Audited Financial Statements and Other Financial Information

## Town of Stow, Maine

December 31, 2023



Proven Expertise & Integrity

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Selectboard Town of Stow Stow, Maine

#### Report on Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Stow, Maine, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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 Stow, Maine as of December 31, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Town of Stow, Maine 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 audit opinions.

#### 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 Stow Maine'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.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of 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 auditor's 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 and *Government Auditing Standards* 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 and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatements 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 controls 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 Stow, Maine'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 doubt about the Town of Stow, Maine'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 management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information on pages 5 through 11 and 37 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such 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. 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.

#### Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Town of Stow, Maine's basic financial statements. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund and combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual -General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund and combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and related directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements themselves and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund Revenues, Schedule of Departmental Operations - General Fund and combining and individual nonmajor fund financial statements are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 30, 2024, on our consideration of the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial control over financial control over financial control over finance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial control over finance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial control over financial

RHR Smith & Company

Buxton, Maine May 30, 2024

#### REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### (UNAUDITED)

The following management's discussion and analysis of the Town of Stow, Maine's financial performance provides an overview of the Town's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023. Please read it in conjunction with the Town's financial statements.

#### **Financial Statement Overview**

The Town of Stow's basic financial statements include the following components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also includes required supplementary information which consists of the general fund budgetary comparison schedule and other supplementary information which includes combining and other schedules.

#### **Basic Financial Statements**

The basic financial statements include financial information in two differing views: the government-wide financial statements and the fund financial statements. These basic financial statements also include the notes to financial statements that explain in more detail certain information in the financial statements and also provide the user with the accounting policies used in the preparation of the financial statements.

#### **Government-Wide Financial Statements**

The government-wide financial statements provide a broad view of the Town's operations in a manner that is similar to private businesses. These statements provide both short-term as well as long-term information in regards to the Town's financial position. These financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. This measurement focus takes into account all revenues and expenses associated with the fiscal year regardless of when cash is received or paid. The government-wide financial statements include the following two statements:

The Statement of Net Position - this statement presents *all* of the government's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources with the difference being reported as net position.

The Statement of Activities - this statement presents information that shows how the government's net position changed during the period. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of the related cash flows. Both of the above-mentioned financial statements have one column for the Town's one type of activity. The type of activity presented for the Town of Stow is:

• *Governmental activities* - The activities in this section are mostly supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (federal and state grants). All of the Town's basic services are reported in governmental activities, which include general government, public safety, health and sanitation, public works, welfare and community agencies, education and unclassified.

#### Fund Financial Statements

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. The Town of Stow, like other local governments uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with financial related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Town of Stow are categorized as governmental funds.

Governmental funds: All of the basic services provided by the Town are financed through governmental funds. Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported in governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, the governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources. They also focus on the balance of spendable resources available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information will be useful in evaluating the government's near-term financing requirements. This approach is known as the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this approach, revenues are recorded when cash is received or when susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when liabilities are incurred and due. These statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Town's finances to assist in determining whether there will be adequate financial resources available to meet the current needs of the Town.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of governmentwide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities. These reconciliations are presented on the page immediately following each governmental fund financial statement.

The Town of Stow presents two columns in the governmental funds balance sheet and the governmental funds statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances. The Town's major governmental fund is the general fund. All other funds are shown as nonmajor and are combined in the "Other Governmental Funds" column on these statements. The general fund is the only fund for which the Town legally adopted a budget. The Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund provides a comparison of the original and final budget and the actual expenditures for the current year.

#### Notes to the Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the Government-Wide and the Fund Financial Statements. The Notes to Financial Statements can be found following the Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities.

#### **Required Supplementary Information**

The basic financial statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information, which includes a Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual - General Fund.

#### Other Supplementary Information

Other supplementary information follows the required supplementary information. These combining and other schedules provide information in regards to nonmajor funds and other detailed budgetary information for the general fund.

#### **Government-Wide Financial Analysis**

Our analysis below focuses on the net position and changes in net position of the Town's governmental activities. The Town's total net position increased by \$75,294 from \$891,202 to \$966,496.

Unrestricted net position - the part of net position that can be used to finance dayto-day operations without constraints established by debt covenants, enabling legislation or other legal requirements - increased to a balance of \$499,231 at the end of this year.

### Table 1 Town of Stow, Maine Net Position December 31,

Accetor		2023	(F	2022 Restated)
Assets: Current Assets	\$	568,172	\$	545,196
Noncurrent Assets - Capital Assets	Ψ	518,766	Ψ	471,764
Total Assets		1,086,938		1,016,960
Liabilities:				
Current Liabilities		41,394		13,140
Noncurrent Liabilities		79,039		88,485
Total Liabilities		120,433		101,625
Deferred Inflows of Resources:				
Prepaid Taxes		11		26
Deferred Revenue		_		24,109
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources		11		24,135
Net Position:				
Net Investment in Capital Assets		430,283		373,930
Restricted		36,980		47,582
Unrestricted		499,231		469,688
Total Net Position	\$	966,494	\$	891,200

#### **Revenues and Expenses**

Revenues for the Town's governmental activities increased by 8.91%, while total expenses increased by 17.35%. The largest increases in revenues were in operating grants and contributions and taxes, while the biggest increase in expenses was in capital outlays.

# Table 2Town of Stow, MaineChange in Net PositionFor The Years Ended December 31,

	2023	2022
Revenues		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 2,564	\$ 2,680
Operating grants and contributions	79,486	38,602
General Revenues:		
Taxes	1,053,785	990,957
Grants and contributions not restricted		
to specific programs	128,072	124,915
Miscellaneous	12,747	15,083
Total Revenues	1,276,654	1,172,237
<b>F</b>		
Expenses		
Current:	137,893	113,899
General government Public safety	31,727	26,992
Health and sanitation	61,170	56,456
Public works	81,649	87,453
Welfare and community agencies	7,617	7,529
Education	494,114	485,944
County tax	60,031	55,702
Unclassified	61,659	17,953
Capital outlay	249,218	158,252
Unallocated depreciation (Note 5)*	16,282	13,576
Total Expenses	1,201,360	1,023,756
Change in Net Position	75,294	148,481
Net Position - January 1	891,200	742,719
Net Position - December 31, Restated	\$ 966,494	\$ 891,200

#### Financial Analysis of the Town's Fund Statements

*Governmental funds*: The financial reporting focus of the Town's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information may be useful in assessing the Town's financial requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's financial position at the end of the year and the net resources available for spending.

