

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY



SCOPE AND VALUE OF SEWER SYSTEM

- Sanitary Sewerage System

- \$410 million – second to roadways in overall value
- Water Pollution Control Facility – 3.75 million gallons per day; 130 miles of sewer lines; 11 pump stations; and 3,000 manholes

- Service

- 8,100 Resident homes
- 350 Industrial and commercial businesses

- Benefits to Town

- Hidden resource that contributes to quality of life
- Public convenience
- Community long-term economic success
- Treatment and disposal of pollutants
- Recycling of precious resource-water

WHAT IS THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

- Seven members, two alternates – Town resident volunteers, six year term
- Staff Liaison – Superintendent of Pollution Control and Administrative Secretary

HISTORY OF THE WPCA

- Town created through State Statute, granting the WPCA broad authority to manage the sewer system.
- Benefits of WPCA
 - Focus on best interests of the Town and sewer system
 - Non-partisan
 - Town delegates responsibility but retains authority to resolve

MISSION

- To provide for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater and solids in a manner to assure the protection of the public health and the environment, and to support economic growth through the establishment and implementation of prudent fiscal policies.

STATUTORY MANDATES

- Allocate limited resources for efficient sewerage system operation and maintenance.
- Establish and revise rules and regulations.
- Maintain an adequate record of sewers, drains, appurtenances, and connections.
- Plan, construct, reconstruct, equip, extend and enlarge a sewerage system.
- To establish and revise fair and reasonable rates.

REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Public Health and Safety
- Environmental Protection
- Economic Development

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Enact and enforce Pollution Control Regulations
- Prevents groundwater contamination of drinking water supplies
- Avoids costs and maintenance of a septic system
- Promotes recreational uses of surface waters for swimming, boating, and fishing

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Enforce State and Federal Regulations
- Testing and Monitoring of industrial wastewater discharges
- Removes impurities, chemicals and bacteria from reintroduction into local surface waters, the Connecticut River, and Long Island Sound

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Attracts commercial development and promotes economic vitality
- Lays foundation for local growth
- Provides guidance to developers and businesses
- Sewer connection approvals
- On-site inspections
- Developer Agreements

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Essential Fact: Self Funded
- Essential Method: Application of business management principles.

ARE THE RATES FAIR?

- The rates must be sufficient to cover the costs to maintain the system's capacity and performance for which such works were originally designed and constructed.
- Town rates have been historically less than the statewide average. (last statewide survey \$369; Town \$288)
- Recent History of Rates: \$34.00 increase over last 5 years
 - 2010: \$340
 - 2011: \$288
 - 2012: \$340
 - 2013: \$374
 - 2014: \$374

OUR DAILY COSTS OF LIVING



1 Cup of Coffee \$2.00



Potable Water Service
\$1.55



Daily Newspaper \$1.50



Cell phone \$2.67



Bundled Services (Cable TV,
Internet, Telephone) \$4.30



Town Sewer Fee \$1.02

ARE THE RATES FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED (EQUITABLE)?

- Task force cooperative efforts
- Challenges in achieving perfect fairness.
- Discount for those in need—a step in the right direction.

