

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
And Required Supplementary Information**

YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 and 2023

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
WINCHESTER, KENTUCKY
JUNE 30, 2024 and 2023**

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SUMMERS, MCCRARY & SPARKS, P.S.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Commissioners
Winchester Municipal Utilities
Winchester, KY

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the business-type activities of the Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Winchester Municipal Utilities', component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the business-type activities of the Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year 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. 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 Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, 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 these 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 Winchester Municipal Utilities', component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, 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 the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an 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 generally accepted 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 judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Winchester Municipal Utilities', component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Winchester Municipal Utilities', component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, 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, the Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, the Schedule of Contributions-Pension, Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB liability and the Schedule of Contributions-OPEB on pages 4–30 and 62-68 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises Schedule I – Department Expenses and Schedule II – Revenue Bond Debt Services on pages 69-71, but does not include the basic financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the basic financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Summers, McCrary & Sparks, PSC

Winchester, Kentucky
November 15, 2024

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

UTILITY PROFILE

Winchester Municipal Utilities (WMU), a component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky (City), was established in 1958 by ordinance of the City to provide water, sanitary sewer (wastewater) and solid waste services for the City and portions of Clark County. WMU is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor with approval of the Board of Commissioners of the City. The Winchester Municipal Utilities Commission (WMUC) provides direction and oversight of the Utility and its operations, adopts the budget, sets the operating policies, hires the General Manager and Counsel of the Utility, and recommends to the City utility rates necessary to support the operations of the Utility, repair and replacement of the Utility’s assets and payment of the Utility’s debt service.

WMU has 12,472 water customers, 12,052 wastewater customers and 9,003 solid waste customers.

Fiscal Year 2023 / 2024 budget reflects annual revenue of \$20,997,150 and annual debt service of \$5,845,428.

WATER SYSTEM

WMU’s primary and current only source of water is Pool No. 10, a 25-mile pool of the Kentucky River. WMU is the only water utility withdrawing water from this source. WMU is permitted to withdraw up to 15 million gallons per day (MGD) from Pool No. 10 under normal river flow conditions, with restrictions being imposed during times of below normal river flow. The new water treatment plant went on-line and was considered substantially complete on February 24, 2021. With construction of the new WMU WTP and decommissioning of the existing WTP continued use of the Carroll Ecton Reservoir as a secondary source of raw water supply will require improvements in order to utilize and maintain the reservoir.

The new water treatment plant is rated to produce 9.0 million gallons per day (MGD). Clearwell storage is 2,225,000 gallons; elevated storage totals 3,500,000 gallons. WMU maintains approximately 184.34 miles of water line in the distribution system.

Average day water production for FY 2023 / 2024 was 4.17 MGD. Peak day water production for FY 2023 / 2024 was 5.07 MGD. In addition to the provision of service to its retail customers, WMU provides water for resale to the East Clark County Water District (ECCWD).

- **New Lower Howards Creek Water Treatment Plant**

Construction of the WTP at 7055 Boonesboro Road adjacent to the Lower Howards Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant was initiated on April 5, 2018. This project was designed and coordinated in conjunction with the 24-inch Raw and

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
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Finished Water Main Project (completed) as well as the Raw Water Intake improvements project (completed). The preliminary engineering work developed six (6) Technical Memorandums establishing direction for design of the new treatment facilities. Bell Engineering is serving as the Engineer of Record. WMU has plans to continue to utilize the Carroll Ecton Reservoir as a back-up/secondary water supply and construct a raw water transfer pumping station at the existing water treatment plant in accord with construction of the new water treatment plant facilities. A preconstruction meeting was held on January 24, 2018 and the official sale of bonds has been completed establishing the remaining financing of the project. The first progress meeting and an official groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 15, 2018. On October 3, 2019, the WMU Commission approved a reduction in project retainage from 10% to 5%. On February 20, 2020, the WMU Commission approved an extension of one hundred, ten (110) days to the completion date and include the addition of seven (7) general cost change items to the original contract in the amount of +\$255,679.00. The adjusted Contract Price with inclusion of Change Order #2 is \$20,331,857.00. On July 16, 2020 the WMU Commission approved Change Order No. 3 to extend the completion date by ninety (90) days resulting in a substantial completion date of August 13, 2020 and final completion date of September 12, 2020. On November 5, 2020, the WMU Commission approved Change Order No. 4 in the amount of +\$27,400.00 to provide and install three (3) electric actuators on the sedimentation basin drain line plug valves and a sixteen-week time extension for the purchase, delivery and installation of the actuators only. On December 10, 2020, the WMU Commission approved a reduction in project retainage from 5% to 2.5% until all closeout requirements are completed. On September 16, 2021 the WMU Commission approved Final Adjusting Change Order No. 5 in the amount of -\$152,255.86 that included the addition/deletion of five (5) general cost change items for the original Contract and the request to reduce the project retainage from \$500,000 to \$100,000. The new water treatment plant went on-line and was considered substantially complete on February 24, 2021. On September 15, 2022, the WMU Commission approved Final Pay Request No. 37 in the amount of \$300,595.39 and accepted the project for perpetual maintenance in accordance with the plans and specifications. This represents total payment to Judy Construction Company of \$20,207,001.14. The original contract price was \$19,982,300.00 resulting in an overall increase of the contract amount by \$224,701.14.

- **WMU KY River Raw Water Intake Facility Standby Power**

The project consists of the design and construction of all necessary modifications to the existing WMU Raw Water Intake Facility located 1085 Ford Road, Winchester, KY for a 4160V emergency generator and transfer switch gear to provide emergency back-up electrical power to the facility. Currently the Raw Water Intake Facility located on the banks of the Kentucky River does not have an emergency backup electrical supply. The KU power supply is overhead and is exposed to both tree and ice storm damage as well as flooding. The Raw Water

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Intake Facility is the main and only source of raw water supply for the Water Treatment Plant approximately 2 miles away. Additionally, the project will provide a raw water line interconnection to the Carroll Ecton Reservoir in order to secure a secondary source of raw water supply for the City of Winchester and Clark County in the event the primary source of water cannot be utilized. On March 17, 2022, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$381,797.00 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) to construct the project. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$2,264,831.19.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM

WMU maintains approximately 164.00 miles of gravity and force main sanitary sewers, ten (10) sewage-pumping stations (excluding the landfill pump stations) and two (2) wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The Strodes Creek WWTP is rated at 7.2 MGD and the Lower Howards Creek WWTP is rated at 2.0 MGD. The Strodes Creek WWTP is designed to handle a biological load approximately four times greater than typical domestic sewage. The Lower Howards Creek WWTP is designed to handle typical domestic sewage. In addition, WMU operates solids processing facilities at both locations.

Average day wastewater treatment for FY 2023 / 2024 at Strodes Creek was 3.88 MGD with a peak day wastewater treatment for FY 2023 / 2024 at 14.67 MGD. Average day wastewater treatment for FY 2023 / 2024 at Lower Howards Creek was 1.19 MGD with a peak day wastewater treatment for FY 2023 / 2024 at 5.32 MGD. For FY 2023 / 2024, 2,453 dry tons of Class B biosolids were produced at the Strodes Creek WWTP and 172 dry tons of Class B biosolids were produced at Lower Howards Creek WWTP.

SOLID WASTE SYSTEM

WMU is responsible for the daily collection of solid waste and recycling material (residential) generated within the City and transportation for ultimate disposal in a privately owned and permitted solid waste landfill and/or material recovery facility. In addition, WMU collects and grinds yard waste for beneficial reuse, operates and maintains a voluntary recycling operation for newspaper, white and mixed paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, tin, and aluminum, and maintains a 20-acre, non-operating landfill that is classified as *in post-closure care*.

Average day solid waste collection and disposal for FY 2023 / 2024 was 77.00 tons and average monthly yard waste collection for FY 2023 / 2024 was 90 tons. Average monthly recycling collection for FY 2023 / 2024 was 14.88 tons.

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
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SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

- **Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution**

Addressing the water supply, treatment and distribution needs of the community continues to be at the forefront of priorities for the Utility. Historical growth pattern projections and water usage data indicate the need for additional potable water capacity. As would be expected the timeframe of those needs are directly impacted based upon the needs of the industrial community. While the Utility lost a significant industrial customer (Alltech) during the 2017 / 2018 timeframe a new industry, Danimer Scientific, purchased the Alltech facility and has completed the initial phase of a 2 Phase project. Phase II of the project was originally anticipated to go online in December of 2021 but due to construction delays the initial startup was delayed until May of 2022. As of right now, Phase II is still in the startup phase. Through a similar process as Alltech, Danimer produces resins from algae that are used to make products that are fully biodegradable and can replace plastics that are made with petrochemicals. Products such as shrink-wrap, disposable spoons & forks, coffee-cups, tamper-proof seals, potato chip packaging and numerous other products people use every day. In addition, as general industry continues to look at cost saving measures for their operations normally water saving processes are at the forefront of evaluation. Determination of the water requirements for the remaining lots in the Industrial Park, Phase VI will factor into defining the ultimate water needs of the Utility.

As previously stated WMU's current permitted capacity is 9.0 million gallons per day (MGD) with current average day demand of 4.21 MGD and peak day demand of 5.66 MGD. Projections of WMU's 20-year demand as outlined in previous studies are 12.0 MGD based upon normal growth patterns which can be skewed with the addition or loss of any significant industry or other large user. Normal and peak day average water production is expected to trend upward as industry comes online and development activities continue to increase. Careful consideration has been given to all these factors when sizing the new water treatment plant (WTP) facilities and associated infrastructure.

Discussions in 2008 between the WMU and City Commissions led to a decision to construct a new WTP. Construction was proposed to be phased with the initial capacity being 6.0 MGD to operate in concert with the existing WTP yielding an effective capacity of 8.0 – 9.0 MGD. It was determined during preliminary design that operation of a single WTP at 9.0 MGD would be the most cost effective and logical choice. The final effective capacity of the new WTP will be determined by the Division of Water (DOW). Several significant questions were answered during preliminary design which included decommissioning of the existing WTP upon completion of the new WTP facilities and continued use of the Carroll Ecton Reservoir for a back-up raw water supply. With completion of the final design of a new WTP and advertisement for bids in the Fourth Quarter of 2017, construction

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was initiated during the First Quarter of 2018. Judy Construction Company was awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$19,982,300.00. The new water treatment plant went on-line and was considered substantially complete on February 24, 2021. On September 15, 2022, the WMU Commission approved Final Pay Request No. 37 in the amount of \$300,595.39 and accepted the project for perpetual maintenance in accordance with the plans and specifications. This represents total payment to Judy Construction Company of \$20,207,001.14. The original contract price was \$19,982,300.00 resulting in an overall increase of the contract amount by \$224,701.14.

The total estimated cost (preliminary engineering costs) of the initial phase of water system improvements ranged from \$24 - \$28 million dollars based on the best available information at the time. The revised estimate based upon as-bid and finished construction information is \$31,586,377.80. Construction of the new water treatment plant was completed during the Third Quarter of 2022. Preliminary grade work and siting of the new WTP facilities was constructed as part of the Lower Howards Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant project at a cost of \$2,189,500. In addition, raw water pump upgrades and raw and finished water transmission improvements were completed during calendar year 2016 which will insure the delivery of the additional capacity.

The finished water main improvements began at WMU's Kentucky River Pump Station (1001 Ford Road) extended to the future site of the proposed WTP located at 7055 Boonesboro Road, interconnected with the existing WTP facilities at 365 Water Works Road and ended with connection to the existing 12-inch water main near 550 Bypass Road. The total cost of improvements was \$8,244,329.12.

The Kentucky River Pump Station improvements included the addition of one (1) raw water vertical turbine pump, pump control valves, HVAC upgrades, electrical upgrades and other associated piping and valve improvements. Construction of the improvements was completed and accepted by the Commission in January 2017 at a cost of \$1,170,248.66.

Construction of the aforementioned water improvements and proposed improvements necessitated rate adjustments to facilitate construction. In March of 2010 it was necessary for WMU and the City of Winchester to enact phased rate increases to provide the revenue and funds to construct the capital improvements to meet the water needs of the community currently and in the future. These adjustments have equated to a total adjustment of \$15.97/month (77.1%) for city customers and \$12.89/month (47.5%) for county customers for the average 6,000 gallon/month user on the monthly utility bill for water.

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- **Consent Decree**

Compliance with requirements of the Consent Decree remains a top priority for the Utility. Much progress has been made since April of 2007 to comply with the requirements of this enforcement action. The Consent Decree is the settlement agreement between the United States Environmental Agency (EPA), the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC, formerly known as the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet), the City and WMU detailing actions to be taken by the City and WMU for violations of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1319. The basic tenants of the Consent Decree call for the City and WMU to:

- Eliminate existing and recurring sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)
- Reduce the potential for future SSOs

Deadlines outlined in the Consent Decree for completion of capital projects to eliminate SSO’s are shown in the chart below:

Project	Project Area	Proposed Completion Date	Project Cost
Lower Howards Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Snowfall Stoneybrook	January 31, 2013 (Complete)	\$32,765,179.90
Bel-Air Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Bel-Air Westside	July 31, 2013 (Complete)	\$559,867.96
Hampton Manor Sanitary Sewer Improvements	(Bonnie Brook and Mockingbird Valley)	July 31, 2019 (Complete)	\$1,288,128.00
Flanagan and Madison Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements	Madison, Flanagan, & East Washington Street	May 9, 2024 (Substantial Completion)	\$6,904,149.00 (As-Bid Cost doesn't include Design & Admin Fees)
Other locations identified in Exhibit A of the Consent Decree	WMU Collection System	January 20, 2024 (Design)	Undetermined

The Lower Howards Creek Project involved a facility plan update, construction of sanitary sewer interceptors, force main and construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. The Lower Howards Creek Project is complete and received final acceptance January 2, 2014. The Bel-Air Sanitary Sewer Improvements project involved construction of an interstate road bore and new interceptor sewer that

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eliminated two (2) sewage pumping stations. Construction of Bel-Air is complete and was formally accepted on June 20, 2013. The Hampton Manor Sanitary Sewer Improvements project was proposed to eliminate two (2) recurring SSOs in the Bonnie Brook and Mockingbird Valley area (MH’s 14-76A and 14-51). Construction of the Hampton Manor project is complete and was formally accepted on April 19, 2018. Construction of the Madison, Flanagan, and East Washington Street project includes the rehabilitation of the East Interceptor Sewer coupled with construction of larger diameter sewers in the downtown area of Winchester to replace aging infrastructure. This project along with all other locations identified in Exhibit A of the Consent Decree are being designed based upon flow monitoring data and updates to the Sewer Hydraulic Model as required. Completion of an SSO Elimination Study in January 2018 provided an outline of WMU’s overall plan moving forward for elimination of SSOs No. 15, 16, 17, 19, 25, and 26 as delineated in WMU’s Consent Decree. The purpose of the Study was to provide a global perspective for future design of projects intended to eliminate SSOs at these specific locations. WMU’s approved Sanitary Sewer Overflow Plan (SSOP) calls for elimination of the above-mentioned SSO locations in the 2021 – 2025 timeframe. With completion of the Study, WMU initiated the design of the Flanagan and Madison Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. The project will replace several sanitary sewers located in downtown area of Winchester. The SSO Elimination Project has a Consent Decree completion deadline of December 31, 2023. includes construction of approximately 7,137 feet of 30-inch PVC, 1,549 feet of 24-inch PVC, 3,609 feet of 21-inch PVC, 4,017 feet of 15-inch PVC, 152 feet 10-inch PVC, 450 feet of 8-inch PVC gravity sewer lines and 203 feet of 8-inch PE force main. The preliminary project estimate is \$6,430,000. Staff has executed a work order with Bell Engineering to complete design of the project as well as provide resident project representation services. Staff has updated EPA Region 4 representatives related to the findings of the SSO Elimination Study and on March 11, 2019 submitted a request for extension of time for completion of the Project provided in the Consent Decree Capital Construction. The deadline proposed and subsequently approved is December 31, 2023. On April 15, 2019, WMU received a request from the Department for Environmental Protection requesting additional information regarding the date extension for the completion of the remaining Sanitary Sewer Overflow Plan (SSOP) projects. Staff along with Legal Counsel prepared and submitted a response on May 13, 2019. An Agreement for Non-Material Modification to the Consent Decree has been signed by all parties and has been filed with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. As of January 14, 2019, survey work is complete. Project plans were submitted to the KY Division of Water on September 27, 2019 for review and approval. On October 31, 2019 design and construction approval was received from the Department of Environmental Cabinet, Division of Water. On March 5, 2020 the WMU Commission approved Resolution 2020-1 & 2020-2 directing the WMU Chairman to execute the encroachment agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the construction and installation of the sanitary sewers. In the interest of public and employee health during the COVID-19 pandemic, easement & property acquisition