#### Table 3 Town of Stow, Maine Fund Balances - Governmental Funds December 31,

	2023	(R	2022 Restated)	Increase/ (Decrease)		
General Fund: Nonspendable Assigned	\$ 5,096	\$	3,796 26,100	\$	1,300 (26,100)	
Unassigned Total General Fund	\$ 377,462 382,558	\$	197,739 227,635	\$	179,723 154,923	
Nonmajor Funds: Special Revenue Funds						
Restricted Committed Unassigned	\$ 32,206 15,000 -	\$	26,066 10,000 5,969	\$	6,140 5,000 (5,969)	
Capital Projects Funds: Committed Assigned	54,719 -		69,832 62		(15,113) (62)	
Unassigned (deficit) Permanent Funds: Restricted	(46,465) 4,774		- 4,774		(46,465) -	
Total Nonmajor Funds	\$ 60,234	\$	116,703	\$	(56,469)	

The changes to total fund balances for the general fund and other governmental funds occurred due to the regular activity of operations.

#### **Budgetary Highlights**

The only difference between the original and final budget for the general fund was due to the use of assigned fund balance.

The general fund actual revenues exceeded budgeted amounts by \$188,009. This was the result of all revenues categories being receipted within or in excess of budgeted amounts with the exception of property taxes, intergovernmental - homestead reimbursement and intergovernmental - BETE reimbursement.

The general fund actual expenditures were under budgeted amounts by \$146,483. All expenditure categories were within or under budgeted amounts.

#### Capital Asset and Debt Administration

#### **Capital Assets**

As of December 31, 2023, the net book value of capital assets recorded by the Town increased by \$47,002 from the prior year. This was due to current year additions of \$63,284 less current year depreciation expense of \$16,282. Refer to Note 5 of Notes to Financial Statements for additional information.

### Table 4 Town of Stow, Maine Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation) December 31,

	 2023	2022			
Land	\$ 62,954	\$	62,954		
Buildings and improvements	238,317		239,506		
Machinery and Equipment	20,351		2,738		
Infrastructure	 197,144		166,566		
Total	\$ 518,766	\$	471,764		

#### Debt

At December 31, 2023, the Town had \$88,483 in a bond payable versus \$97,834 last year. Refer to Note 7 of Notes to Financial Statements for more detailed information.

#### Economic Factors and Next Year's Budgets and Rates

The Town has steadily maintained a sufficient unassigned fund balance to sustain government operations for a period of approximately three months, while also maintaining significant reserve accounts for future capital and program needs.

#### **Contacting the Town's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers and investors and creditors with a general overview of the Town's finances and to show the Town's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Town Treasurer's Office at 710 Stow Road, Stow, Maine 04037.

#### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2023

	-	ernmental ctivities
ASSETS Current assets: Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles): Taxes Other Prepaid items Inventory Tax acquired property Total current assets	\$	404,110 116,362 6,770 1,300 35,834 3,796 568,172
Noncurrent assets: Capital assets: Land and other assets not being depreciated Depreciable assets, net of accumulated depreciation Total noncurrent assets		62,954 455,812 518,766
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	1,086,938
LIABILITIES Current liabilities: Accounts payable Due to other governments Current portion of long-term obligations Total current liabilities	\$	30,188 1,762 9,444 41,394
Noncurrent liabilities: Noncurrent portion of long-term obligations: Bond payable Total noncurrent liabilities		79,039 79,039
TOTAL LIABILITIES		120,433
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES Prepaid taxes TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		<u>11</u> 11
NET POSITION Net investment in capital assets Restricted Unrestricted TOTAL NET POSITION		430,283 36,980 499,231 966,494
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND NET POSITION	\$	1,086,938

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

				I	Progra	am Revenu	es		Re	Net (Expense) venue and Changes in Net Position		
Functions/Programs		Expenses		- 5		0		Operating Cap Grants and Grant		s and		Total Governmental Activities
Governmental activities												
General government	\$	137,893	\$	2,564	\$	-	\$	-	\$	(135,329)		
Public safety		31,727		-		-		-		(31,727)		
Health and sanitation		61,170		-		-		-		(61,170)		
Public works		81,649		-		-		-		(81,649)		
Welfare and community agencies		7,617		-	-			-		(7,617)		
Education		494,114		-		-		-		(494,114)		
County tax		60,031		-		-		-		(60,031)		
Unclassified		61,659		-		79,486		-		17,827		
Capital outlay		249,218		-		-		-		(249,218)		
Unallocated depreciation (Note 5)		16,282		-		-		-		(16,282)		
Total governmental activities	\$	1,201,360	\$	2,564	\$	79,486	\$	-		(1,119,310)		

\*This amount excludes the depreciation that is included in the direct expenses of the various programs.

#### STATEMENT B (CONTINUED)

#### TOWN OF STOW, MAINE

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Governmental Activities			
Changes in net position:				
Net (expense) revenue	\$	(1,119,310)		
General revenues: Taxes				
Property taxes, levied for general purposes		974,478		
Excise taxes		79,307		
Grants and contributions not restricted to				
specific programs		128,072		
Miscellaneous		12,747		
Total general revenues		1,194,604		
Change in net position		75,294		
NET POSITION - JANUARY 1, RESTATED		891,200		
NET POSITION - DECEMBER 31	\$	966,494		

#### BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund		Other Governmental Funds		Go	Total vernmental Funds
ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable (net of allowance for uncollectibles):	\$	404,110	\$	-	\$	404,110
Taxes		116,362		-		116,362
Other		6,770		-		6,770
Prepaid items		1,300		-		1,300
		35,834		-		35,834
Tax acquired property Due from other funds		3,796 46,465		-		3,796
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	614,637	\$	<u>106,699</u> 106,699	\$	<u>153,164</u> 721,336
	Ψ	014,007	Ψ	100,000	Ψ	721,000
LIABILITIES Accounts payable		30,188	\$	_	\$	30,188
Due to other governments		1,762	Ŷ	-	Ψ	1,762
Due to other funds		106,699		46,465		153,164
TOTAL LIABILITIES		138,649		46,465		185,114
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES						
Prepaid taxes		11		-		11
Deferred tax revenues		93,419				93,419
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		93,430		-		93,430
FUND BALANCES						
Nonspendable		5,096		-		5,096
Restricted		-		36,980		36,980
Committed Assigned		-		69,719		69,719
Unassigned (Deficit)		377,462		(46,465)		330,997
TOTAL FUND BALANCES		382,558		60,234		442,792
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES AND FUND BALANCES	\$	614,637	\$	106,699	\$	721,336

#### RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Go	Total vernmental Funds
Total Fund Balances Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position are different because:	\$	442,792
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds shown above:		518,766
Taxes and liens receivable Long-term obligations shown below, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds shown above:		93,419
Bond payable		(88,483)
Net position of governmental activities	\$	966,494

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	General Fund	Go	Other vernmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds		
REVENUES						
Taxes:						
Property taxes	\$ 1,053,991	\$	-	\$	1,053,991	
Excise taxes	79,307		-		79,307	
Intergovernmental	128,072		79,486		207,558	
Charges for services	2,564		-		2,564	
Miscellaneous revenues	 12,447		300		12,747	
TOTAL REVENUES	 1,276,381		79,786		1,356,167	
EXPENDITURES Current:	407.000				107.000	
General government	137,893		-		137,893	
Public safety	31,727		-		31,727	
Health and sanitation	61,170		-		61,170	
Public works	81,649		-		81,649	
Welfare and community agencies	7,617		-		7,617	
Education	494,114		-		494,114	
County tax	60,031		-		60,031	
	2,279		68,731		71,010	
	 -		312,502		312,502	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 876,480		381,233		1,257,713	
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER)						
EXPENDITURES	 399,901		(301,447)		98,454	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	67,022		324,060		391,082	
Transfers (out)	 (312,000)		(79,082)		(391,082)	
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	 (244,978)		244,978		-	
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	154,923		(56,469)		98,454	
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	 227,635		116,703		344,338	
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 382,558	\$	60,234	\$	442,792	

#### 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 (Statement E)	\$ 98,454
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (Statement B) are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures while governmental activities report depreciation expense allocated to those expenditures over the life of the assets:	
Capital asset acquisitions	63,284
Depreciation expense	(16,282)
	 47,002
Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources as revenues in the funds:	 
Taxes and liens receivable	 (79,513)
Repayment of long-term debt principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement	
of Net Position	 9,351
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement B)	\$ 75,294

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Reporting Entity

The Town of Stow was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine. The Town operates under the Selectboard-treasurer form of government and provides the following services: general government, public safety, health and sanitation, public works, welfare and community agencies, education and unclassified.

The Town's financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (Statements and Interpretations).

The Town's combined financial statements include all accounts and all operations of the Town. We have determined that the Town has no component units as described in GASB Statement No. 14 and amended by GASB Statements No. 39 and No. 61.

#### Implementation of New Accounting Standards

During the year ended December 31, 2023, the following statements of financial accounting standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board became effective:

Statement No. 94 "Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements". The primary objective of this Statement is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public-public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. Some PPPs meet the definition of a service concession arrangement (SCA), which the Board defines in this Statement as a PPP in which (1) the operator collects and is compensated by fees from third parties; (2) the transferor determines or has the ability to modify or approve which services the operator is required to provide, to whom the operator is required to provide the services and the prices or rates that can be charged for the services and (3) the transferor is entitled to significant residual interest in the service utility of the underlying PPP asset at the end of the arrangement. Management has determined the impact of this Statement is not material to the financial statements.

Statement No. 96 "Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements". This Statement provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset - an intangible asset - and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended. Management has determined the impact of this Statement is not material to the financial statements.

Statement No. 99 "Omnibus 2022". The objectives of this Statement are to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The practice issues addressed by this Statement are to provide clarification of provisions in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended, related to the determination of the lease term, classification of a lease as a short-term lease, recognition and measurement of a lease liability and a lease asset and identification of lease incentives, clarification of provisions in Statement No. 94, Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements, related to (a) the determination of the public-private and public-public partnership (PPP) term and (b) recognition and measurement of installment payments and the transfer of the underlying PPP asset, clarification of provisions in Statement No. 96. Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements, related to the subscription-based information technology arrangement (SBITA) term, classification of a SBITA as a short-term SBITA and recognition and measurement of a subscription liability, extension of the period during which the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is considered an appropriate benchmark interest rate for the gualitative evaluation of the effectiveness of an interest rate swap that hedges the interest rate risk of taxable debt, accounting for the distribution of benefits as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), disclosures related to nonmonetary transactions, pledges of future revenues when resources are not received by the pledging government, clarification of provisions in Statement No. 34. Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments, as amended, related to the focus of the government-wide financial statements, terminology updates related to certain provisions of Statement No. 63, Financial Reporting of Deferred Outflows of Resources, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position and terminology used in Statement 53 to refer to resource flows statements. Management has determined the impact of this Statement is not material to the financial statements.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### **Government - Wide and Fund Financial Statements**

The Town's basic financial statements include both government-wide (reporting the Town as a whole) and fund financial statements (reporting the Town's major funds).

Both the government-wide and fund financial statements categorize primary activities as governmental. All activities of the Town are categorized as governmental.

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position, the governmental activities column is (a) presented on a consolidated basis by column and (b) is reported on a full accrual, economic resources basis, which recognizes all long-term assets and receivables as well as long-term debt and obligations. The Town's net position is reported in three parts - net investment in capital assets; restricted net position and unrestricted net position. The Town first utilizes restricted resources to finance qualifying activities.

The government-wide Statement of Activities reports both the gross and net cost of each of the Town's functions (general government, public safety, etc.) excluding fiduciary activities. The functions are also supported by general government revenues (property taxes, certain intergovernmental revenues, miscellaneous revenues, etc.). The Statement of Activities reduces gross expenses (including depreciation) by related program revenues, operating and capital grants. Program revenues must be directly associated with the function. Operating grants include operating-specific and discretionary (either operating or capital) grants while the capital grants column reflects capital-specific grants. For the most part, the interfund activity has been eliminated from these government-wide financial statements.

The net costs (by function) are normally covered by general revenue (taxes, certain intergovernmental revenues and charges for services, etc.).

The Town does not allocate indirect costs. All costs are charged directly to the corresponding department.

The government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of the Town as an entity and the change in the Town's net position resulting from the current year's activities.

#### Measurement Focus - Basic Financial Statements and Fund Financial Statements

The financial transactions of the Town are reported in the individual funds in the fund financial statements. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, fund balances, revenues and expenditures/expenses. The

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

various funds are reported by generic classification within the financial statements. The following fund types are used by the Town:

1. Governmental Funds:

The focus of the governmental funds' measurement (in the fund statements) is upon determination of financial position (sources, uses and balances of financial resources) rather than upon net income. The following is a description of the governmental funds of the Town:

#### <u>Major Fund</u>

a. The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

#### Nonmajor Funds

- b. Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.
- c. Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.
- d. Permanent Funds are used to account for assets held by the Town that are legally restricted pursuant to Title 30-A, §5653 of the Maine State Statutes, as amended and unless otherwise specified, only earnings and not principal, may be used for purposes that benefit the Town or its citizenry. The Town's policy for authorizing and spending investment income follows State statutes.