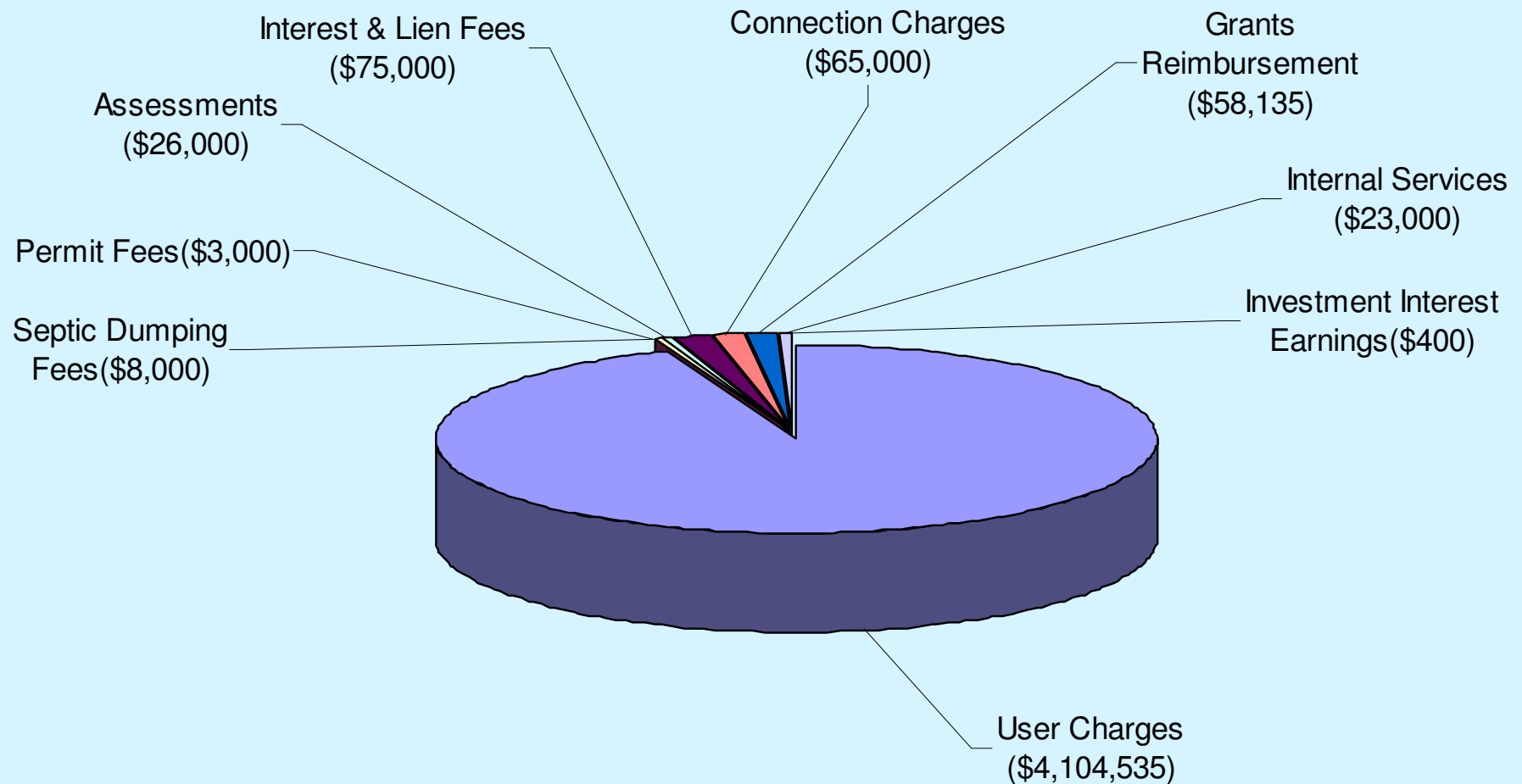
TRANSPARENCY

- Currently – public meetings and hearings, minutes posted on Town website, tours of treatment plant
- Future – Enterprise Fund, better communication through use of social media, newsletter, cable TV