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was significantly delayed. Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) project profiles were submitted to the local Area Development District for inclusion in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Cleaner Water Program (CWP) for funding of the construction. On December 3, 2021, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$5,000,000 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) to construct the project. Additional funding from Round 2 of the CWP in the amount of \$748,617.00 are anticipated to be received in the Fourth Quarter of 2022. All easements for the project have been signed and recorded. Palmer Engineering has also applied for a permit with the US Army Corp of Engineers to cross an existing conservation easement and expects approval in the near future. The project was advertised for bids on October 29, 2022, a pre-bid meeting was held on November 15, 2022 and bids were opened on December 8, 2022. After review of the bids received, it was determined that the bids exceeded the available funding for the project. As a result, all bids were rejected with the intent of dividing the project into three (3) phases. Phase 1 that addresses the Flanagan Street (documented SSO #16) and Madison Avenue (documented SSO #17) SSOs was advertised on January 17, 2023 and the bid opening was on February 6, 2023. The project scope for Phase I includes upsizing approximately 6,200 L.F. of existing sewer (8-inch through 24-inch) and replacement of existing manholes. On March 23, 2023, the WMUC rejected the lowest bid submitted by Norris Brothers Excavating, LLC due to deficiencies cited in a review letter provided by Bell Engineering after the bids were reviewed and evaluated. Following the rejection of the lowest bid, the WMUC accepted the second lowest bid and approved the contract for the construction of Phase 1 of the project to Lagco, Inc., 1490 Sunshine Lane, Lexington, KY 40505, for the unit prices submitted in their bid in the amount of \$6,904,149.00. A pre-construction meeting was held on April 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM. On June 7, 2023, the WMU Commission held a public meeting for the residents and property owners located within the project area of the Flanagan Street & Madison Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project. Those in attendance were notified that WMU and its contractor, Lagco, Inc., would be replacing the sanitary sewer mains on Evans Street, 1st Street, Madison Avenue, N. Maple Street, Broadway Street, N. Highland Street, Hodgkin Alley, E. Lexington Avenue, Buckner Street, and Flanagan Street as part of Phase I of the project. The residents and property owners were further notified that construction was anticipated to begin on June 12, 2023. As of the end of the First Quarter of 2024, Consent Decree Non-Exhibit A MH #9-9 has been replaced and the bypass piping has been removed from service. No SSO have occurred at MH #9.9 since the completion of the replacement work. The contract amount for the project is \$6,910,966.29 which does not include engineering fees or project administration costs. During the Second Quarter of 2024, construction of the 24-inch gravity sewer line was completed on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at which time the line work portion of the project was considered substantially complete. All that remains is the railroad bore on Flanagan Street for Phase 3 of the project. As of the end of the Second Quarter of 2024, WMU has expended \$5,936,365.04 on

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the project. The next monthly construction progress meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024

Structured O&M programs have been developed, submitted, and reviewed/approved by the EPA. These programs are known as the Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) programs. WMU developed fourteen (14) required CMOM programs, seven (7) of which were submitted, reviewed and approved by EPA. A list of the CMOM Programs developed and submitted to EPA are as follows:

- Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SORP)
- Inter Jurisdictional Agreement Program
- Public Education Program
- Spill Impact Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Corrosion Control Program
- Routine Hydraulic Cleaning Program
- Root Control Program
- Capacity Assurance Program (CAP)
- Acquisition Consideration Program
- Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (IRP)
- Sewer System Assessment Program (CSSAP)
- Sewer System Inventory Program
- Fats, Oils, and Grease Control Program (FOG)
- Financial and Cost Analysis Program

Additional requirements of the Consent Decree included a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). As a result, it was determined to be environmentally beneficial to the public to implement a SEP which would commission a study of the streams in the Lower Howards Creek Watershed (LHCW) and develop a Lower Howards Creek Watershed Management Plan (LHCWMP). The SEP Completion Report was submitted to the EPA and KDOW on November 20, 2012. On January 8, 2013 WMU received written confirmation that the SEP Completion Report in accordance with General Provision 4 of Exhibit D of the Consent Decree was approved by the EPA.

As would be expected the requirements of the Consent Decree have had a substantial fiscal effect on WMU ratepayers. In March of 2010 it was necessary for WMU and the City of Winchester to enact phased rate increases to provide the revenue and funds necessary to comply with the requirements of the Consent Decree that included capital construction projects and CMOM activities. The phased rate increases adjusted utility bills approximately 20% per year from 2010–2013. In 2014 and 2015 rates were adjusted approximately 5% annually and adjusted thereafter based upon the CPI index. With the rate increases as enacted the monthly sewer bill for the average user (6,000 gallons) has increased from

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\$28.88/month in 2010 to \$67.12/month in 2015. This equated to a total adjustment of \$38.24/month for the average customer or an overall increase of 132% for the average customer on the monthly utility bill for sewer service.

Since entry of the Consent Decree in April 2007, WMU has spent \$77,211,370.08 on capital projects. Expenditures amount to approximately \$6,406.52 for each of WMU's 12,052 customers. Similarly, during this same timeframe, WMU has spent \$3,557,661.17 on CMOM, flow monitoring and I/I reduction programs. Expenditures amount to approximately \$295.19 for each of WMU's 12,052 wastewater customers. The economy continues to move in a positive direction; however, growth still remains at minimal levels. This being the case, opportunities are limited to bring down the individual costs to each customer.

- **Strodes Creek Solids Processing Improvements**

The project was part of the 2019 / 2020 Operating and Capital Budget. The completed construction cost was \$2,517,992.94. Staff identified the centrifuge technology as the preferred option that upgraded facilities were designed around. A presentation was provided to the WMU Commission on 9-20-18 regarding such. Work Order No. 24 with Bell Engineering was executed to begin design of the project. Meetings with contractors and equipment suppliers are complete. An internal schedule has been developed in order to track the progress of the project. Additionally, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) project profiles have been submitted to the local Area Development District for inclusion in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) process for funding of the construction. As previously reported the existing facilities have reached their useful life expectancy and wastewater flows are dictating the need for improvements. Due to the lengthy lead time of the centrifuge equipment, bids were received for the centrifuge equipment on Monday, December 3, 2018. Bell and staff have finalized review of the bids and recommended Flotweg as the supplier for the centrifuge equipment. The WMU Commission approved the bid from Flotweg at the regular meeting on 2-21-19 in the amount of \$998,000 with funds from Depreciation. Contract documents were executed during the First Quarter of 2019 to supply the necessary equipment for the upgrades to the Strodes Creek Solids Facilities. Final project plans and the construction permit application were sent to the Division of Water on June 3, 2019. On October 4th design and construction approval was received from the Department of Environmental Cabinet, Division of Water. The project was advertised in January / February 2020, a Pre-Bid Conference was held on February 13, 2020, and the bid opening was on February 20th. On March 19, 2020 the WMU Commission accepted the bid and approved award of the contract to Pace Contracting, LLC, 15415 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40245 for the unit process submitted in their bid in the amount of \$3,473,480.00. Change Order No. 1 was approved on February 4, 2021 extending the completion date by forty-five (45) days resulting in a final completion date of March 15, 2021 and for unit prices as bid and outlined in Change Order No. 1 documentation, in the amount of

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-\$882,204.95. On January 6, 2022, the WMU Commission approved Final Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$300,595.39 and accepted the project for perpetual maintenance in accordance with the plans and specifications.

- **Kentucky River Lock and Dam No. 10**

The original construction of the Kentucky River Lock and Dam No. 10 were completed in 1905. The dam was substantially rehabilitated in 2020-21 with the construction of eight concrete-filled, steel sheet pile cellular structures and connecting arc cells 72 feet upstream of the existing main structure and 222 feet upstream of the existing auxiliary structure. Renovations also included scour and slope protections and a conveyance system to transfer water from upper to lower pools in droughts. The use of in-the-wet construction was utilized to reduce costs, risks, project duration, and environmental impacts. The dam impounds Pool No. 10 which creates the water supply for Winchester and most of Clark County.

The lock and dam was owned and operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) until 1996 at which time ownership and the responsibility for maintenance and replacement of the lock and dam were transferred to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The General Assembly created by statute the Kentucky River Authority (KRA) to oversee the operation, maintenance and replacement of the 14 locks and dams on the Kentucky River. Implicit in that charge of authority is the maintenance of the 14 pools of water for water supply. The Kentucky River supplies water to approximately 22% of Kentucky's population. WMU, like all other water utilities that withdraw water from the Kentucky River, pays a withdrawal fee for each gallon of water withdrawn from the Kentucky River and the Carroll Ecton Reservoir (CER) and passes that cost to its customers. The withdrawal fees are used by KRA for repair and replacement of the 14 locks and dams. The KRA Tier II withdrawal fees were increased (July 2018) to help facilitate the repair and replacement of the aging infrastructure along the River. More specifically, the fees were increased to support the rehabilitation activities associated with Dam No. 10.

Pool No. 10 is the longest pool on the Kentucky River stretching nearly 25 miles along the 260 miles of the Kentucky River and is subject to wide variations in flow from 0 flow to 1 billion gallons per day. The East Kentucky Power (EKP) Dale Generating Plant did withdraw cooling water for the power generating plant from this pool. EKP has since decommissioned the facility located at this location and has finalized removal of coal ash from the sedimentation ponds. With this decommissioning the WMU withdrawal is the only permitted withdrawal from Pool No. 10. Upstream from WMU's water intake in Pool No. 10 is one of the City of Richmond Utilities Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) permitted discharges, Otter Creek in Madison County. The permitted WWTP discharge meets the Kentucky, five-mile separation rule between a WWTP discharge and a WTP intake.

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As previously mentioned Tier II withdrawal fees were increased in July 2018 in order to finance the proposed improvements.

The Kentucky Department of Finance approved the KRA Board’s recommendation to adjust the rate structure for Tier II user fees from \$0.13 to \$0.22 per thousand gallons withdrawn. Subsequently, in February 2020, KRA voted to adjust Tier I water user fees from \$.022 to \$.029 per thousand gallons withdrawn. The adjustment raised the total KRA water withdrawal fee from \$.30 to \$.32 per hundred cubic feet of water billed.

The Kentucky River is a non-protected watershed. It is subject to contamination from straight pipes (unauthorized sewer discharges), agricultural runoff (chemical contamination), chemical spills, and drought. Yet approximately one quarter of the state’s population relies upon the river for water supply. Tier I water fees (2.9 cents per 1,000 gallons) are based on water withdrawn from any source within the boundaries of the Kentucky River Drainage Basin, and are used to fund the day-to-day operations of the KRA. Tier II water fees (22 cents per 1,000 gallons) are based on water withdrawn from the “Main Stem” of the Kentucky River, and are reserved for the maintenance and replacement of the locks and dams on the Kentucky River.

- **Carroll Ecton Reservoir**

The Carroll Ecton Reservoir (CER) impounds approximately 500,000,000 gallons of water on an unnamed tributary of Lower Howards Creek. WMU is permitted to withdraw up to 5.3 MGD from the Reservoir. With startup of the new water treatment plant the CER is not currently capable of being utilized as a secondary source of water supply. However, excess raw water flow from the Kentucky River can be pumped to the CER during normal operation. Over the years significant leakage has developed out of the hillside (rock face) just below the dam and an unknown amount of silt has accumulated within the body of water both of which effect storage volumes. The WMU Commission has determined that the CER should remain a secondary raw water source and has authorized design and construction of improvements in conjunction with the new WTP facilities provided that funds are available to do so. This will ensure a reliable secondary raw water source for the community in the event problems are experienced along the Kentucky River.

- **WMU KY River Raw Water Intake Facility Standby Power**

The project consists of the design and construction of all necessary modifications to the existing WMU Raw Water Intake Facility located 1085 Ford Road, Winchester, KY for a 4160V emergency generator and transfer switch gear to provide emergency back-up electrical power to the facility. Currently the Raw Water Intake Facility located on the banks of the Kentucky River does not have an

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emergency backup electrical supply. The KU power supply is overhead and is exposed to both tree and ice storm damage as well as flooding. The Raw Water Intake Facility is the main and only source of raw water supply for the Water Treatment Plant approximately 2 miles away. Additionally, the project will provide a raw water line interconnection to the Carroll Ecton Reservoir in order to secure a secondary source of raw water supply for the City of Winchester and Clark County in the event the primary source of water cannot be utilized. On March 17, 2022, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$381,797.00 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) to construct the project. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Phase I of the project with Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) was approved and signed by the commission on March 2, 2023. Phase I of the project consists of the planning, engineering, and design of the emergency backup generator and the associated components. The total award amount for Phase I of the project is \$212,136.00. The MOA allocates 5.2% (\$11,031.07) of the cost to be paid from WMU funds while 90% (\$190,922.40) is to be paid federally and 4.8% (\$10,182.53) is to be paid by the state. On February 17, 2023, Staff completed Form SAS-63 and set up a vendor account to receive electronic reimbursements from KYEM. On February 28, 2023, Staff participated in a virtual award briefing to review the grant requirements. On March 2, 2023, the WMUC approved and executed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management. The Quarterly Report for the period of July 1-September 30, 2023 was submitted to KYEM on October 5, 2023. Project plans for the raw water line interconnection were submitted to the KY Division of Water on October 30, 2023 for review and approval. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$2,264,831.19.

- **Solid Waste Enhancements**

The WMU Commission authorized a comprehensive solid waste study of the solid waste operations for WMU on May 31, 2012. The scope of services was comprised of four (4) phases of work that included 1) Compilation and review of existing information, 2) Cost and rate analysis, 3) Review of alternatives (optional), and 4) Reporting. The final report delivered in March of 2013 provided a comprehensive review of the operational and financial performance of WMU's solid waste services, including collection, recycling, and operation of the transfer station. The final report also included state and national benchmarking of municipal and solid waste management systems to gauge the "state of the industry" and to identify best practices for consideration by WMU. Key findings from the study included elimination of the mandatory commercial customer charge, establishment of a multi-family customer class, validation and implementation of several operational alternatives including integration of elderly/disabled collection into regular refuse routes; conversion of the second weekly refuse collection service to curbside recycling collection; consideration of a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) structure; and establishment of commercial collection for corrugated cardboard

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recycling. The final report developed rate structures for “full cost” and “revenue sufficiency”.

Since completion of the final report WMU has implemented several of the recommendations and findings or variations thereof that include Residential Single Stream Curbside Recycling, Phases I (March 7, 2014) and II (October 2, 2014) and established a multi-family customer class with container rates.

The WMU Commission authorized an additional solid waste study of the solid waste operations in December of 2015 to evaluate 1) Conversion to weight-based tipping fees, 2) Commercial sector recycling, and 3) Commercial haulers use of the WMU Transfer Station. A final report was delivered in May of 2016 which provided recommendations to convert to a weight-based tip fee versus volumetric tipping fees for refuse disposal. The report also acknowledged that WMU should seek feedback from the commercial sector customers prior to making any decisions related to commercial curbit customer recycling and WMU should investigate the opportunities to expand the throughput of the WMU Transfer Station to help offset the cost per ton for refuse disposal.

Installation of Transfer Station truck scales in September 2015 via Kentucky Pride Grant Funds provided the opportunity for conversion to weight-based tipping fees. Consequently, revisions to Sections 14-81-7 and 14-81-8 of the Winchester Code of Ordinances No. 8-2016 received final approval by the Winchester City Commission in August of 2016. The revisions included conversions to weight-based tipping fees and clarification on WMU Transfer Station disposal fees. WMU continues to review recommendations from the 2013 and 2016 reports that can be implemented and enhance the overall operation of the Solid Waste Department.

A recent decline in recycling commodity pricing and increased processing costs at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) have required staff to review options related to the single stream curbside recycling services currently provided. The amount of materials that is delivered to the Lexington Recycling Center (LRC) and deemed non-recyclable contamination — or percentage of materials put into recycling bins that cannot be recycled and must go to the landfill — is estimated to be between 22 and 27 percent. Once the recyclables are taken to the LRC, they sort the materials and sell the desirable commodities and the remainder of the materials that cannot be recycled are then landfilled. The landfill costs to process those non-recyclable materials have outweighed the revenues we received for the recycled materials that are sold. Recent statements from LRC Officials indicate the value for recyclable commodities are predicted to continue to diminish over the next few months. On average it is estimated the percentage of paper products that are collected and will now be landfilled is between 35 and 40 percent in addition to the materials that are already being landfilled. In consideration of those factors and as a result of the LRC decision to not accept any paper products, the decision was made that WMU would suspend its curbside recycling program.

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As mentioned in previous sections in March of 2010 it was necessary for WMU and the City of Winchester to enact phased rate increases to provide the revenue and funds to meet the solid waste needs of the community currently and in the future. These adjustments have equated to a total adjustment of \$16.72/month for customers on their monthly utility bill for solid waste.

- **Affordability**

Affordability of services is a major concern for the City Commission, the Utility Commission and to Management. The WMU service area population is approximately 27,000 – 30,000 of which 51% fall in the low to moderate income (LMI) level. While the economy has expanded by 2.0% and 2.1% in the first and second quarters of 2023, respectively, driven mainly by consumer spending in the first half of the year. The second quarter marked the fourth consecutive quarter of growth near or above the economy's potential, however, limited local development has further impacted the affordability of WMU's services. The main factors impacting economic growth include: inflation, increases in capital goods, labor force, technology, and human capital for both 2023 and 2024.

The primary costs in WMU's budget are capital costs including renewals and replacements. The cost of compliance with the Consent Decree and elimination of I/I (approximately \$80.77 (million to-date), cost for upgrading and expanding WMU's water system capacity and additional capital needs are expected to exceed \$17 million. Renewals and replacements exceed \$2,000,000 each year. The driving factors in WMU's operations and maintenance budget are power, fuel, chemical and personnel costs.

