

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Town of Palm Beach

Fiscal Year Ended September 30, 2023



ABOUT THE PAFR

The purpose of the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is to provide an overview of the financial operations of the Town of Palm Beach, as reported in the Town’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), along with other information of interest. It is intended to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance. A more detailed account of the Town’s financial picture is available in the ACFR, which can be found on the Town’s website, www.townofpalmbeach.com, or by calling the Finance Department, (561) 838-5444.

Table of Contents

MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL	3
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.....	4
MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER	5
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	6
General Fund Balance Sheet.....	6
General Fund Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance.....	7
GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES	8
TOWN RESERVES	9
RETIREMENT PLAN	10
OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST	11
PROPERTY TAXES	12
FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS	14
Employee of the Year.....	14
Procurement and Contract Management Team Receives Two Awards Recognizing Best Practices.....	14
Finance Department receives the GFOA Triple Crown	15
2023 Florida Municipal Insurance Trust Partnership Risk & Safety Award Winner.....	15
The Seaview Café opened at the Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center.....	15
NeuroProtective CPR	15
Echovnovos UltraSound.....	16
New Rescue Placed in Service.....	16
Rope Rescue and VMR Certifications.....	16
Department-Wide Water Rescue Training	16
New Air and Light Truck Placed in Service	17
Community Outreach Programs	17
Four Firefighters Successfully Obtained Paramedic State Certification and Completed Internal Paramedic Program	17
Town-wide Underground Project Update	17
Seaview and Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Centers	19
Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center.....	19
Palm Beach Marina Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary.....	22
Par 3 Golf Course Has Record Breaking Year	24
Zoning Code Reform	26
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS	27



MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

Palm Beach Mayor and Town Council Members from left to right:
Councilman Lew Crampton, Council President Pro-Tem Bobbie Lindsay,
Mayor Danielle Moore, Council President Maggie Ziedman, Councilwoman
Julie Araskog, Councilman Ted Cooney

Town Officials

Mayor

Danielle Hickox Moore

Town Council

Maggie Ziedman, President
Bobbie Lindsay, President Pro Tem
Julie Araskog
Ted Cooney
Lew Crampton

Town Manager

Kirk Blouin

Town Attorney

Joanne O'Connor

Senior Management Team

Bob Miracle, Deputy Town Manager, Finance and Administration
Carolyn Stone, Deputy Town Manager, Business Enterprise and Culture
Gillian Barth, Director of People and Culture
Wayne Bergman, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works
Mark Bresnahan, Director of Recreation
Nicholas Caristo, Chief of Police
Sean Baker, Fire Rescue Chief
Andy Jadoo, CIO & Director of Information Technology

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to present the Town of Palm Beach's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2023. The PAFR communicates the financial condition of the Town through open, user-friendly financial reporting to increase public awareness and understanding of where Town revenues come from and how dollars are spent.

On behalf of the Town Council, I am pleased to report the Town once again ended the fiscal year positively. In addition to the Town's stellar financial soundness, Town Council is incredibly proud to present this summary of the great accomplishments and significant activities that occurred in our great Town this past year.



Thank you to our incredible Town staff who continually balances fiscal stability while delivering superb services to residents and businesses. I would like to also thank our residents, businesses, and community organizations that work every day to be successful in their endeavors that contribute to our great Town.

I hope the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) better clarifies the Town's finances. Questions, comments, and feedback are always welcome. Please do not hesitate to contact us at towncouncil@townofpalmbeach.com or (561) 838-5414 so we can best serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danielle H. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Danielle H. Moore
Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Dear Residents,

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Town of Palm Beach operations and finances for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2023.

The annual report contains year-end financial data, information about property taxes, fiscal year 2022/2023 department accomplishments, zoning reform highlights, along with information and financials on the Town's Enterprise Funds – Marina, Par 3 Golf Course and Building Funds.

This is the 8th consecutive year that the Town's millage rate was lowered, providing property tax relief to homesteaded property owners. For the fifth straight year, the general fund ended the year with a surplus; The surplus for FY23 was \$6,261,500. The Town's reserves are healthy, and our Par 3 Golf Course had a record year, ending the year with a surplus of \$1,058,931. The Town Marina celebrated its two-year anniversary in November and exceeded revenue expectations for FY23. The Marina Fund ended the year with a \$7,067,387 surplus after transferring \$2.6 million to the Underground Utility Fund to fund the deficit.

If you are interested in following the Town's finances each month, we produce a monthly financial report that is posted on the Town's website in the Finance Department section.

The Town Staff is grateful to the Mayor and Town Council for their leadership on Town policy matters and their commitment to enhancing the quality of services provided to Town residents in the most fiscally responsible manner. The Town staff supports the Mayor and Town Council in this endeavor, by committing ourselves to responsive, goal-driven management as well as the courteous and efficient delivery of services.

We hope that you will find this Annual Report to be an informative summary of Town operations. Please call (561) 838-5410 or email townmanager@townofpalmbeach.com if you would like to share a comment, a concern, or a suggestion for how we can serve you better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk W. Blouin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kirk W. Blouin
Town Manager

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General Fund Balance Sheet Fiscal Year Ended September 30

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Assets					
Cash and Investments	\$51,880,783	\$43,047,186	\$40,467,761	\$37,913,314	\$33,320,297
Receivables	1,825,634	1,367,193	1,682,402	1,048,670	1,207,769
Due from Other Governments	253,303	257,971	505,711	1,540,251	1,657,953
Inventory	582,694	514,697	414,983	362,565	374,610
Prepaid Items	15,247	10,387	10,037	2,913	21,856
Total Assets	\$54,557,661	\$45,197,434	\$43,080,894	\$40,867,713	\$36,582,485
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$6,515,284	\$3,723,342	\$2,436,341	\$3,37,993	\$1,983,947
Due to Other Governments	-	-	-	-	-
Accrued Liabilities	1,601,804	1,407,939	1,060,406	1,063,791	676,196
Unearned Revenue	1,505,364	2,073,372	2,104,821	2,507,316	1,732,327
Total Liabilities	\$9,622,452	\$7,204,653	\$5,601,568	\$5,709,100	\$4,392,470
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Business Tax Receipts	\$629,752	\$653,381	\$596,787	\$539,701	\$582,591
Unavailable Revenue	19,473	28,906	46,427	547,526	400,470
Leases	31,703	65,470	-	-	-
Special Assessments	-	77,953	106,015	-	-
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$680,928	\$825,710	\$749,229	\$1,087,227	\$983,061
Fund Balance					
Non-spendable	\$597,941	\$525,084	\$425,020	\$365,478	\$396,466
Restricted	-	-	-	-	-
Committed	2,995,677	2,476,077	2,791,672	2,784,655	3,094,888
Assigned	7,612,078	4,289,488	6,261,302	2,379,755	2,158,458
Unassigned	33,048,585	30,702,132	28,001,332	29,628,725	26,540,203
Total Equity and Other Credits	\$44,254,281	\$37,992,781	\$37,479,326	\$35,158,613	\$32,190,015
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$54,557,661	\$45,197,434	\$43,080,894	\$40,867,713	\$36,582,485



The condensed financial statements present the Town's General Fund, along with information on the Marina, Par 3 Golf Course and Building Enterprise Funds only. The purpose of these statements is to provide citizens with a summarized version of the information contained within the Town's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The Town's accounting policies conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). The Town's separately prepared and audited ACFR offers a complete description of the Town's significant accounting policies and other disclosures required by GAAP, as well a more detailed analysis of the Town's financial position. A copy of the ACFR may be obtained from the Finance Department at Town Hall or the Town's website, www.townofpalmbeach.com.

