## DEBT SERVICE

The Town has developed a Debt Management Plan which in most years provides for relatively level debt service, while still funding those Capital projects that do not have alternative revenue sources other than the issuance of debt. The plan proposes a financing strategy that conforms to the 5 -year Capital Improvements Program and projects debt service levels for future borrowing 20 years out. At a glance, the impact of issuing debt can be seen and planning can be done before the project is approved. In 2015, the Town Council established a Debt Service Fund to build reserves to strategically offset future debt impact on the budget as part of the debt management plan.

|  |  | 2015-2016 | 2015-2016 | 2015-2016 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Account |  | Department | Manager | Adopted |
| Code | Descriptions | Request | Proposed | Budget |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | -20.0. | - | - |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 840-00 | Debt Service | 4,542,176 | 4,542,176 | 4,542,176 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Subtotal -- Debt Service | 4,542,176 | 4,542,176 | 4,542,176 |


| FUNCTION <br> Finance and Records | ACTIVITY <br> Debt Services |  | PROGRAM |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { CODE } \\ & 840-00 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Line Item Description | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 | 2014-2015 | 2015-2016 | 2015-2016 | \% Increase |
|  | Actual | Actual | Actual | Adopted | Amended | Manager Proposed | Adopted <br> Budget | Over <br> Adopted |
| PRINCIPAL | 3,277,371 | 3,252,923 | 3,455,015 | 3,367,612 | 3,367,612 | 3,302,267 | 3,302,267 |  |
| INTEREST | 1,479,339 | 1,389,862 | 1,289,195 | 1,174,564 | 1,075,564 | 1,239,909 | 1,239,909 |  |
| BOND PREMIUM AND INTEREST | $(4,915)$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| DEBT ISSUANCE COST | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| TRANSFER OUT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 99,000 | 0 | 0 |  |




## Summary of Debt Management Policy

- The Town may issue debt by resolution of the Town Council up to $5 \%$ of the current tax levy. If the debt issue exceeds that threshold then it must be approved by referendum.
- Bond Anticipation Notes may be used to provide interim cash flow, facilitate the timing of bond sales, finance less significant borrowing needs, avoid locking in high long-term interest rates during periods of market turmoil or finance projects whose final cost is uncertain or is expected to be mitigated by grants or investment earnings. Long-term borrowing will be confined to capital projects and will not fund current operations.
- Bonds will be structured to match the useful life of the capital improvement but not exceed 20 years in accordance with CGS. The Town will issue $\$ 10$ million or less in tax exempt securities per calendar year to receive "Bank Qualified" status to minimize interest rates to be paid.
- Debt obligations are generally issued through competitive sale. However, if conditions provide that a negotiated sale would provide significant benefits to the Town then the Town Council may approve that method of sale.
- The Town Manager and the Finance Director will analyze the Town's debt position by using the following measures and report the results annually to the Town Council as part of the Debt Management Plan presentation.
$\checkmark$ "Debt measured against population on a per capita basis" to be capped at $\$ 3,800$. Tolland is at $\$ 2,062$ for 2015/2016 with a five-year projected average of $\$ 2,333$.
$\checkmark$ "General Fund bonded debt as a percentage of full market value" to be capped at 4\%. Tolland is in 2015-16 at 1.73\%.
$\checkmark$ "General Fund debt service as a percentage of total General Fund expenditures" to be capped at $10 \%$. Tolland is estimated at $8.3 \%$.


## Statutory Debt Limitation

Under Connecticut law, municipalities shall not incur indebtedness through the issuance of bonds or notes which will cause aggregate indebtedness by class to exceed the following:

| General Purposes: | 2.25 times annual receipts from taxation |
| :--- | :--- |
| School Purposes: | 4.50 times annual receipts from taxation |
| Sewer Purposes: | 3.75 times annual receipts from taxation |

In no case, however, shall total indebtedness exceed seven times the base. "Annual receipts from taxation" (the "base") are defined as total tax collections (including interest, and late payment of taxes) and state payments from revenue loss under Connecticut General Statues (CGS) Sections12129d and 7-528.

The CGS also provides for exclusion from the debt limit calculation debt issued in anticipation of taxes for the supply of water, gas, and electricity. There are additional exclusions for indebtedness issued in anticipation of receipt of proceeds from assessments levied upon property benefited by any public improvement and for indebtedness issued in anticipation of the receipt of proceeds from State or Federal grants evidenced by a written commitment or contract, but only to the extent such indebtedness can be paid from such proceeds.

## Computation of Legal Debt Margin

| Total Tax Collections (Including Interest and Lien Fees) for June 30, 2014 | $\$ 39,480,811$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Reimbursement for Revenue Loss (Tax relief for elderly freeze) | $-\mathbf{0}$ |
| Base for Debt Limitation Computation | $\$ 39,480,811$ |
| Seven times the base for debt limitations | $\$ 276,365,677$ |
| Tolland's Total Net Indebtedness | $\$ 37,193,008$ |

Sixty-eight percent of the debt obligation is for School needs which include building the new High School, renovations of the Middle School and other capital improvements. Thirty-two percent of the debt obligation is for Municipal needs such as Open Space acquisitions and other capital improvements.


## Proposed Debt Issuance Plan

The recommended financing strategy for the authorized-but-unissued debt and proposed capital projects listed above includes a combination of a series of bond anticipation notes and bonds issued within the next five years. Below represents the Proposed Capital Improvements emphasizing the connection between a scheduled major capital project and the timing of the borrowing

|  | Remaining |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Authorized | Capital Needs | Total | Borrowing |
|  | But Not Issued | From CIP | Needs | Assumption |
| Year 2-FY 2015-16 | 7,494,641 | 1,504,692 | 8,999,333 | Bond |
| Year 3-FY 2016-17 | 1,000,000 | 977,014 | 1,977,014 | BAN |
| Year 4 - FY 2017-18 | 1,000,000 | 4,065,536 | 5,065,536 | BAN |
| Year 5-FY 2018-19 | - | 2,623,936 | 2,623,936 | Bond |
| Year 6-FY 2019-20 | 365,000 | 956,834 | 1,321,834 | Bond |
|  | \$ 9,859,641 | \$ 10,128,012 | \$ 19,987,653 |  |
|  | Amount Issued |  |  |  |
| YEAR 1 | \$ 5,410,000 | Issue BAN |  |  |
| YEAR 2 | 9,000,000 | Issue 20 year Bond |  |  |
| YEAR 3 | 1,975,000 | Issue BAN |  |  |
| YEAR 4 | 7,040,000 | Issue BAN |  |  |
| YEAR 5 | 9,665,000 | Issue 20 year Bond |  |  |
| Year 6 | 1,320,000 | Issue 20 year Bond |  |  |
|  | \$ 19,985,000 | Total amount perm | nently financed |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Comparative Debt service expenditure level for the next 5 years with the proposed debt management plan assumptions


## Financial Indicators

Debt ratios are used by rating agencies to determine a municipality's credit rating and worthiness. Standard and Poor's rating agency categorizes the Town's debt burden as "low to moderate." Fitch Ratings reports the Town's debt position as "moderate" and "manageable." The following charts show a trend analysis of the Town's debt ratios the past year, current year, and projected years. The Town bond rating is AAA from S \& P and AA + Fitch.