The City and WMU Commissions, in concert with Management, have continuously worked to reduce the financial burden of rate increases. Cost-effective decisions must be considered and made with respect to capital needs. Management is focused on cost-effective operations while taking into consideration the high level of service demanded by WMU's customers. One of the cost-effective measures included in the budgeting process for the five-year capital plan included setting aside monies in the Depreciation budget to fund new water system improvements.

The City and WMU Commissions passed rate increases that became effective in February 2010. Rates have been adjusted annually with the last increase implemented in January 2015. These rate increases were necessary despite a depressed economy, high unemployment, and a declining stock market. Implementation of the rate increases allow WMU to upgrade and improve WMU's water system, comply with the Consent Decree, and contribute to replacement of WMU's aging water and wastewater infrastructure. This ensures a high level of service to existing customers and positions the community to be able to attract and

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retain residential, commercial and industrial development while balancing the affordability of providing a prescribed level of service.

Previously, the City and WMU Commissions passed an annual adjustment to the rate structure tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This adjustment allows WMU to maintain its operating and maintenance budget current with the cost of living through annual adjustments to the rate versus the historical flat line approach with infrequent but significant adjustments. This approach was favored in a community survey by 73.5 % of the respondents. CPI rate adjustments were enacted during the First Quarter of 2018, First Quarter of 2019, First Quarter of 2020, First Quarter of 2021, First Quarter of 2022 and the First Quarter of 2023. The 2024 CPI rate adjustment approved by the WMU Commission was based upon December 2023 information which reflected a 3.0% increase.

The City and WMU Commissions, in concert with the Fiscal Court, have adopted legislation (Privilege Fee) that will ensure that the costs of growth for WMU’s sanitary sewer system are apportioned to all benefitted properties versus being solely supported by the existing customer base. The privilege fee approach is favored for its equity and for the benefit to the community by insuring that sanitary sewers are sized on a watershed basis versus the historical “first in, one size fits all approach”. The Privilege Fee Ordinance and Policies have been approved by the respective legislative bodies and WMU’s first Privilege Fee Agreement (PFA), located in the Strodes Creek, Basin B received final approval on September 21, 2014. Recent efforts by entities in the Hancock Creek watershed to move a second PFA project forward have stalled due to the potential costs of those involved. A project in this watershed would involve multiple PFA’s.

The City and WMU Commissions have secured grants and sought the best possible financing for WMU’s capital needs. The City and WMU received a \$36,600,000 low interest (2.2%; 20 years) loan for the Lower Howards Creek Wastewater System Improvements. The City and WMU received a \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant and \$750,000 Economic Development Grant to construct the Forest Park Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. Management applied for but did not receive grant funds to construct the Bel-Air Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. Funding for the Bel-Air project was secured via a low interest loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (2.2%; 20 years). Financing of the Hampton Manor Sewer Improvements was via low interest funds from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority. Financing of the Water System Improvements is a combination of accumulated funds that include Depreciation funds as previously mentioned, System Development Charge funds and the sale of revenue bonds in the range of 4-5% for 20 years. On December 3, 2021, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$5,000,000 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) to construct the Flanagan Street and Madison Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. Additional

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funding from Round 2 of the CWP in the amount of \$748,000.00 was received in the Fourth Quarter of 2022.

BUSINESS FACTORS

- **Facilities Planning**

WMU is required by federal and state regulation to maintain a Facilities Plan that outlines the long-term plan for growth of the sanitary sewer system and treatment works. A Facilities Plan Update was completed and approved by the Energy and Environmental Cabinet (EEC) for the upgrade of the Strodes Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The last Facilities Plan with respect to the collection system was completed in August 2008. The plan should be updated on a minimum 20-year cycle. The WMU Commission authorized Palmer Engineering Company (PEC) to evaluate the collection system and treatment alternatives for the Strodes Creek, Lower Howards Creek, Hoods Creek, Hancock Creek and Four Mile Creek watersheds and sub-watersheds. The Facilities Plan Update is a required element of the Consent Decree.

Conversely, there is no such mandate for the drinking water system with respect to planning. However, in November 2009 Hazen & Sawyer prepared a Water System Planning Study outlining recommendations for significant improvements needed to meet current and future needs for the Utility. Recommendations included conceptual cost estimates for a new WTP, raw water pump station upgrades, raw water transmission main upgrades, finished water transmission upgrades and reservoir improvements. The conceptual cost summary totaled \$58,700,000 of improvements excluding any reservoir improvements.

Since that time, WMU retained Bell Engineering (September 2013) to provide a third-party review of existing studies and alternatives relative to the water supply, treatment and transmission main infrastructure. Technical Memorandum No. 1 (TM 1) was completed and presented to the WMU Commission on March 6, 2014. TM 1 included evaluation and recommendations for raw water supply, raw water intake and pump station improvements, raw and finished water transmission main improvements, and an updated opinion of probable construction cost and schedule for the proposed new WTP. The conceptual cost summary from TM 1 which included improvements to maintain the Carroll Ecton Reservoir as a back-up water supply totaled \$42,370,000. The conceptual cost estimate was further developed and as previously mentioned the initial phase of improvements ranged from \$24 - \$28 million dollars based on the best available information. Current information provides for nearly \$32,000,000 to be expended on the water system improvements.

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In response to initiatives identified in the Clark County Community (CCC) Action Plan, the Winchester Recycling Task Force (RTF) was established in 2009. In the same year, the RTF developed and coordinated a county-wide Recycling Survey mailed to approximately 12,000 customers of WMU, Rumpke, and S&G Sanitation within the December 2009 and January 2010 billing cycle.

A total of 2,167 survey responses were received representing a response rate of 22 percent. Of the 2,167 respondents, 1,447 (67%) were WMU customers. Based on the survey results and research efforts of the RTF, the Winchester City Commission and WMU Commission implemented a Pilot Program for the Holiday Hills subdivision the week of August 1, 2011. Based upon positive results of the Pilot Program and recommendations from the Solid Waste Study it was proposed to implement Residential Single Stream Curbside Recycling for WMU customers in two phases. Phase I was implemented March 7, 2014 and Phase II October 2, 2014. Preliminary analysis of the recycling rates indicates that participation and volume are less than 15% of the total volume of material collected. This is below industry thresholds which indicate that 20-25% is an acceptable range for volume and participation. WMU continues to review recommendations as outlined in the various studies conducted for the solid waste activities.

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, WMU Staff was notified by the Lexington Recycle Center that effective immediately they have temporarily suspended recycling of paper products which includes office paper, envelopes, phone books, calendars, folders, fliers, shredded paper, newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes, paper towel rolls and similar products. The WMU Transfer Station does not have a means of sorting the commingled mixture of recyclables into separate commodities (newspaper, paperboard, corrugated fiberboard, plastic, glass, metal, etc.). Therefore, due to this recent change in policy by the Lexington Recycle Center to landfill any unclaimed paper and to avoid the increased processing fees associated with these materials, WMU curbside recycling was suspended until further notice.

- **Rate Studies**

The WMU Commission previously authorized rate studies of WMU's three utility functions. The rate studies proposed revenue sufficient rates to support WMU's operations, including the expanded operations as required by CMOM, the operations of the Strodes Creek WWTP and the planned WTP, the capital needs as required by the Consent Decree and the planned water system improvements. Results of the rate study are reflective of the rates recommended, approved, and implemented February 2010. Staff maintains an in-house Financial Model and updates as necessary to ensure the financial stability of the Utility.

The WMU Commission authorized a wholesale cost of service study to support WMU's wholesale cost of service rate to its only wholesale customer, East Clark County Water District. The rate study has been completed and received Public

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Service Commission (PSC) approval on October 5, 2010 to increase the cost from \$1.62 to \$1.72 per hundred cubic feet of water sold. With completion of the large Water System Improvements projects the wholesale rate will be reviewed to determine the need for adjustment of this rate.

As part of the Solid Waste Study initiated in May 2012 a cost and rate analysis was conducted of WMU’s current rates as well as expanded service rates. As previously mentioned a multi-family customer class was established with corresponding container rates as a result of the study. Implementation of any other recommendations will most likely result in impacts to future budgets.

Due to the significant amount of debt incurred for capital construction projects since the last rate study it would be beneficial for the Utility to review the rate structures for all three utility functions in the near future. Based upon the current capital construction schedule the optimal time would be upon completion of the new WTP, the Strodes Creek Solids Processing Improvements project, the Flanagan Street and Madison Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements project and the various Main Replacement Program (MRP) projects that have been completed in recent years. This would allow the rate study to precede construction costs associated with large sanitary sewer improvements required by the Consent Decree which are proposed to be completed in the 2024 timeframe. In addition, the study would provide for an independent review of the rates in a 10 – 12-year timeframe.

- **Work Force**

Key issues that continue to face WMU with respect to workforce include retirements, loss of institutional and industry knowledge, finding and attracting qualified replacement employees, paying competitive wages based on industry standards, and training of employees to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of water, wastewater, and solid waste utility operations including customer service, finance, information systems, administrative services and engineering.

WMU has 85 budgeted staff positions of which 67 are filled and 5 part-time employees. The average age for WMU employees is 40 years. The number of eligible retirements at WMU over the next five years, due to age, years of service, or both, is five (5) or 6% of the workforce. Since 2002, there have been 51 retirements which equates to a loss of nearly 70% of the WMU workforce. Large scale retirement numbers often enable entities to renew and refresh operations, systems, and business philosophies. Transition planning has been successful for most key positions; however, such changeover carries the burden of losing institutional and industry knowledge, and challenges Management to find, attract, train, and retain replacements particularly for supervisory positions. As WMU moves forward with construction of additional facilities for both water and wastewater, staffing of those facilities will be of utmost importance. In an effort to

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screen and find quality employees WMU has acquired the help of a local temporary staffing service agency.

WMU’s attractiveness as an employer continues to be its benefits package. With the recent changes in the retirement system the benefit package will become less attractive and other avenues will need to be explored to attract quality employees. That being the case, the Commission has recognized the need to make positive adjustments in WMU’s pay scale which has helped with retention of quality employees. These efforts have helped WMU provide salaries that are at least average or comparable to other municipalities. Training for utility operations is typically on-the-job. Certification in operations and driver’s licensing (commercial) is a job requirement for all three utility functions. Support functions, customer service and vehicle maintenance, as well as engineering and finance, will require on-the-job training specific to WMU’s business operations. Workforce development is critical in maintaining the quality of service delivered by WMU and for compliance with enforcement and regulatory activities. Management continues to look for opportunities to improve salaries for competent and skilled employees and recruitment from the local high school and technical college facilities.

- **Infrastructure Renewal**

A structured approach for infrastructure renewal spreads costs over the long-term and can increase the service life of assets. WMU continues to emphasize the importance and need for ample asset management and infrastructure renewal allocations. WMU’s infrastructure renewal program includes a prioritization methodology to maximize capital investment, and annual allocations for defined asset categories. WMU annually allocates an average of \$2,000,000 of its capital investment for this effort. Program elements include:

- Main Replacement Program – Water
- Fire hydrant Replacement
- Gate Valve Box Adjustment – Pavement Overlay
- Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation
- Meter Change Out
- Main Replacement Program – Sewer
- Private Sewer Replacement
- Inflow and Inflow (I/I) Rehabilitation
- Curbit Replacement
- Container Replacement
- Vehicles
- Plant & Equipment Improvements

While WMU’s program of infrastructure renewal is a model for other utilities and public works agencies in the central Kentucky area, the program is limited in its

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scope by funding, especially with large water system improvements and Consent Decree requirements planned for the immediate future.

Infrastructure renewal funding should be based upon a mathematical model that addresses asset category inventory and asset category service life. WMU’s program is based upon funds available. As an example, and simply stated, for the waterline asset category, funding for waterline replacement should be based upon the cost for replacing the number of miles of waterline divided by the service life of the pipe. In this example, if WMU owns and maintains 182 miles of waterline with the waterlines having a service life of 60 years, the allocation for waterline replacement should be the average cost of replacing 3 miles of waterline per year. At \$60 per foot for replacement of a waterline this calculates to an annual allocation of \$950,400. Likewise, if WMU owns and maintains 160 miles of sanitary sewer lines having a service life of 60 years, the allocation for sewer line replacement should be the average cost of replacing 2.61 miles of sewer line per year. At \$70 per foot for replacement of a sewer line, the annual allocation calculates to be \$964,656. Without adequate funding for infrastructure renewal WMU is susceptible to interruption of service to its customers and a reduced level of service provided to its customers.

- **Regulations**

WMU and its utility functions are highly regulated. Regulation is a necessary part of the utility business to ensure a service delivery level and to protect the public’s safety, health, and welfare. Regulations serve to protect the environment for future generations. Regulations ensure conservation and protection of our natural resources.

Regulations are regularly considered and promulgated by state and federal governments. Public water supply regulations are located in 401 KAR Chapter 8. WMU staff is active in monitoring proposed regulations and the impacts such regulations have on a local basis. Comment and impact on the promulgation of regulations on a federal level is limited, however, WMU staff communicate with state and national industry organizations and through direct contact with federal officials elected from Kentucky. On a state level, WMU staff participates on numerous committees and task forces to provide a voice for city-owned water, wastewater, and solid waste utilities.

State regulations typically result as mandates on state regulatory agencies from federal legislation. Kentucky is a primacy state meaning that the State is responsible for implementing and enforcing federal regulation. Staff works to ensure that state regulations, when promulgated, are reasonable and practicable.

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Most recently, on December 16, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began implementing the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), following a review of the LCRR under Executive Order 13990.

The new rule calls for revisions to testing protocols for lead in drinking water, establishes new trigger levels for earlier mitigation, additional testing in schools and childcare facilities, and requires water systems to prepare and maintain an inventory of service line materials by October 16, 2024. The revisions will significantly increase WMU’s responsibilities associated with customer-owned infrastructure issues, private service line inventory, and full Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) requirements.

Previously, two (2) other regulations that were enacted at the State level having a financial impact on WMU were the Kentucky wastewater laboratory certification program for wastewater treatment plants (401KAR 5:320) which required fees in the amount of \$1,900 and implementation of additional quality control standards and the other being HB 1 which requires a special purpose governmental entity (SPGE) to register, pay fees in the amount of \$500, and submit financial disclosure statements each fiscal year to the Kentucky State Auditor. WMU has complied with each of the above-mentioned regulations and continues to monitor other regulations as they are promulgated. WMU’s current and future large-scale construction projects have been designed considering proposed and future regulations.

- **Vulnerability**

The impacts of 9/11 and the resulting passage of the Bioterrorism Act in 2002 required utilities to consider their vulnerabilities as a primary consideration versus a secondary consideration. For mid-size and smaller utilities such as WMU the probability of an act of international violence or terrorism is extremely low.

However, WMU’s vulnerabilities are real and must be considered. Planning must be in place to address catastrophic events, violence, or contamination. Potential threats to WMU include cyber security, severe weather (tornado, lightning, ice or snow), earthquake, prolonged power outage, contamination of the raw or potable water supply, workplace or customer violence, hazardous chemical spills, contamination or contact, and regular job safety hazards including confined space, vehicular accidents, and personal injury accidents. Management continues to explore opportunities to reduce vulnerabilities of the Utility through upgrades to its systems, allocating budget dollars to make its facilities as safe and secure as possible, securing grant funds to install redundancy in critical equipment and provision of employee safety training on an annual basis. Security upgrades at the WMU Administration building and WTP were completed in FY 2013/2014. Upgrades included customer service area security enhancements for the Administration building as well as keyless entry access for both locations. WMU

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
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participates in the Local Disaster Emergency Services (DES) group on a monthly basis. This provides an opportunity for communication of all-important stakeholders in the community to voice concerns and offer input for improvements as it relates to responding to various emergencies.

- **Growth**

It has been the policy of the WMU Commission to be neither pro nor con with respect to growth. Rather the Commission has placed as a part of its mission to accommodate growth as approved by the Planning Commission, the City Commission and the Fiscal Court with specified required levels of service. WMU and the City continue to examine and develop policies such as the Privilege Fee Ordinance that provide for growth and that protect the existing customer base from the costs of serving growth.

The Consent Decree requirements impact future extensions to the sanitary sewer system, as a detailed, engineering-capacity analysis per the Capacity Assurance Program (CAP) is required for each extension. The capacity analysis thus has become a defacto growth management tool.

WMU avails itself of every opportunity during the development process to add to and to strengthen the water transmission system and backbone sanitary sewer system taking into consideration long range growth needs.

UTILITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Renewals and Replacements**

WMU began its program of infrastructure renewals in 1996 with emphasis on improving service delivery and ensuring that all customers are afforded a comparable level of service delivery. Historically, WMU never attempted these types of improvements without incurring new debt. The infrastructure renewal program has been implemented and managed without additional funding allocations or rate increases. Funding for the program was achieved through management of WMU’s depreciation funds. To date, this program has resulted in the following replacement totals:

• Water Line Replacements	138,352 (26.20 miles)
• Sanitary Sewer Replacements	129,349 (24.50 miles)
• Fire Hydrant Replacements	183
• Isolation Valve Replacements	471
• Manhole Replacements	563
• Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitations	6

The following infrastructure improvements were completed during the 2023 / 2024 fiscal year.