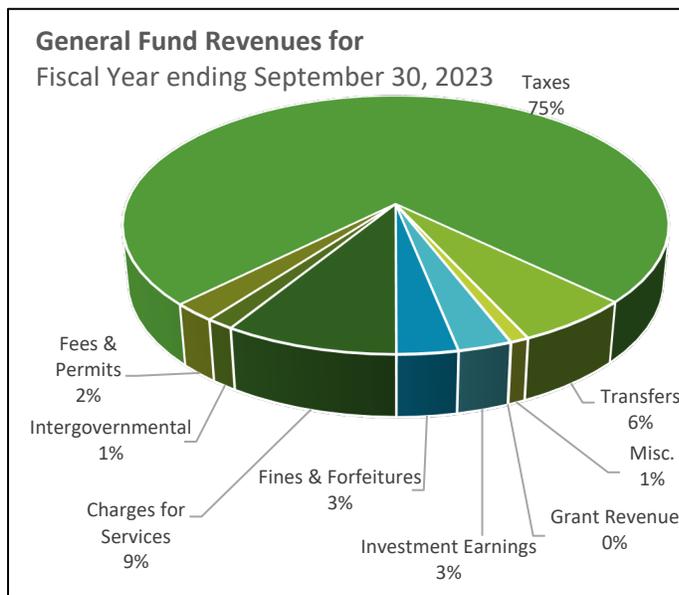
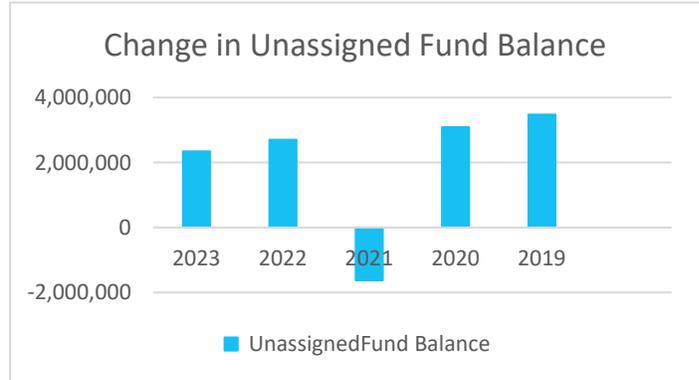
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General Fund Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Fiscal Year Ended September 30

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Revenues					
Taxes	\$77,221,496	\$70,665,372	\$67,542,780	\$66,175,454	\$64,183,088
Fees and Permits	2,331,092	2,544,896	1,693,234	9,010,686	11,126,361
Intergovernmental	1,465,846	1,313,975	1,111,661	1,007,914	1,086,685
Charges for Services	9,166,079	7,803,802	7,176,166	5,648,639	5,152,779
Fines and Forfeitures	3,214,593	1,247,451	918,508	780,975	904,075
Investment Earnings (loss)	2,839,898	(392,114)	109,290	696,607	969,781
Grant Revenue	21,824	47,052	917,762	940,693	195,380
Miscellaneous	985,141	458,580	499,518	479,155	414,487
Total Revenues	\$97,245,969	\$83,689,014	79,968,919	\$84,740,123	\$84,032,636
Expenditures					
General Government	\$12,134,880	\$9,921,176	\$8,611,000	\$9,685,883	\$9,885,937
Public Safety	35,147,046	32,320,419	32,381,571	32,429,551	29,559,611
Physical Environment	15,397,074	13,584,311	12,949,523	12,658,095	12,095,491
Transportation	1,372,836	1,325,100	1,027,931	892,693	1,047,748
Culture and Recreation	4,720,024	4,133,532	3,887,552	3,573,250	3,072,743
Non-Departmental	7,695,545	7,606,161	7,434,622	7,324,441	11,434,745
Capital Outlay	374,010	175,557	162,751	164,038	182,690
Debt Service	154,777	31,853	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$76,996,192	\$69,098,109	\$66,454,950	\$66,727,951	\$67,278,965
Other Financing Sources (Uses)					
Subscriptions Acquired	\$354,336	\$63,063	-	-	-
Transfers in	6,164,921	5,061,266	3,225,000	25,000	2,161,035
Transfers out	(20,507,534)	(19,201,779)	(14,418,256)	(15,068,574)	(15,678,862)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	\$(13,988,277)	\$(14,077,450)	\$(11,193,256)	\$(15,043,574)	\$(13,517,827)
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$6,261,500	\$513,455	\$2,320,713	\$2,968,598	\$3,235,844
Fund Balance, Beginning	\$37,992,781	\$37,479,326	\$35,158,613	\$32,190,015	\$28,954,171
Fund Balance, Ending	\$44,254,281	\$37,992,781	\$37,479,326	\$35,158,613	\$32,190,015

GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, the Town finished the year with a \$6 million surplus. The majority of this surplus has been earmarked for projects in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. These projects include Phipps Park, Public Safety radios, and replacement of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software. For the past 5 years the Town has finished the year with a surplus and added to the general fund reserves. The graph to the right depicts the last 5 years of net change in unassigned fund balance.



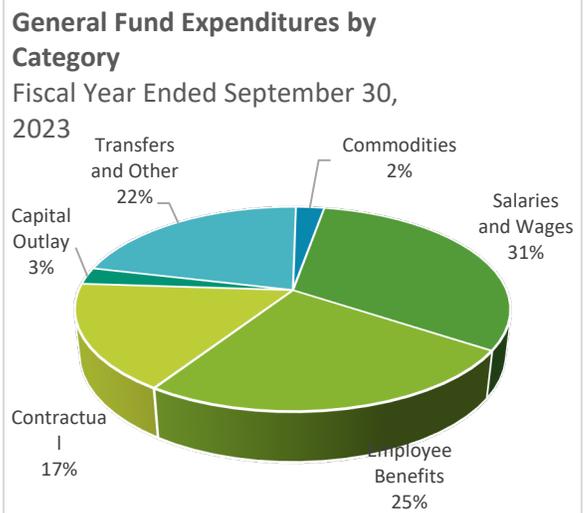
General services of the Town are financed through taxes, licenses and permits, intergovernmental revenue and charges for services. Total revenues in fiscal year 2023 were \$103,507,469, including transfers in.

The bulk of the revenues come from taxes, namely property taxes. Other tax revenue includes utility taxes, franchise fees and local option gasoline taxes.

Revenues increased \$14.6 million (16.5%) mainly due to increases in property taxes, investment earnings and a large code enforcement fine.

General fund expenditures total \$97,503,705, including transfers out. Expenditures increased 10.4% over 2022 due mainly to increases in salaries and wages and contractual expenses.

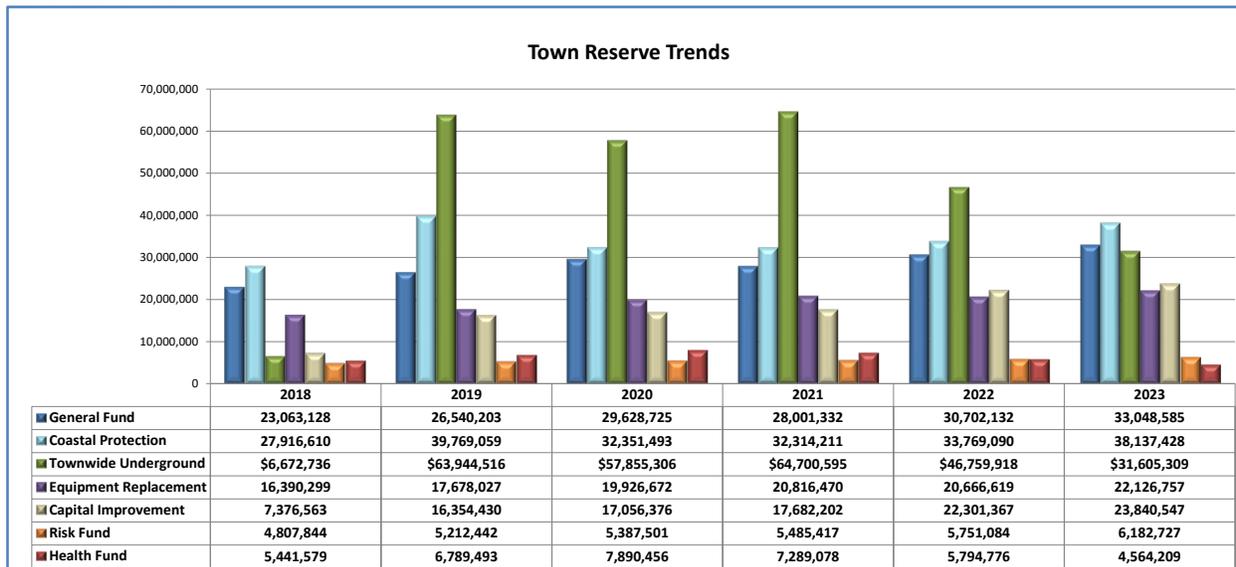
The majority of the General Fund expenditures relate to employee pay and benefits, which represent 56% of total expenditures. Transfers to other Town funds represent 21% and contractual expenditures represent 17%.