The emphasis in fund financial statements is on the major funds in governmental activities categories. Nonmajor funds by category are summarized into a single column, GASB Statement No. 34 sets forth minimum criteria (percentage of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, revenues or expenses of either the fund category or the governmental and enterprise combined) for the determination of major funds. The nonmajor funds are combined in a column in the fund financial statements.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

#### 1. Accrual

Governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements and fiduciary fund financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

#### 2. Modified Accrual

The governmental fund financial statements are presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when susceptible to accrual; i.e., 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. Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related liability is incurred. The exception to this general rule is that principal and interest on general obligation long-term debt, if any, is recognized when due.

#### <u>Budget</u>

The Town's policy is to adopt an annual budget for operations. The budget is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting which is consistent with generally accepted accounting principles.

The following procedures are followed in establishing budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- 1. Early in the second half of the year the Town prepares a budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- 2. A meeting of the inhabitants of the Town was called for the purpose of adopting the proposed budget after public notice of the meeting was given.
- 3. The budget was adopted subsequent to passage by the inhabitants of the Town.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### **Deposits and Investments**

The Town's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

It is the Town's policy to value investments at fair value. None of the Town's investments are reported at amortized cost. The Town Treasurer is authorized by State Statutes to invest all excess funds in the following:

- Obligations of the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities
- Certificates of deposit and other evidence of deposits at banks, savings and loan associations and credit unions
- Repurchase agreements
- Money market mutual funds

The Town of Stow has no formal investment policy but instead follows the State of Maine Statutes.

#### <u>Receivables</u>

Receivables include amounts due for ambulance and other Town services provided. All receivables are current and therefore due within one year. Receivables are reported net of an allowance for uncollectible accounts and revenues net of uncollectibles. Allowances are reported when accounts are proven to be uncollectible. The allowance for uncollectible accounts is estimated to be \$0 as of December 31, 2023. Accounts receivable netted with allowances for uncollectible accounts were \$6,770 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

#### Tax Acquired Property

Real property becomes tax acquired when tax liens placed on property and associated costs remain unpaid eighteen months after the filing of the tax lien in accordance with 36 M.R.S.A. § 943. The amount of the taxes and associated costs become assets classified as tax acquired property receivables that are secured by the real property that foreclosed.

After real property becomes tax acquired the Selectboard is responsible for the property and any disposition procedures allowed under the direction of the inhabitants of the Town as authorized by or the provisions of the Town charter.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### Interfund Receivables and Payables

Transactions between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as "due to/from other funds". While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements.

#### **Transactions Between Funds**

Legally authorized transfers are treated as interfund transfers and are included in the results of operations of Governmental Funds.

#### **Capital Assets**

Capital assets purchased or acquired with an original cost of \$5,000 or more are reported at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Infrastructure such as streets, traffic signals and signs are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives.

The assets are valued at historical cost when available and estimated historical cost where actual invoices or budgetary data was unavailable. Donated capital assets are reported at their estimated fair market value on the date received. All retirements have been recorded by eliminating the net carrying values.

Infrastructure assets include roads, bridges, underground pipe (other than related to independently owned utilities), traffic signals, etc. These infrastructure assets are likely to be the largest asset class of the Town. The Town has not retroactively recorded infrastructure.

Estimated useful lives are as follows:

Buildings and improvements	20 - 50 years
Infrastructure	50 - 100 years
Machinery and equipment	3 - 50 years

#### Long-term Obligations

The accounting treatment of long-term obligations depends on whether the assets are used in governmental fund operations or proprietary fund operations and whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

All long-term obligations to be repaid from governmental and business-type resources are reported as liabilities in government-wide statements. The long-term obligations consist of a bond payable.

Long-term debt for governmental funds is not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. Debt proceeds are reported as other financing sources and payment of principal and interest reported as expenditures. The accounting for proprietary funds is the same in the fund statements as it is in the government-wide statements.

#### <u>Net Position</u>

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for those assets and adding back unspent proceeds. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through enabling legislations adopted by the Town or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Unrestricted net position is the net amount of the assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources that are not included in the determination of net investment in capital assets or restricted net position.

#### Fund Balance

In the fund financial statements, fund balance for governmental funds is reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which the Town is bound to honor constraints on the specific purpose for which amounts in the funds can be spent. Fund balance is reported in five components - nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

Nonspendable - This includes amounts that cannot be spent either because they are not in spendable form or because they are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted - This includes amounts that can be spent only for specific purposes because of constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or because of constraints that are externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or the laws or regulations of other governments.

Committed - This includes amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the inhabitants of the Town. The inhabitants of the Town

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

through Town meetings are the highest level of decision-making authority of the Town. Commitments may be established, modified or rescinded only through a Town meeting vote.

Assigned - This includes amounts that do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed but that are intended to be used for specific purposes. The authority for assigning fund balance is given annually by vote of the taxpayers and is expressed by the Selectboard.

Unassigned - This includes all other spendable amounts. The general fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance amount. Other governmental funds besides the general fund can only report a negative unassigned fund balance amount.

When an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balances are available, the Town considers restricted funds to have been spent first. When an expenditure is incurred for which committed, assigned or unassigned fund balances are available, the Town considers amounts to have been spent first out of committed funds, then assigned funds and finally unassigned funds, as needed, unless the Town meeting vote has provided otherwise in its commitment or assignment actions.

#### Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position and/or balance sheet will at times report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Town currently does not have any deferred outflows of resources.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position and or balance sheet will at times report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. Deferred tax revenues, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting, qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, this item is reported in the governmental funds balance sheet. Deferred revenue and prepaid taxes also qualify for reporting in this category. These items are reported in both the statements of net position and governmental funds balance sheet. All items in this category are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period that the amounts become available.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### **Revenue Recognition - Property Taxes - Modified Accrual Basis**

The Town's property tax for the current year was levied October 19, 2023 on the assessed value listed as of April 1, 2023, for all real PROPERTY located in the Town. Taxes were due on December 1, 2023. Interest on unpaid taxes commenced on December 2, 2023, at 8% per annum.