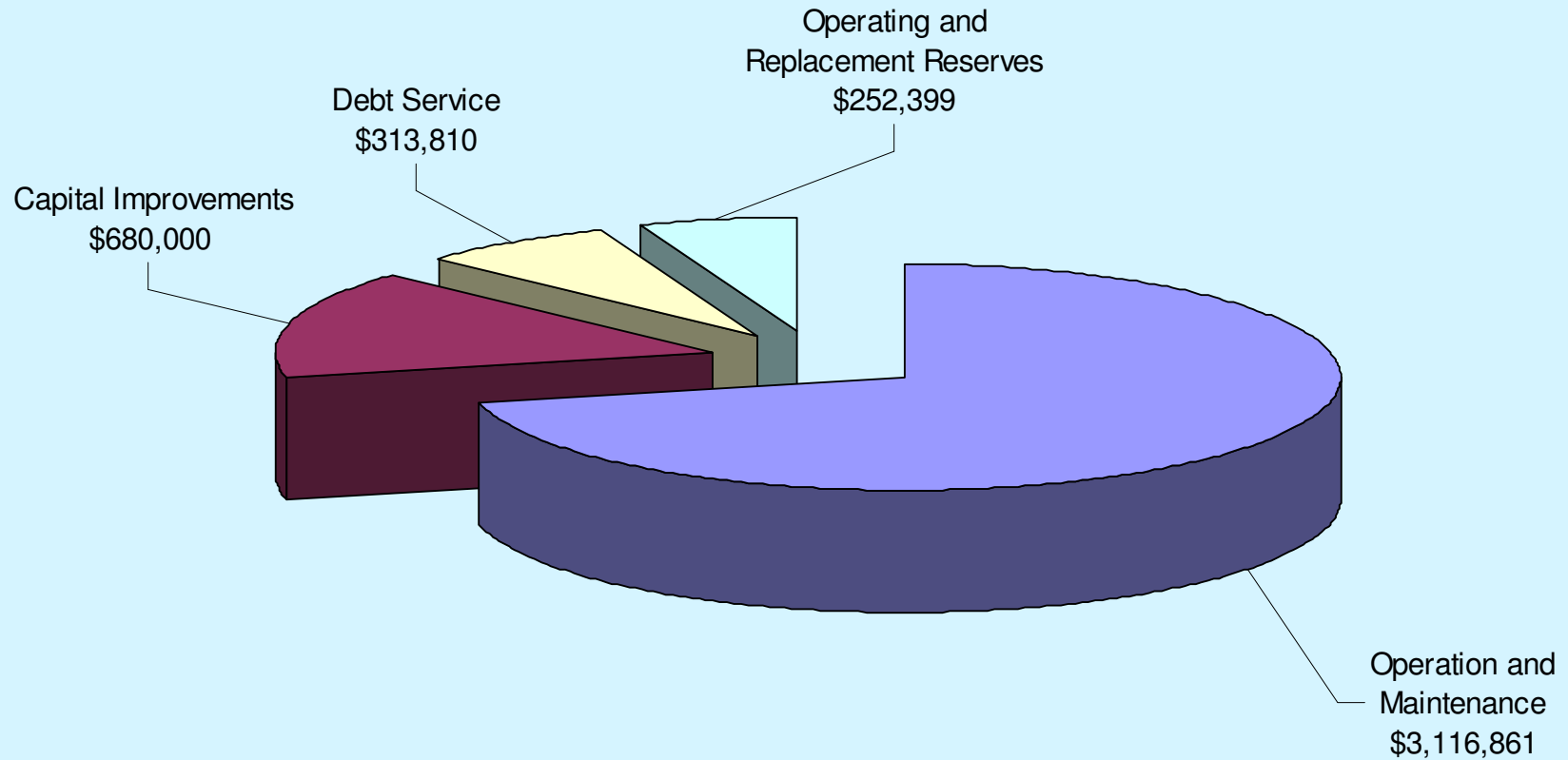
BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Budgeting – Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regulations and Clean Water Fund grant obligations require that the user charges include the anticipated costs for operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of the components of the system.
- Methods to reduce costs:
 - Use of grants and loans
 - Cooperative purchasing
 - Competitive bidding for services
 - Operational efficiencies
 - Energy conservation measures
 - Long term capital planning
 - Use of reserves as a means to stabilize rates

POLLUTION CONTROL BUDGET REVENUES FY 2013/2014



POLLUTION CONTROL BUDGET FY 2013/2014 EXPENDITURES



FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES

- To plan for the future needs of a complex and widespread system entails a degree of unavoidable uncertainties [in fact sheet: e.g., exposure to unforeseen natural events, accidents, revenue fluctuations, and unplanned facility repair, maintenance and improvement needs.]
- Reserve Fund Policy. Establishing reserve funds is a sound business practice that protects against unforeseen expenses and allows for rate stabilization over time.
- WPCA Reserve Funds:
 - Operating Reserve – equal to 25% of operating budget to offset variations in revenue and expenditures
 - Replacement Reserve – equal to 2% of sewer asset value to meet future infrastructure needs

RECENT HISTORY

- March 2011 – collapse of the Chapel Road sewer (\$260,000)
 - Sanitary Sewer System Evaluation (\$678,695) – funded by State Planning Grant (55%)
 - TV inspection of Town concrete pipes and manholes
 - Clark Street Pump Station Forcemain evaluation
 - Evaluation of system inflow and infiltration (I/I) sources
 - System Evaluation Recommendations - Implementation
 - Completed in 2012 Chapel Road pipe, pump station forcemain, and manhole rehabilitation (\$607,470)
 - Completed in 2013 Phase I of I/I inspection

RECENT HISTORY

- Treatment Plant improvements – \$37 million (\$8+ million in grants) - completed in 2012
- Pump Station improvements
 - Submersible (\$1,562,154 – State Clean Water Fund low interest loan) completed in 2006
 - Dry Pit (\$2,288,105) completed in 2013

FUTURE PLANNING

- Future System Evaluation Recommendations – Implementation
 - 2014 (\$175,000) Manhole Rehabilitation;
 - Phase II I/I inspection
- Relining concrete pipe, manhole rehab., forcemain improvements schedule:
 - 2015 (\$225,225)
 - 2018 (\$537,206)
 - 2019 (\$564,368)
 - 2020 (\$1,670,685)
 - 2021 (\$1,754,169)
 - 2022 (\$561,830)
 - 2023 (\$590,668)
 - 2024 (\$1,241,703)
 - 2025 (\$1,302,936)