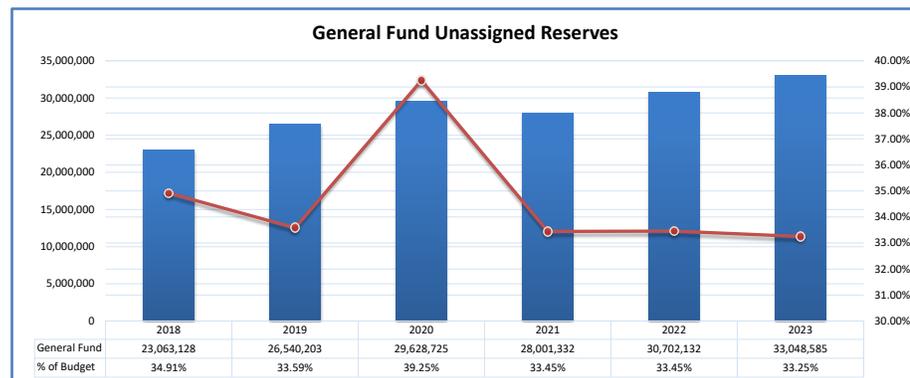
TOWN RESERVES

The financial strength of the Town can be measured by the health of its reserves. Bond rating agencies look closely at the reserve levels and the financial policies in place when rating a municipality. The rating agencies reviewed the Town’s credit ratings in preparation for the issuance of the Town’s bonds, the most recent being a GO bond issued in March 2021. They cited the Town’s healthy reserves, solid fiscal policies, and conservative management practices as some of the reasons for our exceptional bond ratings. Moody’s Investors Service gave the Town an AAA for the Revenue Bonds and provided the Town with a General Obligation Bond rating of Aaa. Last year, Standard and Poor’s upgraded the credit rating on the revenue bonds to AAA and provided the Town’s General Obligation Bond a rating of AAA. These revenue bond ratings and issuer credit ratings are the highest ratings these two services issue and represent the highest quality investment grade debt.

The chart below shows the reserve trends of the major Town funds excluding enterprise funds and special revenue funds.



The Town’s policy is to maintain an unassigned fund balance for the General Fund at a minimum level of 30% of current year General Fund budgeted operating expenditures. This minimum level is to be maintained to protect the Town against economic downturns, temporary revenue shortfalls, unpredicted one-time expenditures, and for tax rate stabilization purposes. Thirty percent of the FY23 General Fund operating budget (General Fund budget less the extraordinary retirement transfer) is \$29,817,879. The FY23 ending fund balance was \$33,048,585. The unassigned fund balance exceeded the minimum requirement by \$3,230,706. The General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance has consistently exceeded the required minimum level. The level was increased in March of 2024 from 25% to 30% of operating expenditures. The chart to the right shows the trend for the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance and the percent of budgeted expenditures the balance represents.

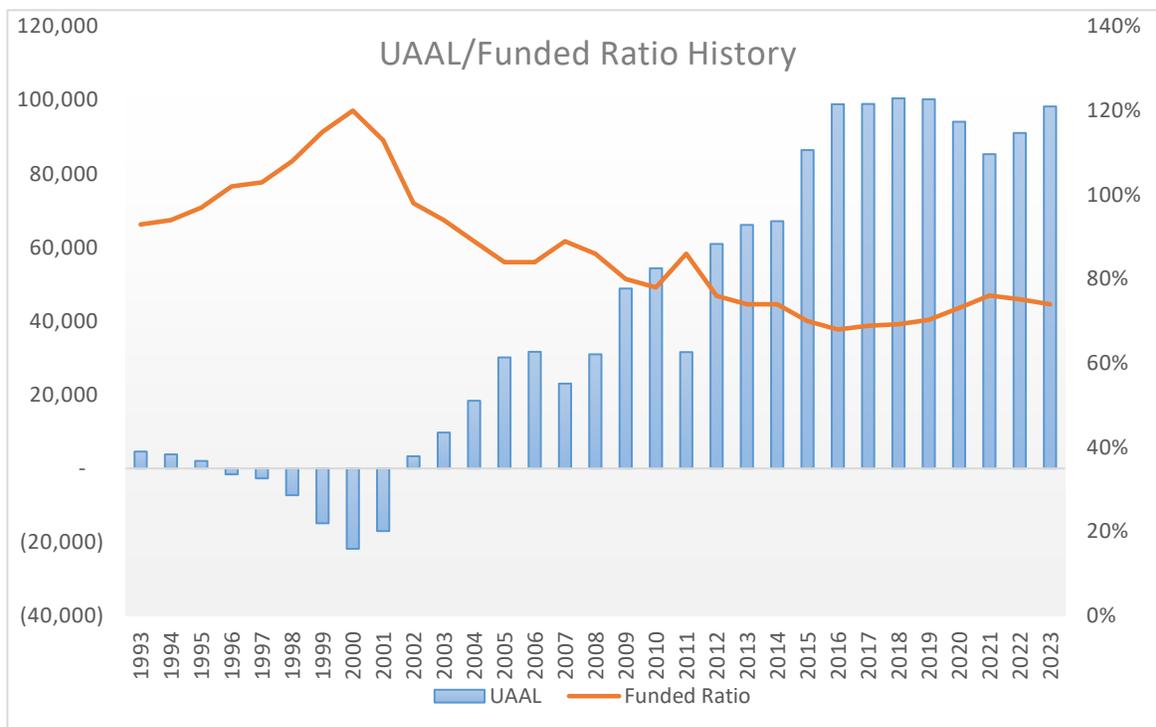


RETIREMENT PLAN

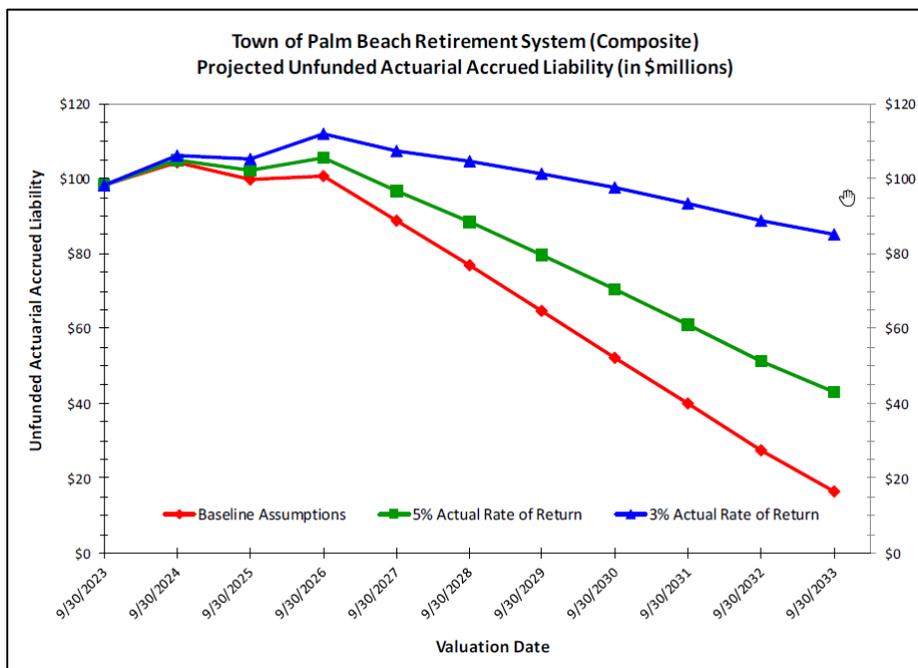
The Town of Palm Beach has a pension fund for Police, Firefighters and General Employees. The investments of the fund are overseen by the Retirement Board of Trustees. The Fund has adopted an investment strategy emphasizing broad diversification. Diversification helps to reduce portfolio volatility (variability of returns) and maximize investment returns at appropriate levels of risk over time. The Fund seeks to meet or exceed the System’s actuarial rate of return assumption while looking for opportunities to reduce volatility through diversification. The investments in the fund for FY23 returned 9.42% versus the assumption of 6.2%.