Property tax revenues are recognized when they become available. Available includes those property tax receivables expected to be collected within sixty days after year end. The remaining receivables have been recorded as deferred revenues.

The Town is permitted by the laws of the State of Maine to levy taxes up to 105% of its net budgeted expenditures for the related fiscal period. The amount raised in excess of 100% is referred to as overlay and amounted to \$23,679 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Tax liens are placed on real property within twelve months following the tax commitment date if taxes are delinquent. The Town has the authority to foreclose on property eighteen months after the filing of the lien if tax liens and associated costs remain unpaid.

#### Program Revenues

Program revenues include all directly related income items applicable to a particular program (charges to customers or applicants for goods, services or privileges provided, operating or capital grants and contributions, including special assessments).

#### Encumbrance Accounting

Encumbrances are not liabilities and, therefore, are not recorded as expenditures until receipt of material or service. For budgetary purposes, appropriations lapse at fiscal year-end. The Town does not utilize encumbrance accounting for its general fund.

#### Use of Estimates

During the preparation of the Town's financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and disclosure of contingent items as of the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses/expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Town follows state statutes for the investment of funds, which authorize the Town to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies and instrumentalities, other states and Canada, provided such securities are rated within the three highest grades by an approved rating service of the State of Maine, corporate stocks and bonds within statutory limits, financial institutions, mutual funds and repurchase agreements. These apply to all Town funds.

#### Deposits:

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of a failure of a depository financial institution, the Town will not be able to recover its deposits. The Town does not have a policy covering custodial credit risk for deposits. However, the Town maintains deposits in qualifying financial institutions that are a member of the FDIC or NCUSIF as defined in Title 30-A, Section 5706 of the Maine Revised Statutes.

At December 31, 2023, the Town's cash balance of \$404,110 was comprised of bank deposits amounting to \$409,595. Bank deposits are adjusted primarily by outstanding checks and deposits in transit to reconcile to the Town's cash balance. Of these deposits, \$250,000 was insured by federal depository insurance and was not exposed to custodial credit risk and deposits of \$159,595 were collateralized by an irrevocable standby letter of credit.

Account Type	Ba	alance		
		Balance		
Checking accounts Money market account	\$ 19,584 390,011 \$ 409,595			

#### Investments:

Custodial credit risk for investments is that, in the event of failure of the counterparty, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. Currently, the Town does not have a policy for custodial credit risk for investments.

Interest rate risk - is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from fluctuations in interest rates.

At December 31, 2023, the Town did not have any investments.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Credit risk - Statutes for the State of Maine authorize the Town to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, agencies and instrumentalities, other states and Canada, provided such securities are rated within the three highest grades by an approved rating service of the State of Maine, corporate stocks and bonds within statutory limits, financial institutions, mutual funds and repurchase agreements. The Town does not have an investment policy on credit risk. Generally, the Town invests excess funds in savings accounts and various certificates of deposit.

#### NOTE 3 - INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Interfund balances at December 31, 2023 consisted of the following individual fund receivables and payables.

	Receivables (Due From)		Payables Due To)
General fund Nonmajor special revenue funds Nonmajor capital projects funds Nonmajor permanent funds	\$	46,465 47,206 54,719 4,774	\$ 106,699 - 46,465 -
	\$	153,164	\$ 153,164

The result of amounts owed between funds is considered to be in the course of normal operations by the Town. Reconciliation of the amounts owed between funds may or may not be expected to be repaid within one year in their entirety due to the recurring nature of these transactions during operations.

#### NOTE 4 - INTERFUND TRANSFERS

At December 31, 2023, the Town had the following interfund transfers:

	Transfers In		Т	ransfers Out
General fund	\$	67,022	\$	312,000
Nonmajor special revenue funds		12,469		22,991
Nonmajor capital projects funds		311,591		56,091
	\$	391,082	\$	391,082

Interfund transfers are the results of legally authorized activity and are considered to be in the course of normal operations.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is a summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Balance, 1/1/23	A	dditions	Disp	posals	Balance, 12/31/23
Governmental activities						
Non-depreciated assets:						
Land	\$ 62,954	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 62,954
Depreciated assets:						
Buildings and improvements	343,019		7,832		-	350,851
Machinery and equipment	5,000		18,327		-	23,327
Infrastructure	172,725		37,125		-	209,850
	 520,744		63,284		-	 584,028
Less: accumulated depreciation			· · · · ·			 
Buildings and improvements	(103,513)		(9,021)		-	(112,534)
Machinery and equipment	(2,262)		(714)		-	(2,976)
Infrastructure	(6,159)		(6,547)		-	(12,706)
	(111,934)		(16,282)		-	 (128,216)
Net depreciated assets	 408,810		47,002		-	 455,812
Net capital assets	\$ 471,764	\$	47,002	\$	-	\$ 518,766

#### NOTE 6 - SHORT-TERM DEBT

The following is a summary of changes in the short-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	Bala 1/1		A	dditions	[	Deletions	Balance 12/31/23	
Tax anticipation note	\$	-	\$	200,000	\$	(200,000)	\$	

On May 26, 2023, the Town issued a tax anticipation note to provide liquidity for governmental operations financed by property taxes. The tax anticipation note allowed principal draws up to \$300,000 at a 5.65% fixed interest per annum with a maturity date of December 31, 2023. As of December 6, 2023 the tax anticipation note was paid in full. Interest for the year ended December 31, 2023 was \$4,442.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM DEBT

The following is a summary of changes in the long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	alance I/1/23	Addi	itions	Re	ductions	alance 2/31/23	Current Year Portion
Bond payable	\$ 97,834	\$	-	\$	(9,351)	\$ 88,483	\$ 9,444

The following is a summary of the outstanding bonds payable:

Bond payable for the construction of a new sand and salt shed with the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, due in annual payments of \$10,846, through August of 2032. Interest is charged at a fixed rate of 1.0% per annum.

The following is a summary of outstanding bond payable principal and interest requirements for the following fiscal years ending December 31:

						Total	
	Pr	incipal	Ir	Interest		Debt Service	
2024	\$	9,444	\$	1,401	\$	10,845	
2025		9,540		1,307		10,847	
2026		9,634		1,211		10,845	
2027		9,731		1,115		10,846	
2028		9,828		1,018		10,846	
2029-2033		40,306		3,079		43,385	
	\$	88,483	\$	9,131	\$	97,614	

All bonds payable are direct obligations of the Town, for which its full faith and credit are pledged. The Town is not obligated for any special assessment debt. All debt is payable from taxes levied on all taxable property within the Town.