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
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- Thoroughbred Estates, Water System Improvements – 4,995’ of water line, 5 fire hydrant(s), 19 isolation valve(s).
- Multi-Family Townhomes, Phase I, Water and Sanitary Sewer System Improvements – 439’ of water line, 2 fire hydrant(s), 3 isolation valve(s), 760’ of sewer line and 4 manhole(s).
- Farms at Winchester, Phase 2B, Sanitary Sewer System Improvements – 600’ of water line, 1 fire hydrant(s), 7 isolation valve(s), 465’ of sewer line and 8 manhole(s).
- Farms at Winchester, Phase 3, Water and Sanitary Sewer System Improvements – 1,400’ of water line, 2 fire hydrant(s), 10 isolation valve(s), 1,000’ of sewer line and 7 manhole(s).
- Denham Court / Rolling Hills Lane, Water System Improvements – 1,288’ of water line, 4 fire hydrant(s), 5 isolation valve(s).
- Flanagan & Madison Outfall Sewer Improvements, Phase I – 4,119’ of sewer line and 22 manhole(s).

Summary FY 2023 / 2024

*Water Line = 8,722 feet

*Sewer Line = 6,344 feet

*Fire Hydrants = 14

*Manholes = 41

*Isolation Valves = 44

UTILITY HIGHLIGHTS: FINANCIAL

Total Assets increased from \$146,484,214 June 30, 2023, to \$150,811,345 June 30, 2024, a net increase of \$4,327,131 or 2.95%. In the past few years, Winchester Municipal Utilities has completed the Strodes Creek and Lower Howards Creek wastewater treatment plants which were a part of many Consent Decree projects that have been placed into PP&E. The two plants have depreciated over \$1,468,754 in this fiscal year. In addition, the new Lower Howards Creek water plant depreciated \$941,753. The cash reserves increased from the growth in revenue from residential and industrial customers. In addition, donated capital of ownership and perpetual maintenance of system water and sewer lines and related appurtenances by developers was placed into PP&E. The largest contributing factor to the increase was the consent decree project of the Flanagan / Madison area that was placed under construction during the fiscal year.

Operating Revenues increased from \$20,677,766 June 30, 2023, to \$21,333,563 June 30, 2024, a net increase of \$655,798 or 3.17%. A rate increase based upon the CPI change in December was put in effect in the first quarter of the following year of 2020 in the amount of 2.3%, a 1.4% in 2021, a 3.0% in 2022, a 3.0% in 2023 and a 3.0% in 2024 which resulted in an increase in operating revenues. In addition, industrial and residential use continues to experience growth resulting in an increase in revenues.

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
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Operating Expenses decreased from \$17,490,101, June 30, 2023, to \$16,635,956, June 30, 2024, a net decrease of \$854,144 or 4.88%. Salaries increased due to full time positions continuing to be filled decreasing the reliability on contract labor to maintain daily operations. The decrease in benefit costs was primarily from the decreased Pension costs due to GASB 68 and GASB 75 that requires reporting of pension liability and contribution expenses. Winchester Municipal Utilities is a member of the CERS retirement system which is a part of the retirement system of the State of KY.

Net Income before Contributions changed from \$2,050,142 June 30, 2023, to \$3,866,946 June 30, 2024, a net increase of \$1,816,804 or 88.62%. The increase was due to an increase in residential and industrial revenue and by a change in Pension costs related to the reporting requirements for GASB 68 and 75.

- **Statement of Net Assets**

Condensed Statement of Net Assets - Assets

	2024	2023	Difference	Percent
Current Assets	\$14,506,719	\$13,439,462	\$1,067,257	7.94
Non-Current Assets	\$9,870,560	\$ 8,072,550	\$1,798,010	22.27
Property, Plant & Equip	\$126,434,066	\$124,972,202	\$1,461,864	1.17
Total Assets	\$150,811,345	\$146,484,214	\$4,327,131	2.95
Deferred Outflows				
Pension Plan	1,975,084	1,943,031	\$32,053	1.65
OPEB	746,183	1,190,254	\$444,071	37.31
Total Deferred Outflows	2,721,267	3,133,285	\$412,018	13.15

Condensed Statement of Net Position – Liabilities and Net Position

	2024	2023	Difference	Percent
Current Liabilities	\$5,598,049	\$5,289,581	\$308,468	5.83
Noncurrent Liabilities including LTD	\$56,486,443	\$64,386,550	\$7,900,107	12.27
Total Liabilities	\$62,084,492	\$69,676,130	\$7,591,638	10.90
Deferred Inflows				
Pension Plan	1,889,610	1,335,293	\$554,317	41.51
OPEB	2,994,241	1,333,117	\$1,661,124	124.60
Total Deferred Inflows	4,883,851	2,668,410	\$2,215,441	83.02
Net Position:				
Net Investment of Capital Assets	\$73,402,882	\$67,527,728	\$5,875,154	0.70
Restricted Net Assets	\$10,457,375	8,833,845	\$1,623,530	18.38
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,704,012	\$911,386	\$1,792,626	196.69
Total Net Position	\$86,564,269	\$77,272,959	\$9,291,310	12.02

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

- **Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets**

Condensed Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets

	2024	2023	Difference	Percent
Operating Revenues				
Water	\$6,363,036	\$6,318,434	\$44,602	0.71
Wastewater	\$10,388,469	\$10,095,504	\$292,965	2.90
Solid waste	\$4,582,058	\$4,263,827	\$318,231	7.46
Total Operating Revenues	\$21,333,563	\$20,677,766	\$655,798	3.17
Operating Expenses including Depreciation	\$16,635,956	\$17,490,101	\$854,144	4.88
Operating Income	\$4,697,607	\$3,187,665	\$1,509,942	47.37
Non-Operating Income	\$593,527	\$363,595	\$229,932	63.24
Interest Expense / Amortization Expense	\$(1,424,188)	\$(1,501,118)	\$76,930	5.12
Net Income (Loss) before Contributions	\$3,866,946	\$2,050,142	\$1,816,804	88.62
Capital Grants and Contributions	\$5,424,364	\$743,790	\$4,680,574	629.29
Changes in Net Position	\$9,291,310	\$2,793,932	\$6,497,378	232.55
Net Position, Beginning of Year	\$77,272,959	\$74,479,027	\$2,793,932	3.75
Net Assets, End of Year	\$86,564,269	\$77,272,959	\$9,291,310	12.02

- **Five-Year Capital Plan**

The WMU Commission maintains and annually updates a five-year capital plan that identifies and prioritizes the capital requirements of WMU necessary for customer service, regulatory compliance, and to accommodate growth. The five-year investment totals in excess of \$13,677,500 that will be invested in infrastructure renewal and administrative support. Additionally, \$275,000 is reserved for emergency and / or unexpected expenditures.

- **Debt Administration**

As of July 1, 2024, WMU maintained the following debt:

• Series 2012 Bonds	\$ 3,500,000
• Series 2014 Bonds	\$ 7,870,000
• Series 2018 Bonds	\$ 12,665,000
• Series 2020 Bonds	\$ 4,530,868
• KIA Strodes Creek	\$ 5,097,855
• KIA Vaught	\$ 98,515
• KIA Tank	\$ 125,764
• KIA LHC	\$ 18,278,786
• KIA BelAir	\$ 268,305
• KIA Hampton	\$ 918,911

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
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The Debt Service coverage factor for Bonds of 3.74% in FY 2023/2024 is favorable to the required 1.2 coverage limit. The Debt Service coverage factor for KIA debt of 1.45% in FY 2023/2024 is favorable to the required 1.0 coverage limit. Debt Service coverage is based upon the revenue of the combined utility functions – Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste.

- **FY 2023/2024 Budget Assumptions**

Total combined revenues for FY 2024/2025 are projected to increase from FY 2023/2024 revenues by 4.01%.

With the current 2024/2025 budget year, budget revenues are expected to increase due to increased industrial and residential growth. Operating expenses excluding depreciation for FY 2024/2025 are projected to increase from budgeted FY 2023/2024 operating expenses by approximately 5.80%. Operating expenses will be impacted by increased salaries and purchased labor. The Kentucky pension required contribution rate decreased resulting in a decrease in expected pension costs for the budget year. Maintenance and repair of fixed assets increased due the anticipated needed repairs to the water and wastewater plants.

The debt service coverage ratio is required to be 1.20 for bonds and 1.00 for KIA. Both formulas calculate by adding depreciation, a non-cash expense back to income available for debt service. The budgeted debt service coverage ratio is 2.80 for Bond debt and 1.11 for KIA debt.

CONTACTING THE COMPANY’S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This report is designed to provide the WMU Commission, the City Commission, the customers of WMU and WMU’s creditors a general overview of WMU’s finances and to demonstrate WMU’s financial accountability. Questions should be addressed to:

Jennifer Sparks
Director of Finance and Accounting

or

Kyle Raney
General Manager

150 North Main Street
P.O. Box 4177
Winchester, KY 40392-4177
859-744-5434

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

ASSETS	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 9,223,838	\$ 8,589,783
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Restricted	747,642	761,294
Accrued Interest, Restricted	403	44
Accounts Receivable, Customers (Net of Allowance for Credit Losses, 2024 and 2023, \$87,288 and \$111,486)	2,484,140	2,415,399
SDC Assessments Receivable	305,000	299,809
Other Accounts Receivable	162,771	75,300
Inventory -Materials and Supplies	760,511	586,857
Prepaid Expenses	<u>822,414</u>	<u>710,976</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>14,506,719</u>	<u>13,439,462</u>
NONCURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Restricted	9,709,733	8,072,550
Net OPEB asset - CERS	160,827	-
Property, Plant & Equipment:		
Utility Systems, Net of Depreciation	119,514,751	122,634,014
Land	1,519,050	1,519,050
Construction in Progress	<u>5,400,265</u>	<u>819,138</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>136,304,626</u>	<u>133,044,752</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 150,811,345</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 146,484,214</u></u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension Plan	\$ 1,975,084	\$ 1,943,031
OPEB	<u>746,183</u>	<u>1,190,254</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u><u>\$ 2,721,267</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,133,285</u></u>

The accompanying notes are integral part of this statement

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION (CONTINUED)
JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	2024	2023
LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 439,670	\$ 318,329
Other Accrued Liabilities	471,089	373,861
Customer Deposits	132,423	124,416
Accrued Interest Payable	36,874	41,037
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt	4,517,993	4,431,938
Total Current Liabilities	5,598,049	5,289,581
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Compensated Absences	498,661	412,562
Noncurrent Portion of Long-Term Debt	48,513,191	53,012,536
Net Pension Liability	7,474,591	8,611,056
Net OPEB Liability	-	2,350,396
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	56,486,443	64,386,550
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 62,084,492	\$ 69,676,130
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Pension Plan	\$ 1,889,610	\$ 1,335,293
OPEB	2,994,241	1,333,117
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 4,883,851	\$ 2,668,410
NET POSITION:		
Net Investment of Capital Assets	\$ 73,402,882	\$ 67,527,728
Restricted for:		
Restricted for Capital Projects	8,658,055	7,040,000
Restricted for Debt Service	1,799,320	1,793,845
Unrestricted	2,704,012	911,386
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 86,564,269	\$ 77,272,959

The accompanying notes are integral part of this statement

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Water	\$ 6,363,036	\$ 6,318,434
Wastewater	10,388,469	10,095,504
Solid Waste	4,364,941	4,131,801
Transfer Station	217,117	132,026
Total Operating Revenues	21,333,563	20,677,766
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Administrative	2,112,704	2,425,803
Solid Waste	2,261,175	2,199,570
Water	5,089,828	5,136,901
Wastewater	7,028,013	7,568,450
Vehicle Maintenance	144,236	159,376
Total Operating Expenses	16,635,956	17,490,101
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	4,697,607	3,187,665
NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES):		
Interest Income	387,386	71,342
Interest Expense	(1,405,540)	(1,482,470)
Other Income	203,891	193,349
Gain on Sale of Capital Assets	2,250	98,904
Amortization Expense	(18,648)	(18,648)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	(830,661)	(1,137,523)
NET INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE CONTRIBUTIONS	3,866,946	2,050,142
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	5,424,364	743,790
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	9,291,310	2,793,932
NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	77,272,959	74,479,027
NET POSITION, END OF YEAR	\$ 86,564,269	\$ 77,272,959

The accompanying notes are integral part of this statement

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Receipts from Customers	\$ 21,291,836	\$ 20,615,805
Payments to Suppliers	(6,335,436)	(6,049,886)
Payments to Employees	(5,875,153)	(5,740,633)
Other Operating Receipts (Payments)	(87,471)	(3,043)
	8,993,776	8,822,244
 CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	2,250	268,676
Principal Payments	(4,450,587)	(4,096,174)
Interest Payments	(1,386,892)	(1,482,470)
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	(6,916,243)	(2,264,792)
Contributed Capital Received	5,424,364	743,790
Cash from Other Income	203,891	193,349
	(7,123,217)	(6,637,621)
 CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash from Interest in Investments	387,027	71,360
	387,027	71,360
 NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,257,586	2,255,983
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	17,423,627	15,167,644
 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 17,423,627
 Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents to the Statement of Net Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 9,223,838	\$ 8,589,783
Cash and Cash Equivalents - restricted current	747,642	761,294
Cash and Cash Equivalents - restricted noncurrent	9,709,733	8,072,550
	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 17,423,627

The accompanying notes are integral part of this statement

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

	2024	2023
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 4,697,607	\$ 3,187,665
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	5,430,183	5,874,201
(Increase) Decrease in Assets:		
Accounts Receivable, Customers	(44,543)	35,883
SDC Receivables	(5,191)	(97,000)
Other Accounts Receivable	(87,471)	(3,043)
Material and Supplies	(173,654)	(43,108)
Prepaid Expenses	(111,438)	(83,853)
Deferred Outflows	412,018	(539,166)
Net OPEB asset - CERS	(160,827)	-
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	121,341	41,223
Accrued Liabilities	97,228	87,027
Net Pension Liability	(1,136,465)	590,638
Net OPEB Liability	(2,350,396)	(57,331)
Compensated Absences	86,099	(50,888)
Accrued Interest Payable	(4,163)	(4,090)
Deferred Inflows	2,215,441	(115,070)
Customer Deposits	8,007	(844)
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$ 8,993,776	\$ 8,822,244
 Supplemental Information, Noncash Transactions		
Donated Capital Assets	\$ 1,275,350	\$ 439,845
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	\$ 5,448,831	\$ 5,892,849

The accompanying notes are integral part of this statement

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

Winchester Municipal Utilities (WMU) is a component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky and is accounted for as a governmental enterprise fund. The purpose of WMU is to operate the City's water, sewer and solid waste utility services. It is financed and operated in a manner similar to a private business enterprise where the intent of the governing body is that costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis are financed primarily through user charges. The financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. The accounts are maintained on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, WMU considers all short-term highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. WMU invests resources that are restricted by the terms of the bond indentures in premium checking accounts which are interest bearing.

Current Restricted Cash Equivalents are set aside to provide resources for bond and interest payments within the next six months. Noncurrent Restricted Cash Equivalents are set aside to comply with the other provisions of the revenue bond indentures for debt service, depreciation, and capital maintenance as described in Note 3.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable - Customers, are stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances. Management provides for probable uncollectible amounts through a provision for bad debt expense. An adjustment to an allowance for doubtful accounts is based on its assessment of the current status of individual accounts. Balances that are still outstanding after management has used reasonable collection efforts are written off through a charge to the valuation allowance and a credit to accounts receivable. As of June 30, 2024 and 2023, \$61,200 and \$61,200 were written off as uncollectible, respectively.

SDC assessments and other receivables are stated at the amount management expects to collect from outstanding balances and management expects to fully collect all of these receivables.

Materials and Supplies Inventory

Materials and supplies are stated at cost. Cost is determined using the "first-in, first-out" method.

Prepaid Expenses

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Restricted Assets

The use of certain assets of enterprise funds is restricted by specific provisions of bond resolutions and agreements with various parties. Assets so designated are identified as restricted assets on the statement of net position. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is WMU's policy to use restricted resources first, and then unrestricted resources as they are needed. Restricted assets are classified as noncurrent if they are for acquisition or construction of capital assets, for liquidation of long-term debt, or are for other current operations.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at cost and depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value, the price that would be paid to acquire an asset with equivalent service potential, at the date of donation. Contractor's cost is a level 1 input used to determine acquisition value at the date developers donated infrastructure improvements to WMU. WMU's capitalization policy is \$500.

Major outlays are capitalized when constructed assets are completed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

Assets under capitalized lease obligations are recorded at the discounted present value of the future minimum lease payments at the inception of the respective leases. The amounts capitalized are being amortized by the straight-line method over the lesser of the term of the lease or the estimated life of the asset. Amortization of these assets is included in depreciation expense.

Accrued Compensated Absences

Accumulated vacation, sick leave and compensatory time are recorded as an expense and liability as these benefits accrue to employees in accordance with the provisions of Statement No. 16 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Bond Premium and Discount Amortization

Bond premiums and discounts, are amortized over the life of the bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. Amortization expense for bond discount as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 was \$18,648 and \$18,648, respectively.

Interest

Interest is charged to expense as incurred except, WMU follows the policy of capitalizing interest as a component of construction in progress. WMU capitalized \$0 and \$0 of interest during the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. For the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, total interest incurred and expensed was \$1,405,540 and \$1,482,470, respectively.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the County Employees Retirement System Non-Hazardous (“CERS”) and additions to/deductions from fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the CERS pension system. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources less liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets and the related balances in deferred outflows or inflows of resources. If there are unspent related debt proceeds at year-end, the portion of the debt attributable to the unspent proceeds are not included in the calculation of net investment in capital assets. Rather, that portion of the debt is included in the same net position component as the unspent proceeds. Net position is reported as restricted when constraints are placed on net positions use through external constraints imposed by creditors (example: debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Net positions that do not meet the definition of “restricted” or “net investment in capital assets, net of related debt”, are considered unrestricted.