The funded ratio for the plan decreased from 75.2% to 74.0%. The loss is mainly attributable to past unfavorable investment experience and recent changes to the investment assumption rate and higher than expected increases in covered payroll. In addition, the Town has contributed an additional \$5,420,000 per year since 2019 to reduce the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL). The UAAL increased from \$91,096,064 to \$98,335,829. The chart below shows the history of the UAAL and funded ratio since 1992.



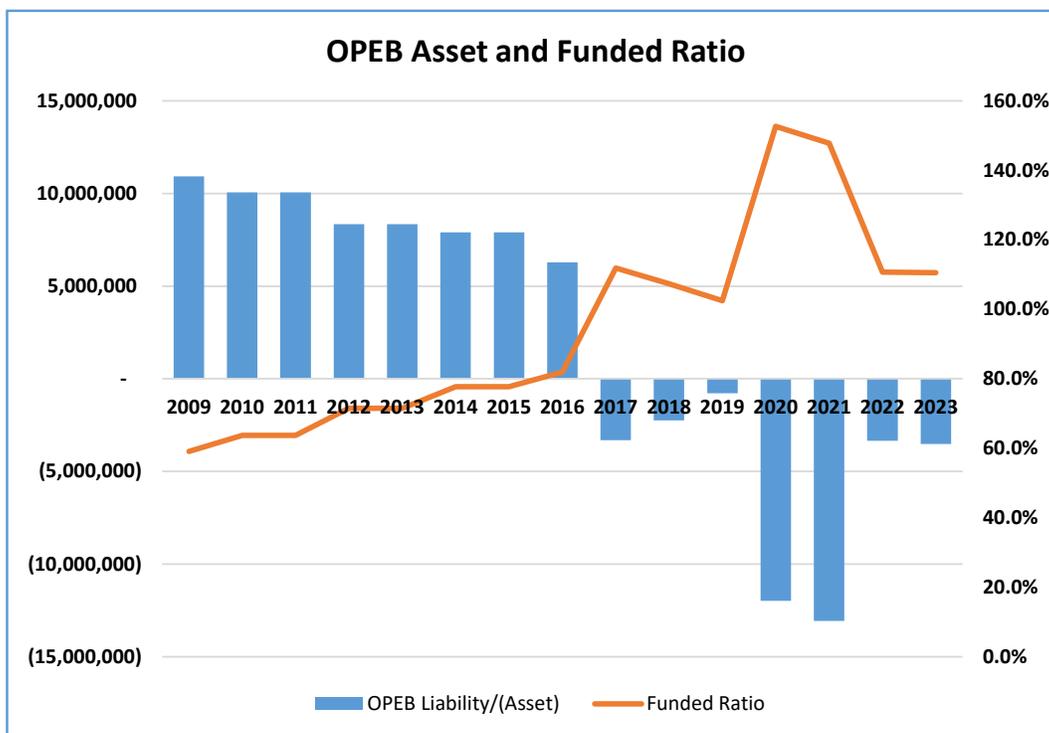
A 10-year forecast of the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) has been prepared by the actuary and is shown on the graph on the following page. The current assumptions include the reduction in investment return by 0.2% per year to 6.2% which was used for the September 30, 2023 Actuarial Valuation Report to 6% in 2024. The forecast also includes stress tests using a 5% and 3% annual return. The baseline assumptions result in a 96.2% funded ratio for the valuation date of September 30, 2033.



OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST

The Town makes post-employment health care benefits available to retirees and funds a portion of the retiree health insurance benefits. The OPEB Trust was established in 2007 and is overseen by the Investment Advisory Committee.

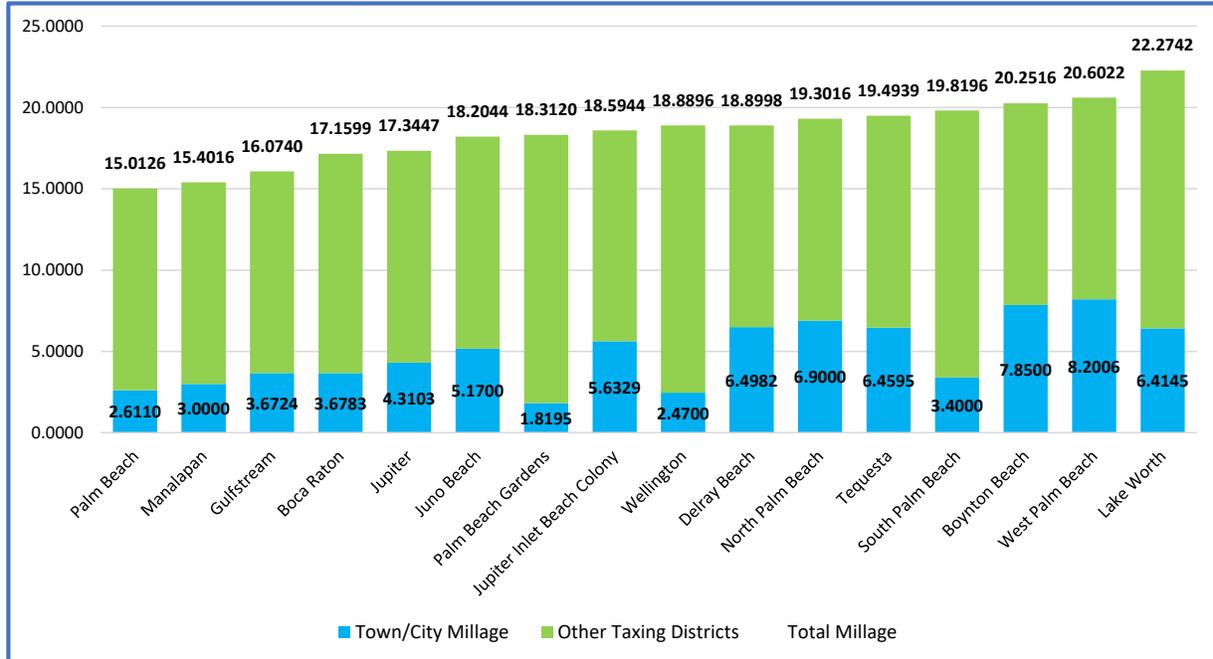
An actuarial valuation of the post-employment health plan was conducted as of September 30, 2022. This valuation is done every other year and will be done again as of September 30, 2024. The total Fiduciary Net Position for the OPEB Trust as of September 30, 2022, was \$34,407,601, the total OPEB Liability was \$31,068,482 resulting in a Net OPEB Asset of \$3,339,119 and a funded ratio of 110.8%. The long-term expected rate of return assumption for the plan is 5%.



PROPERTY TAXES

Millage Rates for Palm Beach County Municipalities

The Town of Palm Beach has the lowest overall tax rates in the County for the last three fiscal years. The Town of Palm Beach is a full-service community and does not charge additional fees for residential refuse collection and storm water services as some of the other communities listed in the chart. Many of the communities that have a low municipal millage, contract out their fire-rescue, and in some cases police services, to Palm Beach County.



AD VALOREM TAX CALCULATION

The millage rate is the ad valorem tax rate levied per \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value. The rate is expressed in mills. Each taxing authority adopts a millage rate every year that appears on the property tax bill. To calculate the tax levy using a given millage rate the formula is:

$$\text{TAXABLE VALUE}/1,000 \times \text{MILLAGE RATE} = \$ \text{AD VALOREM TAX}$$