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 8 - NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS

The following is the calculation of the net investment in capital assets for the Town at December 31, 2023:

Invested in capital assets	\$ 646,982
Accumulated depreciation	(128,216)
Outstanding capital related debt	 (88,483)
	\$ 430,283

NOTE 9 - RESTRICTED NET POSITION AND FUND BALANCES

At December 31, 2023, the Town had the following restricted net position and fund balances:

Nonmajor special revenue funds (Schedule E)	\$ 32,206
Nonmajor permanent funds (Schedule I)	 4,774
	\$ 36,980

#### NOTE 10 - NONSPENDABLE FUND BALANCE

At December 31, 2023, the Town had the following nonspendable fund balance:

General fund:	
Prepaid item	\$ 1,300
Tax acquired property	 3,796
	5,096

#### NOTE 11 - COMMITTED FUND BALANCES

At December 31, 2023, the Town had the following committed fund balances:

Nonmajor special revenue funds (Schedule E)	\$ 15,000
Nonmajor capital projects funds (Schedule G)	54,719
	\$ 69,719

#### NOTE 12 – DEFICIT FUND BALANCE

At December 31, 2023, the Town had the following deficit fund balance:

Roads Fund	\$	(46,465)
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#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

#### NOTE 13 - OVERLAPPING DEBT

The Town is contingently liable for its proportionate share of any defaulted debt by entities of which it is a member. RSU No. 72 had the following long-term debt as of December 31, 2023:

	Outstanding	Town's	Total
	Debt	Percentage	Share
RSU No. 72	13,539,231	3.92%	530,738

#### NOTE 14 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions and natural disasters for which the Town participates in a public entity risk pool sponsored by the Maine Municipal Association. The Maine Municipal Association Group Risk Pool is a state-chartered pool established exclusively for Maine municipalities. The pool provides certain property, liability, fidelity and vehicle coverage. If the assets of the pool are at any time actuarially determined to be insufficient to enable the pool to discharge its legal obligations, other obligations and actuarially sound reserves, the pool has the power to make up the deficiency by the levy of a prorated assessment. There have been no deficiencies during the past three years and management believes that no deficiency exists at December 31, 2023.

The Town is a member of the Maine Municipal Association - Property and Casualty Pool and pays an annual premium for its coverage. Under the property portion of the policy, coverage is provided after a \$1,000 per occurrence deductible is met. Under the

general liability portion of the policy, the limit is \$400,000 per occurrence for causes of action pursuant to the Maine Tort Claims Act. Coverage is limited to those areas for which governmental immunity has been expressly waived and \$2,000,000 per occurrence for causes of action pursuant to federal law or state law for which immunity is not proved by the Maine Tort Claims Act. The same limit applies for Law Enforcement after a \$2,500 per occurrence deductible is met. For public official liability and employment practices liability, the coverage is \$2,000,000 per occurrence and \$4,000,000 aggregate with a \$5,000 deductible.

The Town is also a member of the Maine Municipal Association - Worker Compensation Trust Fund ("Fund"). The Fund was created to formulate, develop and administer a program of modified self-funding for the Fund's membership, obtain lower costs for worker's compensation coverage and develop a comprehensive loss control

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2023

### NOTE 14 - RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

program. The Town pays an annual premium to the fund for its worker's compensation coverage. The Town's agreement with the Fund provides that the fund will be self-sustaining through member premiums and will provide, through commercial companies' reinsurance contracts, coverage for claims in excess of \$1,000,000.

Based on the coverage provided by the insurance purchased, the Town is not aware of any material actual or potential claim liabilities which should be recorded as of December 31, 2023. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from that of the prior year and amounts of settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in the past three years.

### NOTE 15 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

With regard to pending legal claims or any unasserted claims, it is not feasible at this time to predict or determine their outcome. Management believes, however, that settlement amounts, if any, will not have a material adverse effect on the Town's financial position.

The Town participates in various intergovernmental grant programs which may be subject to future program compliance audits by the grantors or their representatives. Accordingly, the Town's compliance with applicable grant requirement may be established at some future date. The amount, if any, of any liabilities arising from the disallowance of expenditures or ineligibility of grant revenues cannot be determined at this time.

#### NOTE 16 - COMPARATIVE DATA/RECLASSIFICATIONS

Comparative total data for the prior year have been presented in selected sections of the accompanying financial statements in order to provide an understanding of the changes in the Town's financial position and operations. Also, certain amounts presented in the prior year's data have been reclassified to be consistent with the current year's presentation.

#### NOTE 17 - RESTATEMENT

In 2023 the Town discovered certain fund balances in the prior year were incorrectly classified. The general fund increased by \$16,740, the special revenue fund decreased by \$16,742 with a net change of a \$2 decrease to the governmental activities net position from \$891,202 to \$891,200.

# Required Supplementary Information

Required supplementary information includes financial information and disclosures that are required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board but are not considered a part of the basic financial statements. Such information includes:

 Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Budgetary Basis - Budget and Actual -General Fund

### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

				Variance			
		ted Amounts	Actual	Positive			
	Original	Final	Amounts	(Negative)			
Budgetary Fund Balance, January 1, Restated	\$ 227,63	5 \$ 227,635	\$ 227,635	\$-			
Resources (Inflows):	Ŧ )	- , ,	, ,	·			
Property taxes	1,064,58	4 1,064,584	1,053,991	(10,593)			
Excise taxes			79,307	79,307			
Intergovernmental:							
State revenue sharing	62,86	62,867	68,531	5,664			
Homestead reimbursement	27,93	27,930	26,618	(1,312)			
Tree growth			25,740	25,740			
Snowmobile			222	222			
PILT funds			6,961	6,961			
BETE reimbursement	1	3 13	-	(13)			
Charges for service			2,564	2,564			
Interest income			6,691	6,691			
Miscellaneous revenues			5,756	5,756			
Transfers from other funds			67,022	67,022			
Amounts Available for Appropriation	1,383,02	1,383,029	1,571,038	188,009			
Charges to Appropriations (Outflows):							
General government	155,30	0 172,003	137,893	34,110			
Public safety	30,10		31,727	, -			
Health and sanitation	63,00		61,170	7,750			
Public works	85,00		81,649	3,351			
Welfare and community agencies	10,37		7,617	2,788			
Education	494,11		494,114	-			
County tax	60,03		60,031	-			
Unclassified	28,67	9 33,969	2,279	31,690			
Transfers to other funds	378,79	378,794	312,000	66,794			
Total Charges to Appropriations	1,305,39	1,334,963	1,188,480	146,483			
Budgetary Fund Balance, December 31	\$ 77,63	<u>5 \$ 48,066</u>	\$ 382,558	\$ 334,492			
Utilization of unassigned fund balance	\$	- \$ 29,569	\$-	\$ (29,569)			
Utilization of assigned fund balance	150,00			(150,000)			
	\$ 150,00	0 \$ 179,569		\$ (179,569)			

Other supplementary information includes financial statements and schedules not required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, nor a part of the basic financial statements, but are presented for purposes of additional analysis.

