,336	N/A	\$1,563
OPEB contributions (\$000)	\$4,032	\$4,193	\$4,349	\$4,625	\$178
Implied cost of other long-term liabilities (\$000)	\$153	\$153	\$240	\$281	\$116
Fixed-costs ratio (%)	10.6%	10.6%	9.9%	10.0%	10.7%

For definitions of the metrics in the table above please refer to the [US Cities and Counties Methodology](#) or see the Glossary in the Appendix below. Metrics represented as N/A indicate the data were not available at the time of publication. The medians come from our most recently published [US Cities and Counties Median Report](#).

The real GDP annual growth metric cited above is for the Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH Metropolitan Statistical Area Metropolitan Statistical Area.

[1] 2025 full value \$6.28 billion; FVPC \$216,294 based on 2022 population

Sources: US Census Bureau, Stoughton (Town of) MA's financial statements and Moody's Ratings, US Bureau of Economic Analysis

Profile

Stoughton is located approximately 19 miles from [Boston](#) (Aaa stable). The town has a land area of 16 square miles and a population of over 29,000. The town provides general government service including police and fire protection, garbage disposal, public education for grades kindergarten through twelve, water and sewer, street maintenance, and recreational facilities including a nine-hole golf course.

Detailed credit considerations

Stoughton's local economy will continue to benefit from its proximity to Boston. The town is primarily residential, with a stable but slightly older population (median age of 46 compared to 39 nationally) and above average resident incomes. Equalized value increased in 2025 by about 21%, reflecting property value growth and new development, including apartments and senior housing which diversifies available housing stock in a high demand community. New mixed use, commercial and light industrial developments have also contributed to the diversification of the tax base.

Stoughton's financial position will remain stable with preliminary projections for fiscal 2024 showing an operating surplus. This surplus was driven by positive variances in both expenditures and revenue, as the town had increased water, sewer and sanitation rates in addition to property tax and building permit revenue growth.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the Issuer/deal page on <https://ratings.moodys.com> for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Welcome to the Town Manager's Office!

On December 12, 2022 I was honored to begin my career in Stoughton. After enjoying a successful career in business, as a State Legislator and as a Town Administrator, I've taken on this challenge with eyes wide open. From a career of professional experiences, successes and mistakes, I join the Town well prepared to meet the challenges, and leverage the opportunities before us. I want you to know that I am true and committed to several core values.

First, you can always expect transactional honesty from me. I will respectfully say what I mean and mean what I say. Second, I am committed to openness and full transparency. Secrets, hidden agendas and old grievances will not play any part in my decision making process nor, will they eat up the valuable time needed to do this job properly. Third, you can always expect me to use prudent fiscal judgement. We have real financial challenges and clear solutions which will require your understanding and support. I am not promising a "Rose Garden". I am promising however, that within three years, the Town of Stoughton will stand on a strong financial footing.

We have some challenges that are among my top priorities. As Stoughton looks forward to its 300th Anniversary, it's important to understand that our infrastructure is old and has been neglected for decades. We seldom appreciate the value of clean running water and efficient waste management until those services are interrupted or lost. We all share 112 miles of Stoughton roads. Only 24.1 miles require minimal or no maintenance. As we develop a long-term infrastructure plan, we need to coordinate the replacement of 100 year old water and waste water distribution lines with the pavement of those roads. We need to replace water meters that are not properly recording water consumption. This may appear to be getting into the weeds. However, the condition of our water and sewer lines, town buildings, and town roads is beneath the standard you deserve. Meeting those challenges is among my top priorities. Meeting you and hearing your views will be among my greatest joys!

In closing, I want you to know that openness, transparency and constituent service are among my core values. Those values served me well as a business executive, business owner, legislator and municipal leader. Your confidence in Stoughton town government is needed in order for us to move our common agenda forward. I ask that you stay in touch, stay involved, share your thoughts and make your voice heard.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Calter