Operating and Nonoperating Revenues and Expenses

Revenues and expenses are distinguished between operating and non-operating items. Operating revenues generally result from providing services and producing, and delivering goods in connection with WMU’s principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of WMU are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

Nonmonetary Transaction

WMU accepts utility installations built by contractors upon inspection. The utility installations are added to fixed assets and contributed capital at contractor’s cost, which approximates the price that would be paid to acquire an asset with equivalent service potential (acquisition value), as required by GASB Statement No. 72.

Capital and Operating Grants and Subsidies

Operating grants and subsidies that may be used to pay operating expenses are recorded as other income. Grants that are restricted to the purchase of property, plant and equipment are recorded as contributed capital.

Tap Fees

Tap Fees are restricted by ordinance for the use of capital improvements.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

System Development Charges

WMU assesses system development charges to developers as a means to help finance new construction of systems required to facilitate growth. The charges are restricted by policy for capital construction.

Basis of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Joint Venture

A joint venture is a legal entity or other organization that results from a contractual agreement and that is owned, operated or governed by two or more participants as a separate and specific activity subject to joint control in which the participants retain (a) an ongoing financial interest or (b) an ongoing financial responsibility. WMU participates in the following joint venture:

Clark County Geographic Information System Consortium (CCGIS), is a governmental agency created by an inter-local agreement between the Clark County PVA, City of Winchester and WMU. CCGIS was created to provide a geographic system to serve the needs of Winchester and Clark County. The operations are funded by the City, WMU and the Clark County Fiscal Court. WMU provides management services for CCGIS. WMU contributed \$87,000 and \$87,000 for the years ended 2024 and 2023, respectively. CCGIS had accounts payables to WMU of \$0 and \$0 for the years ended 2024 and 2023, for reimbursements of payroll and other expenses. CCGIS had accounts receivable from WMU of \$0 and \$0 for the years ended 2024 and 2023, respectively, for excess reimbursements of payroll and other expenses. Complete financial statements for CCGIS can be obtained from WMU's Director of Finance.

Lease Liabilities

The lease liability is recognized at the commencement of the lease term, unless the lease is a short-term lease, below the lease capitalization threshold of \$5,000, or it transfers ownership of the underlying asset. The lease liability is measured at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term (less any lease incentives) based on a borrowing rate specified in the contract or implicit rate. The lease term includes the noncancelable period of the lease and extensions the District is reasonably certain to exercise. The District monitors changes in circumstances that are expected to significantly affect the amount of a lease liability that may require a remeasurement of its lease.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2023, the GASB issued Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, that will be effective for these types of changes in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2023. WMU will apply this guidance, when appropriate.

In June 2023, the GASB issued Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023 (WMU's 2025 fiscal year). This standard revises some definitions for compensated absences and consolidates guidance for all types of leave to a single accounting recognition. WMU is evaluating the effects and implementation of this standard.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

In December 2023, the GASB issued Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024 (the WMU's 2025 fiscal year). This standard is focused on additional disclosures about concentrations and constraints that may have a substantial impact on WMU's financial statements. WMU will apply this guidance if and when these types of risks occur.

In April 2024, the GASB issued Statement No. 103, *Financial Reporting Model Improvements*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025 (WMU's 2026 fiscal year). This guidance clarifies management's responsibility for explaining key variances in management's discussion and analysis. The budget discussion will be deleted from the MD&A and governments will only report the budgetary comparison schedule in required supplementary information. Additional changes include classification of unusual or infrequent items, the reporting format for proprietary statements, and reporting major component units. This standard will have no impact on the WMU's financial net position, but will require a few edits in the MD&A narrative and the financial statement formats.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

WMU's investment policy conforms to the restrictions outlined in KRS 66.480. WMU deposits its funds in banks insured by FDIC. Investments include short term cash securities and United States backed securities. Collateral is required for all deposits in excess of FDIC at 100% of the carrying amount at the bank. Collateral consists of obligations of the United States and Kentucky municipal bonds.

Interest rate Risk

This is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. WMU does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. Information about the exposure of WMU's deposits and investments to this risk, using the segmented time distribution model is as follows:

06/30/24 Type	Fair Value	Maturities (in Years)			
		< Than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10	> Than 10
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
06/30/23 Type		Maturities (in Years)			
		< Than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10	> Than 10
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Credit Risk

This risk is the risk that an issuer of a debt type investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. This is measured by assignment of a rating by a nationally recognized rating organization. U.S. Government securities or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government are not considered to have credit risk exposure. WMU has no formal policy on managing credit risk; however, Kentucky Revised Statutes authorize municipalities to invest in obligations of the United States and its agencies, obligations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and its agencies and shares in savings and loan associations insured by federal agencies. Larger amounts can be deposited in savings and loan associations and banks provided such institutions pledge obligations of the United States government or its agencies as security.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Presented below is the minimum rating required for each type of deposit and investment:

06/30/24		Ratings				
Type	Fair Value	AAA	AA	A	Unrated	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 19,681,213	
Total	\$ 19,681,213	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 19,681,213	

06/30/23		Ratings				
Type	Fair Value	AAA	AA	A	Unrated	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 17,423,627	
Total	\$ 17,423,627	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 17,423,627	

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, WMU will not be able to recover the value of its deposits and investments that are in possession of an outside party. WMU has no formal policy for custodial credit risk; however, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, all deposits and investments were either fully collateralized by federal depository insurance or by the pledging institution in WMU's name or were held in a bank's trust department in the City of Winchester's name, the primary government of the component unit, WMU.

NOTE 3 – CREATION OF ACCOUNTS AND RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Bond Ordinances require the creation of various separate deposit accounts designated for a specific purpose in accordance with the ordinance. A brief description of each required account is as follows:

Revenue Account

All income to WMU is deposited to the Revenue Account and then transferred to the other ordinance accounts as listed below.

Bond Redemption Account

The Bond Redemption Account was established to provide a source of funds for the payment of the bond principal and interest due within the current year. By the 20th day of each month funds equal to the total of one-sixth of the semiannual interest payment plus one-twelfth of the next annual bond principal payment are to be transferred to the account. The account is reflected as currently restricted asset.

Reserve Account

The Reserve Account was established to provide funds for the payment of debt based on the least of three provisions: 1) maximum annual principal and interest, 2) 125% of the average annual principal and interest or 3) 10% of bond proceeds.

Depreciation Account

The Depreciation Account was established to provide funds for extraordinary repairs, improvements and expansion. WMU is required to fund 12% of the annual gross revenues or \$42,000 whichever is greater annually into the account.

Operation and Maintenance Account

The Operation and Maintenance Account was established to pay the reasonable, necessary costs of operating, maintaining and repairing the systems.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 3 – CREATION OF ACCOUNTS AND RESTRICTED ASSETS (CONTINUED)

The restricted assets in the accompanying financial statements are restricted as to use by bond ordinance or by external parties at June 30, 2024 and 2023 follows:

	<u>6/30/24</u>	<u>6/30/23</u>
Restricted by Ordinance:		
Bond Redemption Account	\$ 747,642	\$ 761,294
Depreciation Account	<u>7,779,662</u>	<u>6,334,086</u>
Subtotal	<u>8,526,304</u>	<u>7,095,380</u>
Other Restricted Accounts:		
SDC Water Fund	334,906	228,908
SDC Wastewater Fund	152,217	197,394
Customer Deposits	144,248	138,559
KIA Reserve	1,051,678	1,032,551
Capital Accum-Water	223,483	132,521
Capital Accum-Wastewater	<u>24,539</u>	<u>8,531</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,457,375</u>	<u>\$ 8,833,844</u>
Current Restricted	<u>\$ 747,642</u>	<u>\$ 761,294</u>
Noncurrent Restricted	<u>\$ 9,709,733</u>	<u>\$ 8,072,550</u>

NOTE 4 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

WMU's property, plant and equipment as of June 30, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

<u>6/30/2024</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Non-depreciable Assets:				
Land	\$ 1,519,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,519,050
Construction in Progress	819,138		4,578,098	5,400,265
Total Non-depreciable Assets	<u>\$ 2,341,217</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,578,098</u>	<u>\$ 6,919,315</u>
Depreciable Assets:				
Administrative	\$ 3,398,435	\$ 78,801	\$ (89,010)	\$ 3,388,227
Water System	87,411,460	2,839,871	(1,276,003)	88,975,328
Wastewater System	121,908,006	1,420,212	(809,405)	122,518,813
Solid Waste	8,834,718	731,469	(603,900)	8,962,287
Vehicle Maintenance	486,800	-	-	486,800
Equipment Capital Lease	7,500	-	(7,500)	0
Subtotal	<u>222,046,918</u>	<u>5,070,354</u>	<u>(2,785,818)</u>	<u>224,331,455</u>
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Administrative	(2,287,107)	(73,703)	26,384	(2,334,426)
Water System	(24,152,888)	(2,260,237)	0	(26,413,125)
Wastewater System	(49,132,070)	(2,784,960)	0	(51,917,030)
Solid Waste	(4,220,277)	(307,897)	0	(4,528,174)
Vehicle Maintenance	(389,807)	(3,386)	-	(393,193)
Prior Years Accumulated	<u>(19,230,756)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,230,756)</u>
Subtotal	<u>(99,412,905)</u>	<u>(5,430,183)</u>	<u>26,384</u>	<u>(104,816,704)</u>
Total Net Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>\$ 122,634,014</u>	<u>\$ (359,829)</u>	<u>\$ (2,759,434)</u>	<u>\$ 119,514,751</u>

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 4 – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

<u>6/30/2023</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Non-depreciable Assets:				
Land	\$ 1,519,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,519,050
Construction in Progress	1,458,171	(639,033)	-	819,138
Total Non-depreciable Assets	<u>\$ 2,977,221</u>	<u>\$ (639,033)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,338,188</u>
Depreciable Assets:				
Administrative	\$ 3,350,447	\$ 62,625	\$ (14,638)	\$ 3,398,435
Water System	86,142,946	26,967,655	(25,699,141)	87,411,460
Wastewater System	121,101,422	5,879,759	(5,073,175)	121,908,006
Solid Waste	8,353,740	614,175	(133,197)	8,834,717
Vehicle Maintenance	486,800	-	-	486,800
Equipment Capital Lease	7,500	-	-	7,500
Subtotal	<u>219,442,854</u>	<u>33,524,214</u>	<u>(30,920,151)</u>	<u>222,046,918</u>
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Administrative	(2,212,939)	(88,803)	14,638	(2,287,105)
Water System	(21,942,916)	(2,209,973)	1	(24,152,887)
Wastewater System	(45,856,731)	(3,278,216)	2,878	(49,132,072)
Solid Waste	(4,026,273)	(289,820)	95,817	(4,220,276)
Vehicle Maintenance	(382,419)	(7,388)	-	(389,807)
Prior Years Accumulated	(19,230,756)	-	-	(19,230,756)
Subtotal	<u>(93,652,034)</u>	<u>(5,874,201)</u>	<u>113,333</u>	<u>(99,412,904)</u>
Total Net Property, Plant and Equipment	<u>\$ 125,790,820</u>	<u>\$ 27,650,011</u>	<u>\$ (30,806,818)</u>	<u>\$ 122,634,014</u>

Depreciation is recorded on a straight-line basis over the useful lives of the assets as follows:

Buildings and Concrete	40-50 years
Main Replacement Program	40 years
Equipment	2-7 years
Vehicles	5-10 years

Depreciation expense in total and by function follows:

<u>Function</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Administrative	\$ 73,703	\$ 88,805
Water System	2,260,237	2,209,971
Wastewater System	2,784,960	3,278,216
Solid Waste	307,897	289,820
Vehicle Maintenance	3,386	7,388
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$ 5,430,183</u>	<u>\$ 5,874,201</u>

The net investment in capital assets at June 30, 2024 and 2023 is composed of the following elements:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Capital Assets	\$ 126,434,066	\$ 124,972,201
Total Debt, Net of Unamortized Bond Discount	<u>(53,031,184)</u>	<u>(57,444,474)</u>
Net Investment in Capital Assets	<u>\$ 73,402,882</u>	<u>\$ 67,527,728</u>

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM DEBT

WMU issues revenue bonds to finance improvements and extensions to the water and sewer systems. The Winchester Municipal Utilities bonded indebtedness and other long-term notes at June 30, 2024 and 2023, are summarized as follows:

Description	Rate	Maturity	Original Issue	2024 Total	2023 Total
2012 Issue	2.00-3.75%	07/01/32	7,495,000	3,500,000	3,875,000
2014 Issue	2.00-4.00%	07/01/45	9,915,000	7,870,000	8,125,000
2018 Issue	3.00-4.00%	07/01/42	13,045,000	12,665,000	12,760,000
2021 Issue	1.49%	07/01/31	5,557,703	4,530,868	5,181,843
Less: Unamortized Discount				(322,818)	(341,469)
Total Bonds				<u>28,243,050</u>	<u>29,600,374</u>
KIA-Strodes Creek	1.00%	12/01/28 Estimate	21,000,000	918,921	6,199,970
KIA-Lower Howards Creek	2.00%	01/01/31 Estimate	36,600,000	5,097,855	20,114,965
KIA-Bel-Air	2.00%	01/01/31	1,000,000	18,278,774	295,258
KIA-Industrial Storage Tanks	2.00%	12/01/30	340,326	268,305	143,709
KIA-Vaught Court	2.00%	06/01/31	287,400	125,764	113,821
KIA-Hampton Manor	1.75%	06/01/37	\$ 1,249,088	98,515	976,365
Total KIA Loans				<u>24,788,134</u>	<u>27,844,088</u>
Total Bonds and KIA Loans				<u>53,031,184</u>	<u>57,444,462</u>
Less: Current Maturities				(4,517,993)	(4,431,938)
Total Long-Term Debt				<u>\$ 48,513,191</u>	<u>\$ 53,012,536</u>

The annual bond and long-term debt service requirements, as of June 30, 2024, are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 4,517,993	\$ 1,327,437	\$ 5,845,431
2026	4,607,607	1,242,566	5,850,173
2027	4,703,286	1,155,094	5,858,380
2028	4,801,217	1,065,242	5,866,459
2029	4,899,313	971,783	5,871,086
2030-2034	17,043,793	3,387,151	20,430,944
2035-2039	6,660,793	1,819,197	8,479,990
2040-2044	5,590,000	617,587	6,207,587
2044-2047	530,000	21,200	551,200
	<u>\$ 53,354,002</u>	<u>\$ 11,607,257</u>	<u>\$ 64,961,250</u>

Series 2011 Bonds

On April 14, 2011, the City issued \$9,010,000 of utilities revenue bonds for WMU secured by a first and prior security interest in any and all right, title and interest of WMU in the portions of the Project (extensions and improvements of the System) that constitute personal property and, in all additions, attachments, accessions, and substitutions thereto, and any proceeds therefrom. The 2011 bond issues financed the extensions and improvements to the combined and consolidated municipal waterworks, sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal system. The bonds carry an interest rate of 5.2656174% and mature on January 1, 2031. The interest and principal payments are to be made monthly. During the year ended June 30, 2020, this bond issue was partially refunded by the 2020 bond issue. After the refunding, the 2011 bond issue matured on January 1, 2021.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

Refunding, Series 2012 Bonds

On April 19, 2012, the City issued \$7,495,000 of utilities refunding revenue bonds for WMU to pay off the Series 2002 Bonds. The bonds were secured by a first pledge of a fixed portion of the gross revenues to be derived from the operation of the system, which fixed portion shall be sufficient to pay the principal and interest of the bonds. The 2002 bond issue financed the acquisition, construction and installation of major new municipal sanitary sewer (wastewater) facilities and paying and discharging the outstanding Utilities Revenue Bond Anticipation Note, Series 1997. The bonds carry interest rates of 2.0% to 3.75% and mature on July 1, 2032. The interest payments are to be made on July 1 and January 1 and the principal payments are to be made on July 1.

Series 2014 Bonds

On December 23, 2014, the City issued \$9,915,000 of utilities revenue bonds for WMU secured by a first and prior security interest in any and all right, title and interest of WMU in the portions of the Project (extensions and improvements of the System) that constitute personal property and in all additions, attachments, accessions, and substitutions thereto, and any proceeds therefrom. The 2014 bond issues financed the extensions and improvements to the combined and consolidated municipal waterworks, sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal system. The bonds carry an interest rate of 2% to 4% and mature on July 1, 2045. The interest payments are to be made on July 1 and January 1 and the principal payments are to be made on July 1.