For example, a Palm Beach property with an assessed value of \$1,000,000 and homestead exemptions of \$50,000 results in a taxable value of \$950,000. The ad valorem property tax for the Town of Palm Beach would be:

$$\$950,000/1,000 * 2.6110 \text{ Mills} = \$2,480$$

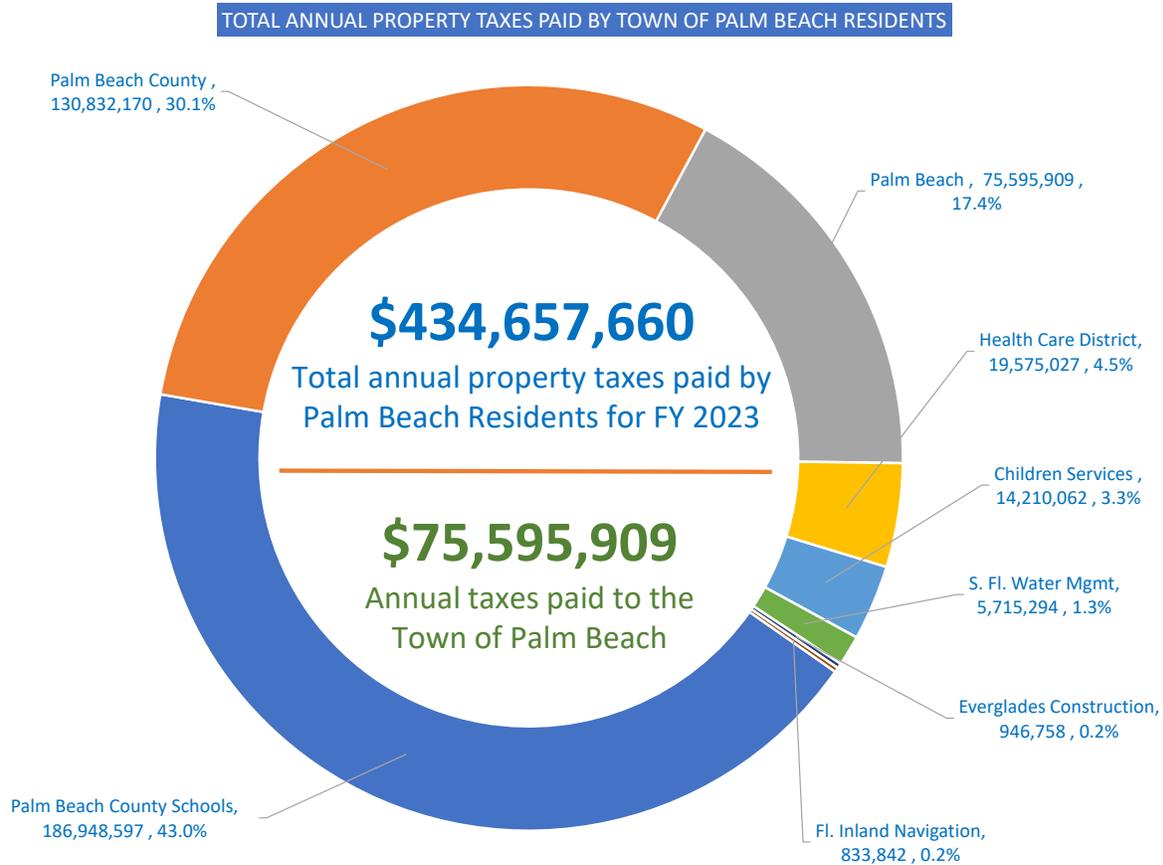
Total taxes paid for all taxing districts would be:

$$\$950,000/1,000 * 15.0126 \text{ Mills} = \$14,262$$

Homestead Exemption/Save our Homes

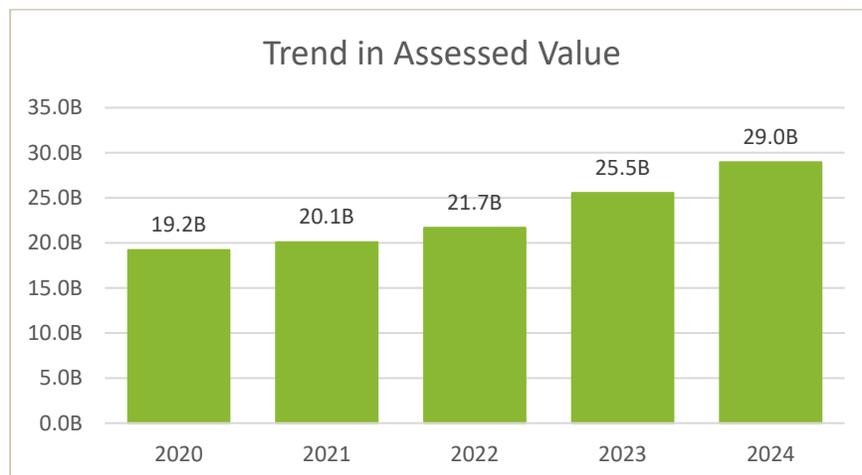
Every person who has a legal title to real property in the State of Florida and who resides thereon and makes it his/her permanent residence as of January 1st is eligible for a homestead exemption. The homestead exemption is a \$25,000 reduction in the first \$50,000 of your property’s assessed value and then an additional \$25,000 reduction in assessed value is applied for all taxing districts, except the School District. In addition to the exemption, the homesteaded property would be subject to the “Save Our Homes” (or 3% cap) provision of the State of Florida’s Constitution which took effect January 1, 1995. The provision limits the annual increases in the assessment of homesteaded properties to 3% or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. You can e-file your homestead exemption by visiting the Property Appraiser’s website, www.pbcgov.com/PAPA. For information, or to apply for a homestead exemption contact the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser’s Office at (561) 355-2866.

TOTAL ANNUAL PROPERTY TAXES PAID BY TOWN OF PALM BEACH RESIDENTS



Assessed Values in the Town of Palm Beach

The assessed value refers to the value placed on a homesteaded property before any exemptions are deducted but after the property tax cap is factored in. For non-homesteaded properties, the assessed value is the value placed on a property after a 10% cap is factored in. Assessed value minus exemptions equals taxable value. Below is a chart showing the increase in assessed value in the Town of Palm Beach over the last 5 years. Since 2019 assessed values in the Town of Palm Beach have increased 50.8%.



FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Employee of the Year



*Employee of the Year,
Reggie Williams*

Longtime employee, Reggie Williams, was awarded the Town's employee of the year in December 2023. The award honors employees who demonstrate a commitment to the Town's organizational values. Reggie was selected as an exceptional individual who demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to his responsibilities, willingly responding to challenges across various departments. His selfless acts extend beyond the call of duty, from managing critical infrastructure tasks to assisting with the installation and removal of the Christmas tree on Worth Avenue.

Reggie not only volunteers first during storms and significant events but arrives early each day to ensure everything is in order for the crew and stays late when needed, without hesitation. Always seeking innovative repair methods and improvements in employee training to reduce expenses, he is a true asset to our Town.

A Palm Beach County native, his journey led him briefly to Texas during elementary school before returning to graduate from Forest Hill High School. Opting to forego a basketball scholarship, Reggie entered the workforce immediately, beginning his career at The Breakers in his senior year of high school before joining the Town in 2005. Currently serving as the water resource supervisor, he oversees 13 employees and manages the stormwater and wastewater infrastructure for the Town.

Reggie calls West Palm Beach home with his wife, Kimberly, and daughter, Destiny. He finds joy in fishing and traveling. When he's not tirelessly serving others, you'll likely find him casting a line into the waters he loves so much.

Procurement and Contract Management Team Receives Two Awards Recognizing Best Practices

The Town received the Florida Association of Public Procurement Officers award for Best Practices for the first time. In addition, the Town received the Achievement of Excellence in Public Procurement which is a national award. This was the third receipt of this award. Nationwide, only 171 organizations achieved this award. These prestigious awards are earned by those organizations that demonstrate excellency by obtaining a high score based on criteria designed to measure innovation, professionalism, productivity, e-procurement and leadership attributes of the procurement organization.



Procurement and Contract Management Team

Finance Department receives the GFOA Triple Crown

The Town received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Triple Crown designation. This is given to organizations who receive the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The Town has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 35 consecutive years and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 31 consecutive years, but this was the first time in many years the Town applied for the Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award.

2023 Florida Municipal Insurance Trust Partnership Risk & Safety Award Winner

The Town of Palm Beach's Office of Risk Management is very excited to be one of three recipients of a new award program, the 2023 Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) Partnership Award. Through the award, the FMIT, administered by the Florida League of Cities (FLC), recognizes the Town of Palm Beach's successful insurance processes, risk management efforts and other proactive measures that improve the quality of life in the Town community and working environment. The Town specifically received the Risk & Safety Award, which recognizes the implementation of FMIT Risk & Safety Management frameworks with proven results. The town will be publicly recognized for this achievement on the FMIT website and in FLC's *Quality of Cities* online magazine.



The Seaview Café opened at the Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center

The Seaview Café opened in May! See owner-operator Monika Meic for a fresh-pressed espresso or an alluring fresh green smoothie. There are several fresh food options as well, and the menu continues to expand. If you have a cheat day saved up, stop by for the irresistible Italian-style gelato produced by talented local artisans.