- Budgetary Comparison Schedule Budgetary Basis Budget and Actual -General Fund Revenues
- Schedule of Departmental Operations General Fund
- Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Governmental Funds
- Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Nonmajor Governmental Funds
- Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
- Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Nonmajor Special Revenue Funds
- Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
- Combining Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Nonmajor Capital Projects Funds
- Combining Balance Sheet Nonmajor Permanent Funds
- Combining Schedule of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances Nonmajor Permanent Funds

### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

				Variance
	Original	Final	Actual	Positive
	Budget	Budget	Amounts	(Negative)
Resources (Inflows):				
Taxes:				
Property taxes	\$ 1,064,584	\$ 1,064,584	\$ 1,053,991	\$ (10,593)
Auto/boat excise	-	-	79,307	79,307
Intergovernmental revenues:				
State revenue sharing	62,867	62,867	68,531	5,664
Homestead reimbursement	27,930	27,930	26,618	(1,312)
Tree growth	-	-	25,740	25,740
Snowmobile	-	-	222	222
PILT funds	-	-	6,961	6,961
BETE reimbursement	13	13	-	(13)
Charges for services:				
Clerk fees	-	-	2,394	2,394
Permits	-	-	12	12
Vital fees	-	-	158	158
Interest income:				
Tax interest	-	-	2,394	2,394
Interest income	-	-	4,297	4,297
Miscellaneous revenues:				
Other	-	-	5,756	5,756
Transfers from other funds	-	-	67,022	67,022
Amounts Available for Appropriation	\$ 1,155,394	\$ 1,155,394	\$ 1,343,403	\$ 188,009
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			

## SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget		Budget Adjustments		Final Budget		Actual Expenditures		′ariance Positive legative)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT									
Town officers	\$ 138,250	\$	-	\$	138,250	\$	112,927	\$	25,323
Municipal offices	15,750		11,930		27,680		17,976		9,704
Planning Board	1,000		3,809		4,809		540		4,269
Conservation committee	300		964		1,264		347		917
TAN interest	 -		-		-		6,103		(6,103)
Total	 155,300		16,703		172,003		137,893		34,110
PUBLIC SAFETY									
Rescue	8,764		-		8,764		8,764		-
Fire department	 21,338		1,625		22,963		22,963		-
Total	30,102		1,625		31,727		31,727		_
HEALTH AND SANITATION	 63,000		5,920		68,920		61,170		7,750
PUBLIC WORKS									
Snow	85,000		-		85,000		81,649		3,351
Total	 85,000		-		85,000		81,649		3,351
WELFARE AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES									
Social services	7,374		31		7,405		7,617		(212)
General assistance	3,000		-		3,000		-		3,000
Total	10,374		31		10,405		7,617		2,788

# SCHEDULE B (CONTINUED)

### TOWN OF STOW, MAINE

### SCHEDULE OF DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Final Budget	Actual Expenditures	Variance Positive (Negative)
EDUCATION	494,114		494,114	494,114	<u> </u>
COUNTY TAX	60,031		60,031	60,031	
UNCLASSIFIED Cemeteries Overlay Total	5,000 23,679 28,679	5,290 	10,290 23,679 33,969	1,341 938 2,279	8,949 22,741 31,690
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS Special revenue funds Capital projects funds Total	13,000 <u>365,794</u> <u>378,794</u>	- - -	13,000 <u>365,794</u> <u>378,794</u>	6,500 <u>305,500</u> <u>312,000</u>	6,500 60,294 66,794
TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS	\$ 1,305,394	\$ 29,569	\$ 1,334,963	\$ 1,188,480	\$ 146,483

# COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Special Revenue Funds		F	Capital Projects Funds		rmanent <sup>-</sup> unds	Gov	l Nonmajor vernmental Funds
ASSETS Due from other funds TOTAL ASSETS	\$ \$	47,206 47,206	\$ \$	54,719 54,719	\$ \$	4,774 4,774	\$ \$	106,699 106,699
LIABILITIES Due to other funds TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	-	\$	46,465 46,465	\$	-	\$	46,465 46,465
FUND BALANCES Nonspendable Restricted Committed Assigned Unassigned (Deficit) TOTAL FUND BALANCES		- 32,206 15,000 - - 47,206		- 54,719 - (46,465) 8,254		4,774 - - 4,774		- 36,980 69,719 - (46,465) 60,234
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$	47,206	\$	54,719	\$	4,774	\$	106,699

# COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	R	Special evenue Funds	Capital Projects Funds	rmanent <sup>-</sup> unds	Gov	l Nonmajor vernmental Funds
REVENUES Intergovernmental Other TOTAL REVENUES	\$	16,042 <u>300</u> 16,342	\$ 63,444 - 63,444	\$ - - -	\$	79,486 <u>300</u> 79,786
EXPENDITURES Capital outlay Other TOTAL EXPENDITURES		- 649 649	 312,502 68,082 380,584	 -		312,502 68,731 381,233
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES		15,693	 (317,140)	 		(301,447)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Transfers in Transfers (out) TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		12,469 (22,991)	 311,591 (56,091)	 -		324,060 (79,082)
(USES) NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES		(10,522) 5,171	 255,500 (61,640)	 <u> </u>		244,978 (56,469)
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED		42,035	 69,894	 4,774		116,703
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$	47,206	\$ 8,254	\$ 4,774	\$	60,234

# Special Revenue Funds

Special revenue funds are established to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than expendable trusts or for major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

### COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Local Roads	F	ational <sup>F</sup> orest ghway		uel for ighbors		derly Tax Relief	riends of Lovell ecreation	R	nerican Rescue Ian Act	Cor	mprehensive Town Plan	State badband		nimal /elfare	Re	valuation	 Total
ASSETS Due from other funds TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>11,372</u> 11,372	\$	4,467 4,467	\$ \$	6,526 6,526	\$ \$	<u>1,240</u> 1,240	\$ -	\$	-	\$ \$	<u>5,000</u> 5,000	\$ 3,398 3,398	\$ \$	203 203	\$	15,000 15,000	\$ 47,206 47,206
LIABILITIES Due to other funds TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	<u> </u>	\$ -	\$	-	\$	<u>-</u>	\$ <u> </u>
FUND BALANCES Nonspendable Restricted Committed Assigned Unassigned TOTAL FUND BALANCES	 - 11,372 - - - 11,372		4,467 - - 4,467		- 6,526 - - - 6,526		1,240 - - 1,240	 - - - - - -		- - - - -		5,000 - - 5,000	 - 3,398 - - - 3,398		203 - - 203		- 15,000 - - 15,000	 32,206 15,000 - - 47,206
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 11,372	\$	4,467	\$	6,526	\$	1,240	\$ _	\$		\$	5,000	\$ 3,398	\$	203	\$	15,000	\$ 47,206

### COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES NONMAJOR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Local Roads	National Forest Highway	Fuel for Neighbors	Elderly Tax Relief	Friends of Lovell Recreation	American Rescue Plan Act	Comprehensive Town Plan	State Broadband	Animal Welfare	Revaluation	Total
REVENUES Intergovernmental Other TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 11,372 	\$ 4,467	\$- <u>300</u> 300	\$ - - -	-	\$ - -	\$ - - -	\$ - 	\$ 203 	\$ - - -	\$ 16,042 
EXPENDITURES Other			649								649
TOTAL EXPENDITURES EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES			(349)	<u> </u>							<u> </u>
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Transfers in	-	-	- (0+3)	-	2,469		5,000	-		5,000	12,469
Transfers (out) TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(9,864)	(4,658)			(2,500)	(5,969)	5,000			5,000	(22,991)
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	1,508	(191)	(349)	-	(31)	(5,969)	5,000	-	203	5,000	5,171
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1, RESTATED	9,864	4,658	6,875	1,240	31	5,969		3,398		10,000	42,035
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$ 11,372	\$ 4,467	\$ 6,526	\$ 1,240	\$-	\$-	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,398	\$ 203	\$ 15,000	\$ 47,206

# Capital Projects Funds

Capital projects funds are established to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities, other than those financed by proprietary of trust funds.

## COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023

	R	oads		Road Salt	I	ra Heald Bridge Repair	E	Stow Bridge Repair		ighway uipment	alt Sand Shed		Tar count		mputer eserve	 Total
ASSETS Due from other funds TOTAL ASSETS	\$ \$	-	\$ \$	4,270 4,270	\$	33,059 33,059	\$ \$	5,737 5,737	\$ \$	4,312 4,312	\$ 5,249 5,249	\$ \$	-	\$ \$	2,092 2,092	\$ 54,719 54,719
LIABILITIES Due to other funds TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>46,465</u> 46,465	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 46,465 46,465
FUND BALANCES Nonspendable Restricted Committed Assigned Unassigned TOTAL FUND BALANCES		- - - - ( <u>46,465)</u> (46,465)		- 4,270 - - 4,270		- 33,059 - 33,059		- 5,737 - - 5,737		- 4,312 - - 4,312	 - 5,249 - - 5,249		- - - -		- 2,092 - 2,092	 - 54,719 - (46,465) 8,254
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$		\$	4,270	\$	33,059	\$	5,737	\$	4,312	\$ 5,249	\$	-	\$	2,092	\$ 54,719

### COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES NONMAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Roads	Road Salt	Ezra Heald Bridge Repair	Stow Bridge Repair	Highway Equipment	Salt Sand Shed	Tar Account	Computer Reserve	Total
REVENUES Intergovernmental TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 29,724 29,724	<u>\$-</u>	<u>33,720</u> 33,720		<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$-</u>	<u>\$ 63,444</u> 63,444
EXPENDITURES Capital outlay Other TOTAL EXPENDITURES	301,656 	<u> </u>	<u>45,108</u> 45,108	<u> </u>		10,846 	<u>3,060</u> 3,060		312,502 68,082 380,584
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(271,932)	(7,730)	(11,388)	(9,263)		(10,846)	(3,060)	(2,921)	(317,140)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) Transfers in Transfers (out) TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	268,091 (50,000)	12,000 	15,000	-	-	13,500	- (6,091)	3,000 	311,591 (56,091)
(USES)	218,091	12,000	15,000			13,500	(6,091)	3,000	255,500
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS)	(53,841)	4,270	3,612	(9,263)	-	2,654	(9,151)	79	(61,640)
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - JANUARY 1	7,376		29,447	15,000	4,312	2,595	9,151	2,013	69,894
FUND BALANCES (DEFICITS) - DECEMBER 31	\$ (46,465)	\$ 4,270	\$ 33,059	\$ 5,737	\$ 4,312	\$ 5,249	<u>\$ -</u>	\$ 2,092	\$ 8,254

# Permanent Funds

Permanent funds are used to account for assets held by the Town of Stow, Maine that are legally restricted pursuant to Title 30-A, §5653 of the Maine State Statutes, as amended and unless otherwise specified, only earnings and not principal, may be used for purposes that benefit the Town or its citizenry. These funds have been established for various purposes including the provision and/or maintenance of the cemeteries.

# COMBINING BALANCE SHEET - NONMAJOR PERMANENT FUNDS DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Cem	neteries	Total				
ASSETS Due from other funds TOTAL ASSETS	\$ \$	4,774 4,774	\$	4,774 4,774			
LIABILITIES Due to other funds TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	-	\$	-			
FUND BALANCES Nonspendable Restricted Committed Assigned Unassigned TOTAL FUND BALANCES		- 4,774 - - 4,774		- 4,774 - - - 4,774			
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$	4,774	\$	4,774			

## COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - NONMAJOR PERMANENT FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Cemeteries		Total	
REVENUES Interest income TOTAL REVENUES	\$	-	\$	-
EXPENDITURES Other TOTAL EXPENDITURES		-		
NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES		-		-
FUND BALANCES - JANUARY 1		4,774		4,774
FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31	\$	4,774	\$	4,774



### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Selectboard Town of Stow Stow, Maine

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Stow, Maine as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Stow, Maine's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 30, 2024.

### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Stow, Maine's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town of Stow, Maine's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. We noted certain other matters that we reported to management of the Town of Stow, Maine in a separate letter dated May 8, 2024.

#### Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

RHR Smith & Company

Buxton, Maine May 30, 2024