Series 2018 Bonds

On January 2, 2018, the City issued \$13,045,000 of utilities revenue bonds for WMU secured by and payable solely from Pledged Receipts derived from the collection of rates, rental and charges for the services rendered by the City's (WMU) System. The Bonds are further secured by a statutory mortgage lien upon all properties of the System and extensions thereof and all extensions and appurtenances thereto. The 2018 bond issues financed the new water treatment plant. The bonds carry an interest rate of 3% to 4% and mature on July 1, 2042. The interest payments are to be made on July 1 and January 1 and the principal payments are to be made on July 1

Refunding, Series 2020 Bonds

On June 17, 2021, the City issued \$5,557,703 of utilities refunding revenue bonds for WMU to pay down the Series 2011 Bonds. The bonds were secured by, and payable solely from, pledged revenues derived from combined and consolidated water, solid waste and sewer system of the City's (WMU) System. The Bonds are further secured by a statutory mortgage lien upon all properties of the System and extensions thereof and all extensions and appurtenances thereto. The 2011 bond issue financed the extensions and improvements to the combined and consolidated municipal waterworks, sanitary sewer and solid waste disposal system. The bonds carry interest rate of 1.49% and mature on July 1, 2031. The interest payments are to be made on July 1 and January 1 and the principal payments are to be made on July 1.

KIA – Strodes Creek Loan

On July 1, 2005, Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an "Assistance Agreement" with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant, \$21,000,000. This agreement calls for interest to be paid every six months starting December 1, 2005 at the rate of 1% of the outstanding balance. Principal payments are due to be paid every December 1 and June 1 starting after the wastewater treatment plant goes online. The online date for the plant was July, 2008. Principal payments were due to begin on June 1, 2009, and be due every December 1 and June 1 thereafter until maturity on December 1, 2028.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

KIA – Vaught Court Loan

On December 1, 2009, Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an “Assistance Agreement” with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for construction of the Vaught Court Outfall Sewer Project, \$600,000 with a principal forgiveness of \$312,600 and a loan amount of \$287,400. This agreement calls for interest payments to commence within six months from the first draw of funds estimated to be June 1, 2010 with full principal and interest payments to commence within one year of initiation of operation estimated to be June 1, 2011. During the year ended June 30, 2010, \$312,600 of principal was forgiven and \$69,320 of the loan amount was drawn down. During the year ended June 30, 2011, \$218,080 was drawn down, and the project was completed. The loan carries a 2.00% interest rate, with principal and interest payments due on December 1 and June 1 every year until maturity on June 1, 2030. The loan is required to establish a replacement reserve account where \$1,500 is to be added to the account each December 1 until the balance reaches \$15,000 and is to be maintained for the life of the loan.

KIA – Industrial Elevated Storage Tank

On December 1, 2009, Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an “Assistance Agreement” with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for construction of an Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation, \$741,450 with a principal forgiveness of \$401,124 and a loan amount of \$340,326. This agreement calls for interest payments to commence within six months from the first draw of funds estimated to be June 1, 2010 with full principal and interest payments to commence within one year of initiation of operation estimated to be June 1, 2011. During the year ended June 30, 2010, \$401,124 of principal was forgiven. During the year ended June 30, 2011, \$340,326 was drawn down, and the project was completed. The loan carries a 2.00% interest rate, with principal and interest payments due on December 1 and June 1 every year until maturity on December 1, 2030. The loan is required to establish a replacement reserve account where \$2,000 is to be added to the account each December 1 until the balance reaches \$20,000 and is to be maintained for the life of the loan.

KIA – Lower Howards Creek

On February 5, 2010, Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an “Assistance Agreement” with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for the Lower Howards Creek Wastewater project, \$36,600,000. This agreement calls for interest payments to commence within six months from the first draw of funds with full principal and interest payments to commence within one year of initiation of operation, which was on February 12, 2013. During the year ended June 30, 2014, the final draw of \$999,996 of the loan was drawn down. The loan carries a 2.00% interest rate and matures in twenty years. The loan is required to establish a replacement reserve account where \$91,500 is to be added to the account each December 1 until the balance reaches \$915,000 and is to be maintained for the life of the loan.

The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority has made these loans inferior and subordinate to the security interest and source of payment for the Debt Obligations of Winchester Municipal Utilities payable from the revenues of the System outstanding at the time of the execution of the “Assistance Agreement”. The Agreement also further states that the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority must be notified no less than thirty days (30), in writing, prior to the issuance of any further debt obligations on parity with the current debt obligations.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 5 – LONG-TERM DEBT (CONTINUED)

KIA – Bel-Air Sanitary

On October 1, 2012, Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an “Assistance Agreement” with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for the Bel-Air and Westside pump station projects, \$1,000,000. This agreement calls for interest payments to commence within six months from the first draw of funds with full principal and interest payments to commence within one year of initiation of operation estimated to be December 1, 2013. During the year ended June 30, 2014, the final draw of \$59,095 was drawn on the loan. The loan carries a 2.00% interest rate and matures in twenty years. The loan is required to establish a replacement reserve account where \$2,500 is to be added to the account each December 1 until the balance reaches \$25,000 and is to be maintained for the life of the loan.

KIA – Hampton Manor

On March 1, 2017, City of Winchester and Winchester Municipal Utilities entered into an “Assistance Agreement” with the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), to provide funds for the Hampton Manor project which replaces and improves 3200 linear feet of aged sanitary sewer collection pipe along with associated manholes, connections and appurtenances, totaling \$1,249,088. This agreement calls for interest payments to commence within six months from the first draw of funds with full principal and interest payments to commence within one year of initiation of operation estimated to be June 1, 2017. The loan carries a 1.75% interest rate and matures June 1, 2037. The loan is required to establish a replacement reserve account where \$3,500 is to be added to the account each December 1 until the balance reaches \$70,000 and is to be maintained for the life of the loan.

Long-Term Debt consists of bonds and other indebtedness for which the changes in the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

<u>6/30/2024</u> <u>Description</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Borrowings</u> <u>Additions</u>	<u>Repayments</u> <u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending</u>	<u>Current</u>
Compensated Absences	\$ 412,562	\$ 136,987	\$ 50,888	\$ 498,661	\$
Bonds	29,600,374	0	1,357,324	28,243,050	1,411,854
KIA Loan	6,199,970	0	1,102,115	5,097,855	1,113,165
KIA-Lower Howards	20,114,965	0	1,836,191	18,278,774	1,873,097
KIA-Bel-Air	295,258	0	26,953	268,305	27,495
KIA-Storage Tank	143,709	0	17,945	125,764	18,307
KIA-Vaught Court	113,821	0	15,306	98,515	15,612
KIA-Hampton Manor	976,365	0	57,444	918,921	58,463
Total Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 57,857,024</u>	<u>\$ 136,987</u>	<u>\$ 4,464,166</u>	<u>\$ 53,529,845</u>	<u>\$ 4,517,993</u>

<u>6/30/2023</u> <u>Description</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Borrowings</u> <u>Additions</u>	<u>Repayments</u> <u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending</u>	<u>Current</u>
Compensated Absences	\$ 463,450	\$ 0	\$ 50,888	\$ 412,562	\$
Bonds	30,652,586	0	1,052,212	29,600,374	1,375,975
KIA Loan	7,291,146	0	1,091,176	6,199,970	1,102,116
KIA-Lower Howards	21,914,989	0	1,800,024	20,114,965	1,836,268
KIA-Bel-Air	321,679	0	26,421	295,258	26,874
KIA-Storage Tank	161,299	0	17,590	143,709	17,947
KIA-Vaught Court	128,825	0	15,004	113,821	15,305
KIA-Hampton Manor	1,032,827	0	56,462	976,365	57,453
Total Long-Term Debt	<u>\$ 61,966,801</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 4,109,777</u>	<u>\$ 57,857,024</u>	<u>\$ 4,431,938</u>

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 6 – COMPLIANCE WITH COVENANTS

The bonds and KIA loan requires WMU to establish and maintain certain reserves and restricted assets as follows:

Bond Debt Service - Bonds

In the previous year, monthly deposits equal to one-sixth of the next interest payment and one-twelfth of the next principal payment shall be set aside monthly so as to accumulate in the Bond Fund in order to pay interest and principal on the bonds. In addition, the Bond Ordinance requires that a specific amount be maintained in the Debt Service Reserve Account defined as the “Reserve Amount.” The account is to be reviewed each year and funded based on the least of three factors: 1) maximum annual principal and interest requirement, 2) 125% of the average annual principal and interest requirement or 3) 10% of the outstanding loan proceeds.

In the 2018 Bond Series covenant, WMU entered into an Insurance Agreement with Build America Mutual Assurance Company which guarantees the scheduled payments. The effect of the Insurance Agreement eliminates the bond debt service requirement.

WMU is in compliance with these covenants as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Depreciation Reserve – Bonds and KIA Loan

The Winchester Municipal Utilities is required to transfer 12% of annual gross revenues or \$42,000, whichever is greater, in equal monthly installments to the Depreciation Fund. These funds are to be used for renewals, replacements and/or additions to property, plant and equipment. WMU is in compliance with this covenant as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Interest Coverage Ratio – Bonds and KIA Loan

On April 3, 2012, a new general bond ordinance was adopted that requires Winchester Municipal Utilities to maintain an interest coverage ratio of 1.2 times - annual debt service requirements for bonds and 1.0 times - annual debt service requirements for bonds and KIA loans. Other changes in coverage ratio are noted below in calculation of ratios as shown. The City of Winchester is required by bond ordinance to adjust rates as necessary to maintain such minimum coverage. Computed as follows:

Bonds:

	2024	2023
Income Available for Debt Service	\$ 2,253,189	\$ 1,929,213
Add: Depreciation and Change in Pension & OPEB Liability	6,077,329	5,753,272
Cash Available for Bond Debt Service	<u>\$ 8,330,518</u>	<u>\$ 7,682,485</u>
Annual Debt Service on Bonds	<u>2,228,769</u>	<u>1,945,304</u>
Coverage Ratio	<u>3.74</u>	<u>3.95</u>

KIA:

	2024	2023
Income Available for Debt Service	\$ 2,253,189	\$ 1,929,213
Add: Depreciation and Change in Pension & OPEB Liability	6,077,329	5,753,272
Cash Available for Debt Service	<u>\$ 8,330,518</u>	<u>\$ 7,682,485</u>
Annual Debt Service on all Debt	<u>5,764,741</u>	<u>5,481,275</u>
Coverage Ratio	<u>1.45</u>	<u>1.40</u>

WMU is in compliance with these covenants as of June 30, 2024 and 2023.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 7 – RETIREMENT PLANS

General information about the County Employees Retirement System Non-Hazardous (“CERS”)

Plan description—Employees are covered by the CERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority (KPPA), an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As of April 1, 2021, Kentucky Revised Statute (“KRS”) Section 78.782 shifted the governance of CERS to a separate Board of Trustees of the County Employees Retirement System. The CERS Board manages the CERS trust, including investment management. KPPA provides the day-to-day administration (KRS 61.505) for accounting and benefit administration for CERS. The Kentucky General Assembly has the authority to establish and amend benefit provisions. The Kentucky Public Pensions Authority issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for CERS. That report may be obtained from <http://kyret.ky.gov/>.

Benefits provided—CERS provides retirement, health insurance, death and disability benefits to Plan employees and beneficiaries. All WMU employees participating in CERS are provided benefits through the nonhazardous plan. Employees are vested in the plan after five years’ service. For retirement purposes, employees are grouped into three tiers, based on hire date:

Tier 1	Participation date	Before September 1, 2008
	Unreduced retirement	27 years of service or 65 years old
	Reduced retirement	At least 5 years of service and 55 years old
		At least 25 years of service and any age
Tier 2	Participation date	September 1, 2008 – December 31, 2013
	Unreduced retirement	At least 5 years of service and 65 years old
		Or age 57+ and the sum of service years plus age
	Reduced retirement	equal 87 At least 10 years of service and 60 years old
Tier 3	Participation date	After December 31, 2013
	Unreduced retirement	At least 5 years of service and 65 years old
		Or age 57+ and the sum of service years plus age
	Reduced retirement	equal 87 Not available

Cost of living adjustments are provided at the discretion of the General Assembly. In 2013, the General Assembly established funding status thresholds which must be achieved before another COLA can be awarded to retirees. Retirement is based on a factor of the number of years’ service and hire date multiplied by the average of the highest five years’ earnings. Reduced benefits are based on factors of both these components.

Death benefits are provided for both death after retirement and death prior to retirement. Death benefits after retirement are \$5,000 in lump sum. Five years’ service is required for death benefits prior to retirement and the employee must have suffered a duty-related death. The decedent’s beneficiary will receive the higher of the normal death benefit and \$10,000 plus 25% of the decedent’s monthly final rate of pay and any dependent child will receive 10% of the decedent’s monthly final rate of pay up to 40% for all dependent children. Five years’ service is required for nonservice-related disability benefits.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 7 – RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

Employer Contributions – For the year ended June 30, 2024, employer contributions were established by the County Employees Retirement Systems in December 2022. The governing Board establishes employer contribution rates based on the annual actuarial valuation completed in November each year for the fiscal year beginning the following July 1. For fiscal year 2024, the employer contribution rate for CERS nonhazardous pensions was 23.34%. In fiscal year 2023, these rates were 23.4%. (See NOTE 8 for additional rate information for the OPEB plans.)

Employee Contributions – Required contributions by the employee are based on the tier:

	<u>NonHazardous</u>
Tier 1	5%
Tier 2	5% + 1% for insurance
Tier 3	5% + 1% for insurance

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2024, WMU reported a liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for CERS. The amount recognized by WMU as its proportionate share of the net pension liability was \$7,474,591. The net pension liability for each plan was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date.

WMU's proportion of the net pension liability for CERS was based on the actuarial liability of the employees and former employees relative to the total liability of the System as determined by the actuary. At June 30, 2023, WMU's proportion was 0.116490 percent. For the year ended June 30, 2024, WMU recognized negative pension expense of \$614,201 related to CERS.

At June 30, 2024, WMU reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources		Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 386,945	\$	20,311
Changes of assumptions	-		685,051
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	807,467		909,425
Changes in proportion and differences between WMU contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-		274,823
WMU contributions subsequent to the measurement date	780,672		-
	\$ 1,975,084	\$	1,889,610

\$780,672 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from WMU contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2025.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 7 – RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
2025	\$(447,548)
2026	\$(342,152)
2027	\$ 166,863
2028	\$ (72,361)
2029	\$ -

Actuarial assumptions - The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

	<u>CERS</u>
Inflation	2.50%
Payroll growth rate	2.00%
Cost-of-living adjustment	0.0%
Salary Increases	3.30% - 10.30%
Investment rate of return	6.25%
Municipal Bond Index Rate	N/A

For CERS, mortality tables used for active members was the PUB-2014 General Mortality table for the non-hazardous system, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. For healthy retired members and beneficiaries, the mortality table used is a system-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013-2018, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. For disabled members, the table used is the PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality table, with rates multiplied by 150% for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2020 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010.

For CERS, the long-term expected return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years, at a minimum. The most recent analysis, performed for the period covering fiscal years 2014 through 2018, is outlined in a report dated April 18, 2019. The long-term expected rate of return was determined by using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 7 – RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset class is summarized the table below. The current long-term inflation assumption is 2.3% per annum for both the non-hazardous and hazardous plan.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocatio n</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity:	60.00%	
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Credit	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income:	20.00%	
Core Bonds	10.00%	2.45%
High Yield Credit	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected:	20.00%	
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	<u>13.00%</u>	5.15%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	
Expected Real Return		5.75%
Long Term Inflation Assumption		<u>2.50%</u>
Expected Nominal Return for Portfolio		<u>8.25%</u>

Discount rate—For CERS, the discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.50%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan employees and employers will be made at statutory contribution rates. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment return of 6.50%. The long-term investment rate of return was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of CERS proportionate share of net pension liability to changes in the discount rate—The following table presents the net pension liability of WMU, calculated using the discount rates selected by each pension system, as well as what WMU’s net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 5.50%	Current Discount Rate 6.50%	1% Increase 7.50%
CERS WMU's proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 9,437,122	\$ 7,474,591	\$ 5,843,653

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 7 – RETIREMENT PLANS (CONTINUED)

Pension plan fiduciary net position—Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued financial reports of CERS.

Deferred Compensation

WMU offers its employees a deferred compensation plan created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. The Plan, available to all employees, permits them to defer a portion of their salary until future years. This deferred compensation is not available to employees until termination, retirement, death or unforeseeable emergency. GASB Statement No. 32, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans*, was amended by GASBS No. 97, *Certain Component Unit Criteria, and Accounting and Financial Reporting for Internal Revenue Code Section 457 Deferred Compensation Plans*. The GASB standards allow entities with little or no administrative involvement who do not perform the investing function for these plans to omit plan assets and related liabilities for these defined contribution plans from their financial statements. WMU therefore does not show these assets and liabilities in this financial statement.

NOTE 8 – POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

Retired WMU employees receive some health care benefits depending on their length of service. In accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes, these benefits are provided and advance funded on an actuarially determined basis through the CERS plans. The change in governance for CERS discussed in NOTE 7 for pension plan governance also applies to the CERS OPEB plans. The Kentucky Public Pensions Authority’s publicly available financial report includes the CERS OPEB plan reports and may be obtained from <http://kyret.ky.gov/>.

CERS Other Postemployment Benefits

Plan Description— All WMU employees participating in CERS are provided benefits through the nonhazardous plan. CERS health insurance benefits are subject to various participation dates to determine eligibility and health insurance contribution rates. For employees who initiated participation in the CERS system prior to July 1, 2003, CERS pays a percentage of the monthly contribution rate for insurance covered based on the retired member’s years of service and type of service. Non-hazardous members receive a contribution subsidy for only the member’s health insurance premium.