NeuroProtective CPR



In the past year, Palm Beach Fire Rescue has implemented an innovative approach to CPR known as Neuroprotective CPR. This technique combines conventional cardiopulmonary resuscitation with additional measures aimed at preserving neurological function in cardiac arrest patients.

With the support of the Palm Beach Police and Fire Foundation, The Lucas 3 and EleGUARD devices were purchased. When used in conjunction with CPR, this combined treatment can produce 110% of the normal circulation a healthy heart can produce. This not only increases the chances of survival, but also decreases neurological damage post cardiac arrest. These devices have been deployed on all our front-line Rescues throughout the town.

Echovnovos UltraSound

These Ultrasound devices are a major upgrade to our previous devices. Traditionally, Ultrasound in prehospital medicine was used to determine cardiac standstill. With these new devices and their enhanced AI technology, we are able to expand our assessments. In addition to other diagnostics, first responders are now able to perform F.A.S.T exams to detect internal bleeding during traumatic injuries, allowing our crews to best treat patients and deliver them to the most appropriate medical facility.

New Rescue Placed in Service

This year Palm Beach Fire Rescue purchased a new ambulance which is slated to go into service at the end of March. These ambulances are the workhorses of the Palm Beach Fire Rescue fleet, responding to approximately 1,500 medical calls a year. This new ambulance replaced one from 2010. They are budgeted to be replaced on a 10-year rotating basis, ensuring a reliable fleet to respond to emergencies. The ambulances, which are referred to as “Rescues” are named such, as they respond to more than just medical calls. Being equipped with water rescue equipment, self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA’S), and a small amount of firefighting gear, these units are equipped to respond to a multitude of emergencies.

Rope Rescue and VMR Certifications



Palm Beach Fire Rescue has successfully concluded its FY23 Rope Rescue and Vehicle Machinery Rescue (VMR) in-house initiative, which included four 40-hour Rope Operations and VMR Operations state certification classes in Florida Urban Search and Rescue (FLUSAR). These rigorous training programs have effectively certified 71% of Palm Beach Fire Rescue personnel in Rope Rescue and VMR, marking a notable achievement. These sessions, aimed at bolstering our department's capabilities in rope rescue and VMR operations, have enhanced our personnel's technical skills and significantly contributed to our collective readiness and proficiency in responding to complex rescue scenarios and various scenarios involving vehicles and machinery. The successful completion of these programs underscores our ongoing commitment to excellence and our dedication to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve.

Department-Wide Water Rescue Training

Palm Beach Fire Rescue has successfully executed the FY23 Water Rescue training program, conducting multiple sessions to educate and enhance the skills of our personnel in water-related rescue operations. This initiative has reached most of our team members, significantly increasing our department's ability to respond to water emergencies. The training covered a range of techniques and strategies essential for practical water rescues, reflecting our commitment to excellence and the safety of our responders and the community. The completion of this program marks a pivotal advancement in our preparedness to tackle water rescue incidents, demonstrating our dedication to upholding the highest standards of service and response in all facets of fire and emergency operations.





New Air and Light Truck Placed in Service

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is proud to place a new Air and Light Truck in service. This unit replaces our 1996 Hackney which has served us well for the last 28 years. This new truck is a crucial support unit as it has a Bauer compressor that allows us to fill all of our SCBA bottles right on the scene of an emergency. It also has portable lights and a light tower to help with any nighttime operations. It also acts as a rolling toolbox and houses our specialized rescue equipment for emergencies such as gas leaks, confined space, and high angle rope rescues. It also carries our stabilization and shoring equipment.

Community Outreach Programs

Palm Beach Fire Rescue was engaged in the community working with residents, businesses, schools, clubs, and other organizations. The programs range from touch-a-truck events with story time for some of the youngest members of our community to CPR/AED Training. In 2023, Palm Beach Fire Rescue hosted 55 community outreach events, a 36% increase over the previous year. These events culminated with Public Safety Day, a day in which residents and community members can explore all things Public Safety. There was a variety of interactive displays including Truck 99 set up with the ladder extended and a hose line deployed for everyone to experience. The overall goal of the Fire Rescue Outreach program is to empower members of our community with the knowledge to help make the Town a safer environment for everyone to enjoy.

Four Firefighters Successfully Obtained Paramedic State Certification and Completed Internal Paramedic Program

Palm Beach Fire Rescue is proud to have 4 of its Firefighters complete their paramedic sign off! After individuals complete their education to become a State Certified Paramedic, they then must test and pass the Florida State Paramedic Exam. Once completed, they then must undergo a rigorous internal process consisting of skills assessments and medical scenarios. The final step requires each individual to be evaluated by a panel of paramedics and a Medical Doctor. This step includes medical and trauma scenarios which are used to evaluate the paramedics proficiency. When all the steps are completed, they are then officially signed off to be a paramedic for the Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue.

Town-wide Underground Project Update

Since construction of the Townwide Underground Project began in July 2017, much progress has been made to underground the FPL, AT&T and Comcast utility lines. The project consists of 15 phases. Currently 13 of the 15 phases are either complete or in progress. The two remaining phases will be out for bid in Summer and Fall 2024. The progress for each phase is outlined below:

Phase 1 North: From the Inlet south to Onondaga Ave.

- Completed March 30, 2019

Phase 1 South: From southern Town limits north to Sloan's Curve

- Completed April 3, 2020

Phase 2 North Construction: From Esplanade Way to Ocean Terrace

- Completed October 29, 2020

Phase 2 South Construction: From Sloan's Curve to the intersection of S. Ocean Blvd & S. County Road

- Completed September 2023

Phase 3 North Construction: From Osceola Way to the north-side of La Puerta Way

- Completed September 17, 2021

Phase 3 South: From S. Ocean Blvd & S. County Road to the alleyway south of Worth Ave.

- Phase 3 South construction is 91% complete. Conversion is about 60% complete with the remaining being commercial sites which will be converted after May 1, 2024.



Phase 4 North: From south-side of La Puerta Way to north-side of List Road

- Poles are in the process of being removed.

Phase 4 South: From Peruvian to Royal Palm Way

- Construction is 76% complete.

Phase 5 North: From Country Club Road to Southland Road

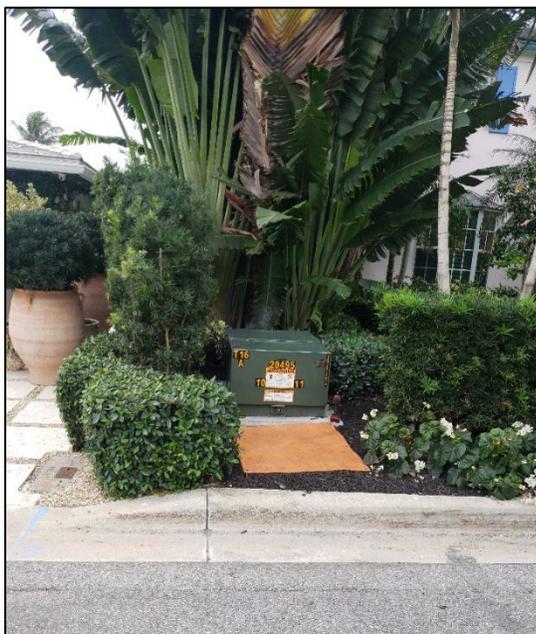
- Construction is 85% complete. Comcast has started installation. Energizing the underground network has begun.

Phase 5 South: From South Lake Drive/Hibiscus Ave. & Peruvian Ave./Royal Palm Way, properties between the intracoastal waterway and the Atlantic Ocean and from Royal Palm Way to Seaspray Ave.

- Construction is 83% complete. Energizing the underground network has begun.

Phase 6 North: From Chateaux Drive & Kawama Lane to the south-side of Plantation Road

- Construction is 71% Complete.



Phase 6 South: Seaspray Ave. to the south of Royal Poinciana Way

- Construction is 29% Complete

Phase 7 North: Palm Beach Country Club north to the south side of List Road

- Construction is 10% complete.
- 79 of 79 (100%) easements approved.

Phase 7 South: Atlantic Ave. north to Via Los Incas & Sanford Ave.

- Design is 100% complete and on schedule to be bid in Summer of 2024.
- 55 of 55 (100%) easements approved.

Phase 8: Royal Poinciana Way north to Everglade Ave.

