

## **FAQ's for Special Town Meeting Article 5 – Construction of New Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Facility and Systems**

### **What are the major benefits of the new WTP facility and systems?**

The new plant will have modular components which provide redundancy in case one module fails, new technology to improve performance, and will free up sewer capacity as 'back wash water' will remain on-site in a drainage basin.

### **Will we see better quality water?**

Yes. A new plant will greatly reduce the chances of organic growth and quality violations due to the new process of filtration and a reduction in the use of certain chemicals.

### **Will the new plant allow for brown water to go into the water system from the plant?**

No. It will have a different filtering system than the current WTP and this upgraded system will no longer allow brown water to leave the facility.

### **Will this new WTP eliminate all brown water?**

No. There are also issues within the pipes that cause brown water. But a new WTP is a significant step in addressing the problem as a whole.

### **Will the new WTP plant operate more efficiently and save money?**

Yes. Currently, our WTP uses chemicals that we must purchase each year and the building itself uses older, less efficient technologies. The new plant's increased efficiencies should result in reduced chemical use and electricity, and those savings will be passed on to ratepayers.

### **Are there new state regulations we should be worried about?**

Yes. Due to our current setup, we don't have redundancy in our system and thus will be in violation of state regulations. Therefore, we must comply before the state needs to step in.

### **Will the new WTP impact the outdoor water use bans?**

Yes. The lack of redundancy in the existing plant requires that we shut down the entire plant to complete repairs. We are currently in a full outdoor water ban for just that reason. The redundancies that will be built into the new WTP will allow the Water Department to complete repairs and maintenance while continuing to operate the plant. As a result, the town will no longer need to restrict water use during these times.

# NEW WATER TREATMENT FACILITY AND SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM (SCADA) PROJECT

## *AT A GLANCE*

The new water treatment facility and supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) project is being proposed to voters as a debt exclusion. A debt exclusion requires a 2/3rds vote of town meeting and a majority vote at the ballot. A debt exclusion is a TEMPORARY tax increase to pay for the costs of a project. The temporary tax increase declines over the repayment period and completely goes away once the debt is fully repaid.

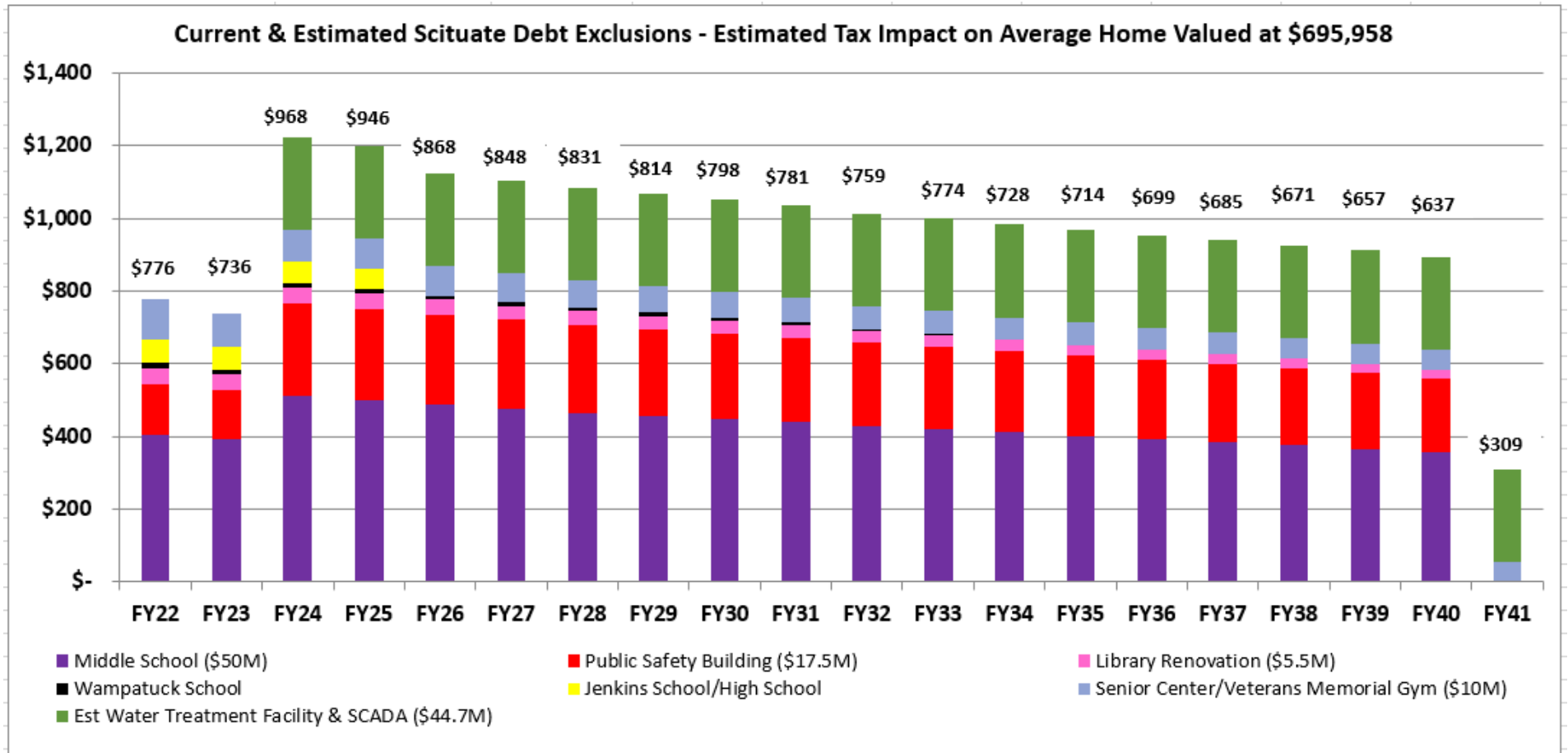
<b>Total Project Cost to be voted upon by voters</b>	\$50,000,000
<b>Taxpayer Share (reduced by \$5,296,240 of ARPA Funds)</b>	\$44,703,760
<b>Estimated Annual Taxpayer Impact on \$695,958 Home</b>	\$255
<b>Estimated Taxpayer Impact on \$695,958 Home Over 30 Year Period</b>	\$7,640

- (1) **Please note these are estimates and subject to change.** The average single value home value assessment in Scituate is currently \$695,958 and changes annually.
- (2) Project cost estimates based on a 30 year loan through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust at 2.4% with level debt payments. The Town must be accepted into the Clean Water Trust program and the debt may be issued in multiple increments and time periods which would affect the estimates provided above. A shorter loan period of 20 years would result in a lower interest rate of 2.0% but a higher estimated annual payment of \$330 totaling \$6,614 over the 20 year period.
- (3) The Select Board voted on 2/15/2022 to use \$5,296,240 of available American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds available through the Commonwealth of MA and Plymouth County towards the project.

Data provided as February 25, 2022 for informational purposes only.

# Taxpayer Impacts of All Debt Exclusions for FY22-41

(Current Debt Exclusions End in FY2041; Estimated Water Treatment Plant Would End in FY2053)



- (1) FY22 is the current fiscal year. \$1.4M in Senior Center/Veterans Memorial Gym debt not yet reflected in above chart. Chart above assumes level principal debt payments to commence in FY24 for full amount of project authorization for Water Treatment Facility & SCADA.
- (2) The elementary school rehabilitation or replacement project of \$85M on the five year capital plan in FY26 would have a similar estimated impact as that of the Water Treatment Facility & SCADA project if eligible for Massachusetts School Building Authority reimbursements on par with prior reimbursements.

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