Benefits Provided—Percentage of premium subsidies ranges from 0% for less than 4 years of service to 100% for 20 years or more of service. For members who initiated participation in the CERS system after July 1, 2003 until August 31, 2008, members must have 120 months of service in a state-administered retirement system to qualify for participation in the CERS health plans. Members who began participating with CERS on or after September 1, 2008, must have 180 months of service upon retirement to participate in the CERS health plans. Non-hazardous retirees receive \$10 toward the monthly premium for each full year of service.

Contributions—CERS allocates a portion of the employer contributions to the health insurance benefit plans. Beginning with the 2023 measurement, the CERS nonhazardous OPEB plan was over funded and employer contributions were decreased to zero. CERS allocated 0.0% in FY 2024 and 3.39% in FY 2023 for the actuarially required contribution rate paid by employers for funding the nonhazardous healthcare benefit. In addition, 1% of the Tier 2 and 3 employee contributions are allocated to the health insurance plan for nonhazardous plans.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 8 – POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

CERS OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEBs

At June 30, 2024, WMU reported an asset of \$160,827 for its proportionate share of the CERS collective net OPEB asset. The collective net OPEB asset was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the collective net OPEB asset was based on a projection of WMU's long-term share of contributions to OPEB plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating employers, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2023, WMU's proportion was 0.116485 percent. WMU recognized a negative OPEB expense of \$406,028 as the OPEB liability and the related deferred outflows of resources decreased and deferred inflows of resources increased.

At June 30, 2024, WMU reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEBs from the following sources:

CERS	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 112,121	\$ 2,283,583
Changes of assumptions	316,496	220,566
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	300,981	338,306
Changes in proportion and differences between WMU contributions and proportionate share of contributions	16,585	151,786
WMU contributions subsequent to the measurement date	-	-
	<u>\$ 746,183</u>	<u>\$ 2,994,241</u>

No WMU contributions subsequent to the measurement date were reported in deferred outflows since the plan is overfunded and no employer contributions will be assessed until the funded status declines.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in WMU's OPEB expense as follows:

<u>Year ended June 30:</u>	
2025	\$ (564,860)
2026	\$ (693,393)
2027	\$ (538,702)
2028	\$ (451,102)
2029	\$ -
Thereafter	\$ -

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 8 – POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

Actuarial assumptions – The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Investment rate of return	6.25%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Projected salary increases	3.30% - 10.30%, for non-hazardous, depending on years of service
Inflation rate	2.50%
Healthcare cost trend rates:	
Under 65	Initial trend rate starts at 6.40%, January 2023, and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years
Ages 65 and Older	Initial trend starting at 6.30%, January 2023, and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 4.05% over a period of 13 years
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.86%
Discount Rate	5.93% non-hazardous

Post-retirement mortality rates (non-disabled) used a system-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013 – 2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019.

The remaining actuarial assumptions (e.g. initial per capita costs, health care cost trends, rate of plan participation, rates of plan election, etc.) used in the June 30, 2023 valuation were based on an actuarial experience study as of June 30, 2022, and adopted by the CERS Board in May 2023. The investment return, price inflation, and payroll growth assumption were adopted by the Board in May 2023 for use with the June 30, 2023 valuation to reflect future economic expectations.

For CERS, the long-term expected return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years, at a minimum. The most recent analysis, performed for the period covering fiscal years 2014 through 2018, is outlined in a report dated April 18, 2019. The long-term expected rate of return was determined by using a building block method in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of returns are developed for each asset class. The ranges are combined by weighting the expected future real rate of return by the target asset allocation percentage. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset class is summarized the table below. The current long-term inflation assumption is 2.5% per annum for the nonhazardous plan.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 8 – POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rate of return for each major asset class is summarized the table below.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocatio n</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Equity:	60.00%	
Public Equity	50.00%	5.90%
Private Credit	10.00%	11.73%
Fixed Income:	20.00%	
Core Bonds	10.00%	2.45%
High Yield Credit	10.00%	3.65%
Cash	0.00%	1.39%
Inflation Protected:	20.00%	
Real Estate	7.00%	4.99%
Real Return	<u>13.00%</u>	5.15%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	
Expected Real Return		5.75%
Long Term Inflation Assumption		<u>2.50%</u>
Expected Nominal Return for Portfolio		<u>8.25%</u>

Discount rate – The single discount rate of 5.93% for CERS nonhazardous was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023. The Single discount rate is based on the expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments of 6.50% and a municipal bond rate of 3.86%, as reported in Fidelity Index’s “20-Year Municipal GO AA Index” as of June 30, 2023. Future contributions are projected in accordance with the current funding policy mandated in Ky Revised Statutes 61.565, as amended, which includes the requirement that each participating employer in the System contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate, which is determined using a closed funding period (the Kentucky General Assembly reset the amortization period to 30 years in 2020) and the actuarial assumptions and methods adopted by the Board of Trustees. Current assets, future contributions, and investment earnings are projected to be sufficient to pay the projected benefit payments from the retirement system.

However, the cost associated with the implicit employer subsidy for non-Medicare retirees is not currently included in the calculation of the System’s actuarial determined contributions and any cost associated with the implicit subsidy is not paid out of the System’s trust. The implicit rate subsidy is paid by the Commonwealth of Kentucky self-insurance fund, Kentucky Employees Health Plan. Therefore, the municipal bond rate was applied to future expected benefit payments associated with the implicit subsidy.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 8 – POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH CARE BENEFITS (CONTINUED)

The following table presents WMU's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability of the System, calculated using the discount rate of 5.93%, as well as what WMU's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (4.93%) or 1-percentage-point higher (6.93%) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
CERS	4.93%	5.93%	6.93%
WMU's proportionate share			
of net OPEB liability	\$ 301,811	\$ (160,827)	\$ (548,230)

Sensitivity of WMU's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability to changes in the healthcare cost trend rates – The following presents WMU's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability, as well as what WMU's proportionate share of the collective net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that were 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Health Care Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
CERS			
WMU's proportionate share			
of net OPEB liability	\$ (515,479)	\$ (160,827)	\$ 274,829

The Kentucky Public Pensions Authority's publicly available financial report includes financial reports for the CERS OPEB plans and may be obtained from <http://kyret.ky.gov/>.

NOTE 9 – ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

WMU is economically dependent on the following six entities which account for 17% and 18%, respectively, of water and wastewater revenues for the following years:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Danimer Scientific	\$ 1,389,555	\$ 1,340,721
The Kroger Company	1,001,818	1,049,812
Sekisui	271,112	377,882
East Clark County WD	333,935	339,498
Infiltrators	470,485	441,508
Catalent	142,971	158,419
	<u>\$ 3,609,876</u>	<u>\$ 3,707,840</u>

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 10 – RISK OF LOSS

WMU is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees and natural disasters. WMU carries commercial insurance for the risks of loss, including worker’s compensation, and property and casualty loss insurance.

NOTE 11 – LANDFILL POST-CLOSURE COSTS

In 1992, WMU discontinued its landfill operations and ceased accepting solid waste. Under 401 KAR 47:080, WMU presented a closure plan. The final cap, leachate collection systems, surface water drainage systems, gas vent systems and groundwater monitoring systems have been constructed. On June 4, 1998, the Clark County Fiscal Court entered into a lease agreement with WMU for the rental of county property upon which the County and WMU formerly operated landfills, the term of the lease was for 20 years at \$1 per year. The lease provides provision for the post-closure monitoring requirements of state and federal law to be provided by WMU. The post-closure costs are allocated 30% WMU and 70% Clark County Fiscal Court. The state and federal monitoring and maintenance regulations must be performed at the site for 30 years after closure. A liability was not recorded on WMU’s general ledger in the year of closure; instead, the actual post-closure expenses have been recorded in operations each year.

On October 16, 2008, WMU received notice from the Kentucky Division of Waste Management that the site had been released from groundwater monitoring. In applying GASB 18, WMU believes these costs were the most significant of the post-closure expenses. The effect of any remaining projected costs will be offset by the lease agreement with Clark County.

The Division of Waste Management has finished construction of a new wetlands treatment system for treating the landfill leachate at the WMU and Clark County Landfills. With construction of this treatment facility a new Kentucky Pollution Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) Permit was required. Laboratory testing/Monitoring required as part of the conditions of this permit were unexpectedly more stringent that the previous permit resulting in a higher monthly cost for operation.

NOTE 12 – UTILITY REVENUES PLEDGED

WMU has pledged future revenues from water, wastewater and solid waste to repay the 2012, 2014, 2018, and 2020 bonds and KIA outstanding debt referenced in Note 5. Proceeds from these debt obligations provided financing of the water and wastewater infrastructure, including a new wastewater treatment plant. The debt obligations will be repaid from the previously mentioned utility revenues through the year 2045.

NOTE 13 – FIVE YEAR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN

Winchester Municipal Utilities’ five-year capital plan includes major capital construction of new pump station and force mains which are projected to be funded as follows:

Water Utility Improvements	\$	4,273,548
Wastewater Utility Improvements		36,745,149
Total projected financing requirement	\$	41,018,697

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 13 – FIVE YEAR CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Winchester Municipal Utilities' five-year capital plan of depreciation funded projects consists of the following annual allocations in addition to other specifically identified projects:

Finance and Administration:	
Copiers	\$ 3,000
Upgrade Local Area Network	37,000
Replace Microcomputers	22,000
Field Operation Vehicles	410,000
Solid Waste Collection:	
Cubit Replacement	27,000
Container Replacement	40,000
Replace Compactor Ejector Box	10,000
Solid Waste Recycling	500
Water Treatment Plant Equipment Improvements	225,000
Water Distribution:	
Main Replacement	200,000
Fire Hydrant Replacement	6,000
Gate Valve Replacement	20,000
Elevated Storage Tank Rehabilitation	120,000
Meter Change-Out/AMR Equipment	270,000
New Meter Services	100,000
Large Meter Change Out Program	140,000
Wastewater Collection:	
Main Replacement Program (MRP)	200,000
I&I Rehabilitation	20,000
Rehabilitation of Private Sewers	20,000
Flow Meters (EPA CMOM Requirement)	50,000
Continuous System Capacity Assurance Program	18,000
Routine Hydraulic Cleaning	270,000
Manhole Rehabilitation	50,000
Wastewater Treatment Plant (SC):	
Replacement of Laboratory Equipment	3,000
WWTP Equipment Improvements	180,000
Wastewater Solids Processing (SC):	
Solids Processing Improvements	100,000
Wastewater Treatment Plant (LHC)	150,000
Annual Allocation for Solids Equipment/Improvements	30,000
Total Annual Allocations for Infrastructure Investment	<u>\$ 2,721,500</u>

All annual allocation programs are funded in each year of the five-year capital plan.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 14 – COMMITMENTS

FLANAGAN / MADISON STREET SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS – This is a Consent Decree SSO Elimination Project that is expected to be the last Consent Decree project constructed as part of the capital construction requirements of the Consent Decree. The project will replace several sanitary sewers located in downtown area of Winchester. The SSO Elimination Project has a Consent Decree completion deadline of December 31, 2023. The project scope for Phase I of the project includes construction of approximately 4,217 feet of 24-inch PVC, 15 feet of 18-inch PVC, and 23 feet of 10-inch PVC gravity sewer main. Staff has executed a work order with Bell Engineering to complete design of the project as well as provide resident project representation services. Staff has updated EPA Region 4 representatives related to the findings of the SSO Elimination Study and on March 11, 2019 submitted a request for extension of time for completion of the Project provided in the Consent Decree Capital Construction. The deadline proposed and subsequently approved is December 31, 2023. On April 15, 2019, WMU received a request from the Department for Environmental Protection requesting additional information regarding the date extension for the completion of the remaining Sanitary Sewer Overflow Plan (SSOP) projects. Staff along with Legal Counsel prepared and submitted a response on May 13, 2019. An Agreement for Non-Material Modification to the Consent Decree has been signed by all parties and has been filed with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. As of January 14, 2019, survey work is complete. Project plans were submitted to the KY Division of Water on September 27, 2019 for review and approval. On October 31, 2019 design and construction approval was received from the Department of Environmental Cabinet, Division of Water. On March 5, 2020 the WMU Commission approved Resolution 2020-1 & 2020-2 directing the WMU Chairman to execute the encroachment agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the construction and installation of the sanitary sewers. In the interest of public and employee health during the COVID-19 pandemic, easement & property acquisition was significantly delayed. Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) project profiles were submitted to the local Area Development District for inclusion in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and Cleaner Water Program (CWP) for funding of the construction. On December 3, 2021, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$5,000,000 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) to construct the project. Additional funding from Round 2 of the CWP in the amount of \$748,617.00 were also received in the Fourth Quarter of 2022. All easements for the project have been signed and recorded. Palmer Engineering has also applied for a permit with the US Army Corp of Engineers to cross an existing conservation easement and expects approval in the near future. The project was advertised for bids on October 29, 2022, a pre-bid meeting was held on November 15, 2022 and bids were opened on December 8, 2022 with the lowest bid being \$14,859,340. After review of the bids received, it was determined that the bids exceeded the available funding for the project. As a result, all bids were rejected with the intent of dividing the project into three (3) phases. Phase 1 that addresses the Flanagan Street (documented SSO #16) and Madison Avenue (documented SSO #17) SSOs was advertised on January 17, 2023 and the bid opening was on February 6, 2023. The project scope for Phase I includes upsizing approximately 4,217 L.F. of existing 15-inch sewer and replacement of existing manholes. On March 23, 2023, the WMUC rejected the lowest bid submitted by Norris Brothers Excavating, LLC due to deficiencies cited in a review letter provided by Bell Engineering after the bids were reviewed and evaluated. Following the rejection of the lowest bid, the WMUC accepted the second lowest bid and approved the contract for the construction of Phase 1 of the project to Lagco, Inc., 1490 Sunshine Lane, Lexington, KY 40505, for the unit prices submitted in their bid in the amount of \$6,904,149.00. A pre-construction meeting was held on April 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 14 – COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

On June 7, 2023, the WMU Commission held a public meeting for the residents and property owners located within the project area of the Flanagan Street & Madison Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project. Those in attendance were notified that WMU and its contractor, Lagco, Inc., would be replacing the sanitary sewer mains on Evans Street, 1st Street, Madison Avenue, N. Maple Street, Broadway Street, and Highland Street as part of Phase I of the project. The residents and property owners were further notified that construction was anticipated to begin on June 12, 2023. As of the end of the First Quarter of 2024, Consent Decree Non-Exhibit A MH #9-9 has been replaced and the bypass piping has been removed from service. No SSO have occurred at MH #9.9 since the completion of the replacement work. The contract amount for the project is \$6,910,966.29 which does not include engineering fees or project administration costs. During the Second Quarter of 2024, construction of the 24-inch gravity sewer line was completed on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at which time the line work portion of the project was considered substantially complete. All that remains is the railroad bore on Flanagan Street for Phase 3 of the project. As of the end of the Second Quarter of 2024, WMU has expended \$5,936,365.04 on the project. The next monthly construction progress meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024. During a semi-annual conference call held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 9:00 A.M., EPA representatives requested that WMU and the City submit a formal request and justification for an extension of time to complete the project since the required completion date of December 31, 2023 to eliminate EPA documented SSO #16 (Flanagan Street / MH 12-73) and SSO #17 (Madison Avenue / MH 9-9) outlined in the Consent Decree had not been met. On Monday, July 1, 2024, WMU Staff submitted the formal request. The following schedule outlines the status of the milestones for the project.

- Preliminary Engineering – (Complete)
- Complete Data Acquisition Phase – (Complete)
- 30% Design Q/A – (Complete)
- 60% Design Q/A – (Complete)
- 90% Design Q/A – 07/01/2020 - (Complete)
- KEPPC Submittal – 01/02/2021 (Approved)
- 100% Design – 6/01/2021 (Complete)
- Finalize Financing – 06/01/2021 (Complete)
- Easement and Property Acquisition – (Complete)
- Encroachment and CSX Permits – (Complete)
- Advertise Project (Rebid) – 1/17/2023 (Complete)
- Open Bids (Rebid) – 2/6/2023 (Complete)
- Bid Award (Rebid) – 3/2/2023 (Complete)
- Begin Construction – 6/12/2023 (Complete)
- Project Substantial Completion – 5/9/2024
- Project Completion – 6/30/2024 (Complete)

On March 17, 2022, the City of Winchester and the WMU Commission were awarded partial funding of \$381,797.00 through the Cleaner Water Program (CWP) for the KY River Raw Water Intake Facility Standby Power & Reservoir Interconnection. On March 2, 2023, the WMUC approved and executed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management. The total award amount for Phase I of the project is \$212,136.00. The MOA allocates 5.2% (\$11,031.07) of the cost to be paid from WMU funds while 90% (\$190,922.40) is to be paid federally and 4.8% (\$10,182.53) is to be paid by the state. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$2,264,831.19.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

NOTE 14 – COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The WMU Commission, at its regular meeting on Thursday, April 15, 2021, approved a maintenance contract with Utility Service Co., Inc. for professional services relating to the planning and implementation of a water storage tank rehabilitation and management program for the Washington Street Elevated Storage Tank. The contract began May 1, 2021 and will continue for a period of six (6) years. The first annual fee for Contract Year 1 will be \$70,000.00 and will include exterior renovations, installation of a PAX active mixing system and any necessary repairs. The annual fees for Contract Years 2 through 5 will be \$120,442.00 per contract year and will include interior renovations and any necessary repairs. The annual fee for Contract Year 6 will be \$24,627.00. The total cost over the 6-year term of the contract will be \$576,395.00.