- Design is 80% complete and on schedule.
- 96 of 116 (83%) easements approved.

Seaview and Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Centers

The tennis centers are in high demand, especially in the morning. Tennis professionals, led by Head Pro Dejan Minic, USPTA/PTR, and his dedicated team, have fully booked schedules on most days.



The Seaview Tennis Court recently underwent a significant lighting upgrade. The transition to LED lighting in early June has not only enhanced the quality of light, but also improved energy efficiency. Meanwhile, the project aimed at renovating the courts and fencing at

Seaview encountered delays. These were attributed to material shortages and concerns over potential disruptions to team tennis. However, the project is expected to commence in early June. To ensure the Seaview Courts remain in top condition for the season, the staff undertook commendable resurfacing work late this summer.

Some additional improvements to the tennis operations this year:

- Both pro-shops received a refresh and expanded lines of apparel with a new logo introduced, merchandise shop sales more than doubled year over year.
- A cabinet and ice machine were installed in the Pro Shop at Phipps Ocean Park Tennis Center in December
- Refreshed look for the restrooms at Phipps, complete with a new coat of paint and updated mirrors.
- Shade canopies have been added to courts 6 & 7 at Seaview Park Tennis Center
- Staying on top of routine items to limit court downtime at Phipps and Seaview:
 - adding clay, replacing lines, net post maintenance, net repairs, windscreen maintenance, edges being scraped and re-conditioned, and gate repairs
 - irrigation enhancements, landscape beautification
- A contractor was hired to take care of daily court maintenance, this will free up existing staff to work on more projects and maintenance items throughout Seaview Park and all Recreation facilities.
- The pickleball lines were removed from Seaview's Court 7, following a decision by the Recreation Advisory Commission in April
- New scoreboards at Phipps and Seaview were added to each court.

Morton and Barbara Mandel Recreation Center

Revenue for the Mandel Recreation Center broke the record set last year by 12.7%, with total revenue exceeding \$926k. The Mandel Recreation Center offered over 200 programs through FY23. The ever popular After School Program welcomed 30 participants each day. Camp Palm Beach was at full capacity as 75 kids were welcomed each week of the eight-week camp. The After School Program incorporated several new outreach programs into the daily schedule of activities including What's Cooking Kids, Cox Science Center Portable Planetarium, Get Fit 4 Kidz with a mobile escape room, as well as safe archery and axe throwing. Participants continue to learn about finance and economics with the return of the Dreyfoos Economics Club that comes to teach the After School Program kids on a regular basis.



In the quest to enhance operational efficiency, staff introduced the ProCare App. This application was pivotal in streamlining attendance management and simplifying the sign-in/out procedures. Its success during the summer camp has led to its adoption for all Mandel programs.

The sports offerings witnessed enthusiastic participation. Children actively participated in programs like Story Time Soccer, Perseverance Basketball Camp, and RUSH Soccer. These sports not only keep the kids active but also instill in them the values of teamwork and perseverance. RUSH Soccer is in its second season and has been so successful that it expanded the program to four age groups, doubling its numbers. This program complements our recreation league, where participants hone their skills working up to the competitive league.

Some highlights from preschool and youth enrichment and sports programs include the new What's Cooking Kids where participants learn cooking skills, kitchen safety, and cleanliness as well as how to make healthy food choices. Some programs are so popular that mini sessions have been added to the schedule to accommodate demand. Youth Flag Football and Lacrosse continue to be popular. Adult programs include language classes, Mah Jongg, and the newly added Ballroom Dance.



Personal training has reached unprecedented popularity at the fitness center with staff conducting over 1,100 sessions in FY23, the most in any year. Group Fitness participation also reached an all-time high in the new building during FY23. The fitness center sold a record 357 memberships, with annual memberships continuing to be the most popular choice for members, most likely due to its affordability and the inclusion of complimentary spa-like amenities. The complimentary amenities with the annual membership include the use of the Somadome, Compression Therapy, and the InBody.

The playground is one of the busiest outdoor properties per square foot on the island! Families enjoy the unique offerings and the shade trees that keep it cooler year-round.

The dominant turf, Bermuda Latitude, is growing and held up well in the extreme summer weather. The overall health of the turf improved dramatically from late spring to early fall. Mole crickets wreaked havoc on portions of the front lawn, but staff have addressed the issue and placed sod during the second week of October. Staff continue to enhance the outdoor facilities with continued turf maintenance improvement, landscape maintenance, and minor building maintenance.



Some additional highlights from 2023:

- Facility rentals were at an all-time high in FY23 and are already off to a strong start in FY24 as residents are in awe of seeing firsthand the potential of the Mandel Recreation Center spaces. The Smith Family Fieldhouse, within the Mandel Recreation Center, hosted a number of private and community events, including The Palm Beach Civic Association's Welcome Back Community Forum on November 7th.
- The marketing and communication efforts of the department are continuing to grow, with the weekly RecConnect leading the way reaching over 2,600 subscribers. The emails have seen a steady increase in open rates, currently 54%, significantly above the 17-21% average across all industries.
- Instagram followers (townofpalmbeachrecreation) are up to 2,464 and counting, resulting in more direct communication with the community.
- The Torque Tank M4 (modern day sled on wheels) was added to the multipurpose room to enhance the personal training offerings.
- A huge map of Palm Beach island was added to the hallway leading to the fieldhouse at the Mandel, it has been well received with residents and visitors often reviewing it
- More robust, portable pickleball nets were added for both the indoor and outdoor courts.
- A new commercial washer and dryer was installed at the Recreation Center
- Speakers in the fieldhouse were blown and were replaced under warranty in June.
- The proposed pergola, which received the full support of the Recreation Advisory Committee in January, is awaiting ARCOM approval.
- All exterior hard ground and vertical surfaces were pressure washed in early September.
- Staff put on the annual Spring Celebration that nearly 250 residents enjoyed as 4,000 candy-filled eggs were scattered across the Oakley Gage Debbs field.
- Staff put on the Mandel's 3rd Birthday Bash on January 21st, 2023, with nearly 300 residents in attendance throughout the event that included steel drums, games, a bounce house, and an appearance by the "Frozen" characters.
- The Halloween Happenings event had great participation, with over 250 residents.
- Staff continue to host movies on the lawn during the cooler months, with the next one scheduled for January 26th with the showing of The Polar Express
- For the third year in a row a \$10,000 gift was received from the Friends of Recreation to cover up to \$500 for each employee who registered their child for a week of summer camp. This was well received by employees and the funds were fully exhausted.
- The Friends of Recreation have also pledged \$25,000 towards the proposed pergola on the southwest corner of the Mandel Recreation Center
- The Palm Beach County City Managers hosted their monthly meeting at the Mandel in September, with 30 representatives from city managers' offices across the county.
- Please mark your calendars, the Mandel's 4th Birthday Celebration will be held Saturday, January 20th on the front lawn, enjoy brunch bites and family-friendly games and music

Palm Beach Marina Celebrates Two-Year Anniversary

The Town of Palm Beach Marina celebrated its second anniversary in December, and by every measure, year two was a tremendous success. Annual Leases exceeded all expectations, with revenues coming in at 102% of the budget. Transient slip revenue also exceeded expectations at 420% of budget. Total revenue for the marina operations topped \$14.5 million and operating expenses were just over \$3 million. In FY23 the Marina transferred \$2.6 million to the Town-Wide Underground Utilities Fund to help fund the project. In FY24 this transfer will increase to \$4.1 million.

The marina serves residents and visitors alike. It offers patrons easy access to other municipal facilities (like the Mandel Recreation Center, Seaview and Phipps Tennis, and the world-famous Palm Beach Par 3) and local businesses. State-of-the-art amenities and top-notch customer service in a premier destination will chart the course for continued marina success. Thanks to our amazing customers for a successful year one – happy yachting!



Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position
Marina Fund
Fiscal Years Ended September 30

	2023	2022
Operating Revenues		
Marina Fees and related revenue	15,191,346	10,488,652
Other operating revenue	360	1,720
Total Operating Revenues	15,191,706	10,490,372
Operating Expenses		
Personal services	613,365	927,591
Contractual services	729,077	520,642
Repairs and maintenance	86,659	50,586
Materials and supplies	48,048	42,751
Utilities	739,757	580,866
Depreciation and amortization	1,895,575	1,723,069
Other	866,282	675,910
Total Operating Expenses	4,978,763	4,521,415
Operating Income	10,212,943	5,968,957
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment earnings (loss)	749,915	(256,291)
Interest and fiscal charges	(675,006)	(677,043)
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets	-	-
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	74,909	(933,334)
Income before capital contributions from other funds and transfers	10,287,852	5,035,623
Capital contributions from grants	-	-
Transfers out	(3,220,465)	(3,111,665)
Change in Net Position	7,067,387	1,923,958
Net Position - Beginning	13,930,614	12,006,656
Net Position - Ending	<u>20,998,001</u>	<u>13,930,614</u>

Par 3 Golf Course Has Record Breaking Year

In the face of challenging weather conditions marked by intense heat and persistent rain during the summer and early fall, the golf course persevered and thrived, recording an unparalleled 55,481 rounds in FY23. This remarkable achievement was complimented by robust merchandise sales that reached an all-time high of \$878k. Thanks to these combined efforts and the impeccable course conditions maintained throughout the year, staff proudly announce that they've set a new benchmark by achieving a record revenue of \$5.09 million in FY23! By comparison, in FY21, the record was \$3.6M.

Another notable highlight is the nomination of Tony Chateauvert for the National PGA Merchandiser of the Year Award. This recognition can be attributed significantly to the diligent efforts of Assistant Golf Manager, Sabrina Gordon. Sabrina's expertise in curating and designing the pro shop's collection has been instrumental. Her keen eye for apparel and accessories has resonated well with both residents and visitors, making the shop a favorite destination for many.



On the instructional front, the program experienced its most active year to date. The daily golf clinics and lessons, known for their affordability and engaging nature, have been a hit among enthusiasts.



A huge thank you to Superintendent Tim Campbell and his staff for a successful year of course maintenance and clubhouse projects.

Town staff negotiated a 10-year extension with Al Fresco that runs through June of 2033. The restaurant continues to thrive, with another sales record in FY23. This impressive achievement attests to the quality of the restaurant's food and service, its reputation for excellence, not to mention the scenic views.

Some notable improvements to the golf operations this year:

- In September the clubhouse exterior received a fresh coat of paint along with the interior front portion of the clubhouse
- All AC units at the clubhouse were replaced in late September.
- The parking lot expansion was completed on the northwest side of the lot in October, additional landscaping is being added to enhance the separation between the lot and the tee box on #9.
- The cart path on #17 was rerouted to improve the safety and aesthetics of the course.
- Harry Bowers redesigned the putting green, and it was nearly doubled in size, grow-in of the green should be done in early January.
- Staff continue to take advantage of earned marketing opportunities on collaborations with outlets such as the Golf Channel, in addition the Par 3's Instagram (palmbeachpar3) is up to over 4,800 followers, with professional shots added weekly.
- The course was aerified three times this summer in addition to dry-jecting.
- Concrete work was done between the parking lot and the driving range to help prevent runoff of crushed rock into the parking lot and other high erosion spots

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position
Par 3 Golf Course Fund**

Fiscal Years Ended September 30

	2023	2022
Operating Revenues		
Golf fees and related revenue	5,108,896	4,363,235
Other operating revenue	6,687	1,718
Total Operating Revenues	5,115,583	4,364,953
Operating Expenses		
Personal services	1,318,415	863,687
Contractual services	750,172	651,795
Repairs and maintenance	512,848	215,249
Equipment rental	6,601	7,625
Materials and supplies	802,382	635,426
Utilities	96,728	113,901
Depreciation and amortization	296,406	295,384
Other	154,171	131,400
Total Operating Expenses	3,937,723	2,914,467
Operating Income	1,177,860	1,450,486
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment earnings (loss)	165,390	16,401
Gain/(Loss) on disposal of assets	(71,893)	8,985
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	93,497	25,386
Income before capital contributions from other funds and transfers	1,271,357	1,475,872
Capital contributions from other funds	-	71,517
Transfers out	(212,426)	(216,100)
Change in Net Position	1,058,931	1,331,289
Net Position - Beginning	12,902,457	11,571,168
Net Position - Ending	<u>13,961,388</u>	<u>12,902,457</u>

Zoning Code Reform

The Town zoning code, originally written in the 1970's, is in need of review and updates. In fact, most of the Town's most treasured architectural and iconic building could not be built today without variances. The current code does not sufficiently address more contemporary issues, such as the current and proposed FEMA building elevations and parking concerns throughout the Town. The Town has engaged consultants to help review, simplify and suggest recommendations for adapting the code to 2024 and beyond. The reform process included a "Charrette" process in February 2023 to hear resident concerns, opinions, and advice.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position Building Enterprise Fund Fiscal Year Ended September 30

	2023	2022
Operating Revenues		
Building fees and related revenue	14,744,538	12,089,741
Fines and Forfeitures	125,375	230,304
Other operating revenue	1,163	1,300
Total Operating Revenues	14,871,076	12,321,345
Operating Expenses		
Personal services	3,059,125	2,037,930
Contractual services	563,926	542,476
Repairs and maintenance	202,220	277,107
Materials and supplies	25,341	71,881
Depreciation and amortization	59,358	9,818
Other	127,098	131,518
Total Operating Expenses	4,037,068	3,070,730
Operating Income	10,834,008	9,250,615
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Investment earnings (loss)	520,298	55,489
Interest and fiscal charges	(24)	(46)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	520,274	55,443
Income before capital contributions from other funds and transfers	11,354,282	9,306,058
Capital contributions from other funds		
Transfers out	(6,207,505)	(4,524,601)
Change in Net Position	5,146,777	4,781,457
Net Position - Beginning	7,428,162	2,646,705
Net Position - Ending	<u>12,574,939</u>	<u>7,428,162</u>

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The Mayor and Town Council are deeply appreciative of the many citizens who have volunteered to service on the Town's boards and commissions. Their contributions to our local government are immeasurable. The success of the Town is due to their willingness to share their time and talent for the benefit of our community. We thank the following individuals for their service.

Architectural Commission (ARCOM)

Jeffrey Smith, Chairman
Richard Sammons, Vice Chairman
K.T. Catlin
Elizabeth Connaughton
Kenn Karakul
Betsy Shiverick
Claudia F Visconti
Dan Floershemier, Alternate
David R. Phoenix, Jr., Alternate

Code Enforcement Board

Bram Majtlis, Chairman
Scotch Peloso, Vice Chairman
Harris S. Fried
Martin Klein
Chris Larmoyeux
John McGowan, Jr.
Pamela Saba
John P. Cohen
Armand Harris, Alternate

Investment Advisory Committee

Chris Storkerson, Chairman
Kathleen Anderson, Vice Chairman
Jacqueline de Sanctis
Annette L Geddes
David McDonald
Lloyd McAdams

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Sue Patterson, Chairman
Brittain Damgard, Vice Chairman
Jacqueline Albarran
Julie Herzig Desnick
Anne Fairfax
Alex Hufty Griswold
Alexander Ives, Alternate
Anne G. Metzger, Alternate

Planning and Zoning Commission

Gail Coniglio, Chairman
Marilyn N. Beuttenmuller
Eric Christu
Richard M. Kleid
Jorge Sanchez
Michael Vincent John Spaziani
John Tatoes
Dragana N Connaughton, Alternate
William Gilbane, III, Alternate
Nicki McDonald, Alternate

Public Employees Relations Commission

Stephen Jacobs, Chair
J. Patterson "Pat" Cooper
Donald Singer
Jeff Pheterson, Attorney

Recreation Advisory Commission

Grier Pressly, Chairman
Peter Harris, Vice Chairman
Millie Dayton
Henry "Budge" Jamison
David Missner
Devon J Roush
Susan Watts

Retirement Board of Trustees

Daniel W. Stanton, Chairman
Ed Carter, Vice Chairman
Thomas Parker, Secretary
David G. Lambert
John Copeland
Bob Miracle (Serves Ex Officio)
Jason Debrincat, Employee Representative
Michael Marx, Employee Representative
Joseph Guelli, Employee Representative

Shore Protection Board

Melissa Ceriale, Chair
Warren Belmar, Vice Chair
Peter Matwiczuk
Ronald Matzner
Erick A. Reickert
Doug Rogers
Joel Zylstra

*Commissions and Boards as of April 30, 2024