NOTE 15 – ASSET RETIREMENT OBLIGATIONS

Management of WMU have reviewed the impact of GASB 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* on the wastewater plant facilities. WMU plans are to repurpose such facilities for an alternative use, which has already been implemented. As such, WMU has not recognized a liability under this Standard.

NOTE 17 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

WMU has evaluated all subsequent events through November 15, 2024, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 18 – RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Prior to the year ended June 30, 2024, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak to be a pandemic. COVID-19 continues to spread across the globe and is impacting worldwide economic activity. The continued spread of the disease represents a significant risk that operations will continue to be disrupted for the foreseeable future. The full extent to which COVID-19 impacts WMU will depend on future developments which are highly uncertain and cannot be predicted.

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2024 (2023)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2023 (2022)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2022 (2021)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2021 (2020)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2020 (2019)
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:					
WMU's proportion of the net pension liability	0.116490%	0.119118%	0.125795%	0.126534%	0.128679%
WMU's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 7,474,591	\$ 8,611,056	\$ 8,020,418	\$ 9,705,053	\$ 9,050,051
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,455,754	\$ 3,377,201	\$ 3,077,716	\$ 3,116,219	\$ 3,120,203
WMU's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	216.29%	254.98%	260.60%	311.44%	290.05%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	57.48%	52.42%	57.33%	47.81%	50.45%
	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2019 (2018)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2018 (2017)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2017 (2016)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2016 (2015)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2015 (2014)
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:					
WMU's proportion of the net pension liability	0.123940%	0.121256%	0.121853%	0.120770%	0.114924%
WMU's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 7,548,324	\$ 7,097,486	\$ 5,999,576	\$ 5,192,479	\$ 3,728,580
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,042,637	\$ 2,881,394	\$ 2,960,432	\$ 2,905,451	\$ 2,837,568
WMU's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	248.08%	246.32%	202.66%	178.72%	131.40%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	53.54%	53.30%	55.50%	59.97%	66.80%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Note: These amounts are based on the prior year's measurement period, not WMU's fiscal year.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS - PENSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:					
Contractually required contribution	\$ 780,672	\$ 762,118	\$ 676,370	\$ 598,988	\$ 606,228
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>780,672</u>	<u>762,118</u>	<u>676,370</u>	<u>598,988</u>	<u>606,228</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,344,781	\$ 3,256,915	\$ 3,194,946	\$ 3,103,565	\$ 3,141,078
WMU's contributions as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	23.34%	23.40%	21.17%	19.30%	19.30%
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:					
Contractually required contribution	\$ 504,601	\$ 444,802	\$ 411,845	\$ 346,191	\$ 360,574
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>504,601</u>	<u>444,802</u>	<u>411,845</u>	<u>346,191</u>	<u>360,574</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,111,209	\$ 3,042,637	\$ 2,881,394	\$ 2,960,432	\$ 2,905,451
WMU's contributions as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	16.22%	14.62%	14.29%	11.69%	12.41%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PENSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

The actuarially determined contribution rates are determined on an annual basis using the actuarial valuation conducted two years prior to the year in which the contribution will be assessed.

2023 Changes of Assumptions –The inflation rate was increased to 2.5% and the investment rate of return was increased to 6.5%. The system specific mortality table was revised to MP-2020 and the base year was changed to 2023.

2020 Changes of Assumptions –The amortization period for the unfunded liability was reset as of June 30, 2019, to a closed 30-year period.

2019 Changes of Assumptions – The 2019 actuarial valuation used updated mortality tables for all categories of members and beneficiaries and a system-specific mortality table for non-disabled retirees. In 2019, mortality rates for active members were based on the PUB-2010 General Mortality table, for the nonhazardous members projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. Post-retirement mortality rates (non-disabled) used a system-specific mortality table based on mortality experience from 2013 – 2018, projected with the ultimate rates from MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2019. The PUB-2010 Disabled Mortality Table is used for post-retirement mortality for disabled retirees with a 4-year set-forward for both male and female rates, projected with the ultimate rates from the MP-2014 mortality improvement scale using a base year of 2010. Previous valuations were based on RP-2000 Combined Mortality Tables.

2017 Changes of Assumptions – For the 2017 actuarial valuation, several key actuarial assumptions were revised. Changes in assumptions prior to 2016 provided minor adjustments to the actuarial measurements. The following table outlines the actuarial methods and assumptions that were used in 2019 and 2016 to determine contribution rates reported for all systems:

Assumption	2017 Valuation	2016 Valuation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal	Entry Age Normal
Amortization Method	Level of Percentage of Payroll, closed	Level of Percentage of Payroll, closed
Remaining Amortization Period	26 Years	27 Years
Asset Valuation Method	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized	20% of the difference between the market value of assets and the expected actuarial value of assets is recognized
Post-retirement benefit adjustments	0.00%	0.00%
Inflation	2.30%	3.25%
Salary Increase	3.3% to 11.55% varies by service), average, including Inflation	4% , average, including Inflation
Investment Rate of Return	6.25% , Net of Pension Plan Investment Expense, including Inflation	7.5% , Net of Pension Plan Investment Expense, including Inflation

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PENSION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (Cont'd):

Changes of Benefit Terms -

2014: A cash balance plan was introduced for member whose participation date begins on or after January 1, 2014

2009: A new benefit tier for members who first participate on or after September 1, 2008 was introduced which included the following changes:

1. Tiered Structure for benefit accrual rates
2. New retirement eligibility requirements
3. Different rules for the computation of final average compensation

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET OPEB LIABILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2024 (2023)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2023 (2022)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2022 (2021)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2021 (2020)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2020 (2019)
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:					
WMU's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.116485%	0.119097%	0.125766%	0.126497%	0.128646%
WMU's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (160,827)	\$ 2,350,396	\$ 2,407,727	\$ 3,054,518	\$ 2,163,768
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,455,754	\$ 3,455,754	\$ 3,294,686	\$ 3,077,716	\$ 3,116,219
WMU's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-4.65%	68.01%	73.08%	99.25%	69.44%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	104.23%	60.95%	62.91%	51.67%	60.44%

	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2019 (2018)	<u>Reporting Fiscal Year (Measurement Date)</u> 2018 (2017)
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:		
WMU's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.123940%	0.121256%
WMU's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ 2,200,441	\$ 2,437,660
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,042,637	\$ 2,881,394
WMU's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	72.32%	84.60%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	57.62%	52.40%

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

Note: These amounts are based on the prior year's measurement period, not WMU's fiscal year.

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS - OPEB
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:						
Contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ 110,409	\$ 184,668	\$ 147,730	\$ 149,515	\$ 163,638
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>110,409</u>	<u>184,668</u>	<u>147,730</u>	<u>149,515</u>	<u>163,638</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-	-	-	-	-
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,344,781	\$ 3,256,915	\$ 3,194,946	\$ 3,103,565	\$ 3,141,078	\$ -
WMU's contributions as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	0.00%	3.39%	5.78%	4.76%	4.76%	5.26%
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>				
COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:						
Contractually required contribution	\$ 144,376	\$ 139,644				
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>144,376</u>	<u>139,644</u>				
Contribution deficiency (excess)	-	-				
WMU's covered-employee payroll	\$ 3,042,637	\$ 2,881,394				
WMU's contributions as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	4.75%	4.85%				

Note: Schedule is intended to show information for the last 10 fiscal years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

**WINCHESTER
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – OPEB
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

COUNTY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM:

Valuation Date: June 30, 2023

2023 Changes in Actuarial Assumptions: Investment return assumption was raised to 6.50% for the actuarial valuation and the municipal bond rate was raised 3.86%. The single discount rate for the 2023 measurement was increased to 5.93%. Contributions in the 2023 measurement period were based on the 2021 valuation that used an investment return of 6.25%, inflation of 2.3%, and salary increases of 3.3% to 10.30%, depending on service.

2022 Changes in Actuarial Assumptions: Initial rates for health cost trends for retirees under age 65 were lowered from 6.4% to 6.25% and rates for retirees ages 65 or older were increased from 2.9% to 5.5%. Municipal bond index rate was lowered from 2.45% to 1.92% (Fidelity 20-Year Municipal GO AA Index). And the single discount rate for the CERS non-hazardous insurance plan was lowered from 5.34% to 5.20%.

2017 Changes in Actuarial Assumptions: The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions which were changed from the 2016 actuarial valuation, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Investment rate of Return	6.25%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation.
Projected salary increases	4% average
Inflation rate	3.25%
Healthcare cost trend rates	
Under 65	Initial trend starting at 7.50% and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 5.00% over a period of 5 years
Ages 65 and Older	Initial trend starting at 5.50% and gradually decreasing to an ultimate trend rate of 5.00% over a period of 2 years
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.56%
Discount Rate	5.84%

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITY

OTHER INFORMATION

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE I - DEPARTMENT EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
ADMINISTRATIVE		
Salaries	\$ 1,147,534	\$ 1,132,353
Employee Benefits	232,155	564,900
Repairs and Maintenance	215,456	211,959
Supplies	38,890	42,910
Small Tools	428	388
Utilities and Telephone	24,241	23,815
Property Insurance	62,835	52,134
Other	15,615	23,061
Postage and Freight	77,438	71,426
Bad Debts	61,200	61,200
Professional Fees	163,209	150,472
Advertising	-	2,380
Depreciation/Amortization	73,703	88,805
	<u>2,112,704</u>	<u>2,425,803</u>
 SOLID WASTE		
Salaries	851,536	681,831
Employee Benefits	196,356	335,043
Repairs and Maintenance	381,993	386,686
Supplies	18,794	12,767
Small Tools	2,659	843
Utilities and Telephone	18,563	19,729
Property Insurance	64,757	58,809
Other	15,589	30,780
Postage	1,263	531
Depreciation	307,897	289,820
Landfill Charges	401,768	382,733
	<u>2,261,175</u>	<u>2,199,570</u>
 WATER		
Salaries	845,491	762,783
Employee Benefits	173,702	344,714
Repairs and Maintenance	344,634	319,569
Supplies	650,570	602,901
Small Tools	10,654	12,162
Utilities and Telephone	678,906	773,736
Property Insurance	89,264	74,190
Other	33,508	31,251
Postage	499	1,224
Professional Fees	-	119
Depreciation/Amortization	2,260,237	2,209,971
New Services	2,363	4,283
	<u>5,089,828</u>	<u>5,136,901</u>
	\$	\$

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE I - DEPARTMENT EXPENSES (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
WASTEWATER		
Salaries	\$ 1,213,774	\$ 1,160,711
Employee Benefits	290,496	578,376
Repairs and Maintenance	656,665	600,281
Supplies	367,751	330,578
Small Tools	11,005	9,601
Utilities and Telephone	1,184,340	1,098,661
Property Insurance	187,491	163,311
Other	61,675	34,600
Postage	2,431	4,752
Professional Fees	229,734	237,891
Depreciation/Amortization	2,784,960	3,278,216
Landfill Services	34,627	71,355
New Services	3,064	117
	<u>7,028,013</u>	<u>7,568,450</u>
 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE		
Salaries	40,504	35,532
Employee Benefits	46,703	59,600
Repairs and Maintenance	8,175	12,146
Supplies	2,448	2,164
Small Tools	1,350	2,129
Utilities and Telephone	25,416	25,231
Property Insurance	14,664	12,468
Other	1,590	2,718
Depreciation/Amortization	3,386	7,388
	<u>144,236</u>	<u>159,376</u>
 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	 <u>\$ 16,635,956</u>	 <u>\$ 17,490,101</u>

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE II - REVENUE BOND DEBT SERVICES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Maturity Date	2020 Issue		2018 Issue		2014 Issue		2012 Issue		Total	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2024-2025	661,854	67,510	95,000	428,944	265,000	279,256	390,000	121,894	1,411,854	897,604
2025-2026	670,393	57,648	110,000	425,144	270,000	271,306	400,000	109,705	1,450,393	863,803
2026-2027	679,093	47,659	120,000	420,744	280,000	263,206	415,000	96,705	1,494,093	828,314
2027-2028	689,113	37,541	130,000	415,944	290,000	254,806	430,000	82,700	1,539,113	790,991
2028-2029	699,028	27,273	725,000	410,744	295,000	246,106	445,000	67,650	2,164,028	751,773
2029-2030	711,562	16,858	140,000	381,744	305,000	236,961	460,000	52,074	1,616,562	687,637
2030-2031	419,825	6,255	475,000	376,144	315,000	227,506	480,000	35,400	1,689,825	645,305
2031-2032			945,000	361,894	325,000	216,875	480,000	18,000	1,750,000	596,769
2032-2033			1,475,000	333,544	340,000	205,906	-	-	1,815,000	539,450
2033-2034			790,000	287,450	350,000	194,006	-	-	1,140,000	481,456
2034-2035			810,000	261,775	365,000	181,756	-	-	1,175,000	443,531
2035-2036			840,000	235,450	375,000	168,981	-	-	1,215,000	404,431
2036-2037			865,000	208,150	390,000	155,856	-	-	1,255,000	364,006
2037-2038			895,000	178,956	405,000	141,719	-	-	1,300,000	320,675
2038-2039			1,010,000	148,750	420,000	127,038	-	-	1,430,000	275,788
2039-2040			1,045,000	113,400	435,000	111,817	-	-	1,480,000	225,217
2040-2041			1,080,000	76,825	450,000	95,500	-	-	1,530,000	172,325
2041-2042			1,115,000	39,025	470,000	78,625	-	-	1,585,000	117,650
2042-2043			-	-	490,000	61,000	-	-	490,000	61,000
2043-2044			-	-	505,000	41,400	-	-	505,000	41,400
2044-2045			-	-	530,000	21,200	-	-	530,000	21,200
	<u>\$ 4,530,868</u>	<u>\$ 260,744</u>	<u>\$ 12,665,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,104,627</u>	<u>\$ 7,870,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,580,826</u>	<u>\$ 3,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 584,128</u>	<u>\$ 28,565,868</u>	<u>\$ 9,530,325</u>

WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITES
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards By Grant
For the Year Ended June 30, 2024

<i>Federal Grantor/Program or Cluster Title</i>	<i>Assistance Listing Number</i>	<i>Name of Grant - Grant ID No.</i>	<i>Federal Expenditures(\$)</i>
<i>PASSED Through Kentucky Infrstructure Authority</i>			
Department of the Treasury			
CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS			
CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS	21.027	KIA#21CWS021 COVID-19	<u>3,935,684</u>
Total CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS			<u>3,935,684</u>
<i>Total Department of the Treasury</i>			<u>3,935,684</u>
<i>Total Other Programs</i>			<u>3,935,684</u>
<i>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</i>			<u><u>\$ 3,935,684</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1- BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity of the Winchester Municipal Utilities under the programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, (Uniform Guidance). Because the schedule presents only a selected portion of operations of the Winchester Municipal Utilities, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position or cash flows of the entity.

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- 1) Expenditures reported on the schedule are reported on the accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.
- 2) Winchester Municipal Utilities did not elect to use the 10% de minimus indirect cost rate.

NOTE 3 – SUBRECIPIENTS

The Entity did not pass through federal awards to a subrecipient in the current fiscal year.

SUMMERS, MCCRARY & SPARKS, P.S.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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LAURENCE T. SUMMERS
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STUART K. MCCRARY, JR., CPA
1982-2022

**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***

To the Board of Commissioners
Winchester Municipal Utilities
Winchester, KY

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 business-type activities of Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Utilities' basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 15, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, 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.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Winchester Municipal Utilities, component unit of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, 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 financial statements. 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*.

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.

Summers, McCrary & Sparks, PSC

Winchester, Kentucky
November 15, 2024

SUMMERS, MCCRARY & SPARKS, P.S.C.
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR PROGRAM
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM
GUIDANCE**

To the Board of Commissioners
Winchester Municipal Utilities
Winchester, KY

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Winchester Municipal Utilities's compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Winchester Municipal Utilities's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Winchester Municipal Utilities's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Winchester Municipal Utilities complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Winchester Municipal Utilities and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Winchester Municipal Utilities's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Winchester Municipal Utilities's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Winchester Municipal Utilities's compliance based on our audit. 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 generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Winchester Municipal Utilities's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *Government Auditing Standards*, the Uniform Guidance, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Winchester Municipal Utilities's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- Obtain an understanding of the Winchester Municipal Utilities's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Winchester Municipal Utilities's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Summers, McCrary & Sparks, PSC

Lexington, KY
November 15, 2024

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued - unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified? yes X no

Significant deficiencies identified yes X none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? yes X no

Federal Awards

Internal control over majority programs:

Material weakness(es) identified? yes X no

Significant deficiencies identified yes X none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for the major programs - unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be report in accordance with 2 CFR section 200.516 (a)? yes X no

Identification of major programs:

<u>CFDA Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster</u>
#21.027	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? yes x no

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

FINDINGS – FINANCIAL REPORTING

None

FINDINGS - COMPLIANCE

None

**WINCHESTER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

FINDINGS – FINANCIAL REPORTING

None

FINDINGS - COMPLIANCE

None