

Glossary of Terms

ABATEMENT – An official reduction or elimination of one's assessed valuation after completion of the original assessed value.

ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING – A basis of accounting in which revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned, and expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred.

AD VALOREM – A tax levied in proportion to the value of the property being taxed.

AGENCY FUNDS – One of four types of fiduciary funds. Agency funds are used to report resources held by the reporting government in a purely custodial capacity (assets = liability). Agency funds typically involve only the receipt, temporary investment, and remittance of fiduciary resources to individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

APPROPRIATION – An authorization granted by a legislative body to make expenditures and incur obligations for specific purposes. Appropriations are usually limited in amount and to the time during which they may be expended.

ASSESSED VALUE – The fair market value placed upon real and personal property by the City as the basis for levying property taxes.

BARGAINING UNITS - A group of employees which, by reason of the similarity of their jobs, form a unit appropriate for bargaining with management on questions of wages, benefits and working conditions.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING – The timing of recognition, that is, when the effects of transactions or events should be recognized for financial reporting purposes.

BOND RATINGS – A rating of quality given on any bond offering as determined by an independent agency in the business of rating such offerings.

BUDGET – A plan of financial operation containing an estimate of proposed expenditures for a single fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) and the proposed means of financing them.

BUDGET CALENDAR – The schedule of key dates or milestones that the City follows in the preparation and adoption of the budget.

BUDGET DOCUMENT – The instrument used by the budget-making authority to present a comprehensive financial plan of operations to the City Council.

CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT MULTIPLIER (CIM)-Calculation by taking the current net book value of assets of the total system (Water system or Sewer system) divided by the sustainable system capacity in equivalent dwelling unit (the amount of water used by a typical single residence).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) – A six-year plan of proposed capital expenditures for long-term improvements to the City's facilities including, water, sewer, parking facilities etc.; identifies each project and source of funding.

COMMITTED FUND BALANCE – Amounts constrained to specific purpose by a government itself, using its highest level of decision-making authority.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) – An annual Federal grant received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is primarily used for housing rehabilitation and other grant eligible activities.



COMPENSATED ABSENCES – An accrued employee’s right to receive compensation for future absences attributable to service already rendered (i.e.: vacation and sick leave).

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) – An annual financial report presented in three sections: introductory, financial and statistical.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) – A measure, calculated by the United States Department of Labor, commonly used to indicate the rate of inflation.

CONTINGENCY – A budgetary reserve set aside for emergencies or unforeseen expenditures for which no other budget exists. General Fund use of the contingency may only be approved by the City Council.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS – The costs related to obligations performed for the City by individuals, businesses, or utilities.

CYCLICAL REVALUATION – means the revaluation of all taxable and non-taxable properties in a Municipality, combining a complete measure and listing of all taxable and nontaxable properties over time and updating an establishment of the new base year, to arrive at full and true value as of April 1.

DEBT SERVICE – The payment of interest and principal to holders of the City’s debt instruments.

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE – Funds that have been selected and assigned for a specific purpose.

DESIGNATED UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE – Portion of unreserved fund balance that management would prefer to use available financial resources for a specific purpose.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC) – A commission committed to ensuring the continued economic prosperity and preservation of the qualities that attract and retain businesses in the community.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS – Account for the financing of services to the general public whereby all or most of the operating expenses involved are recorded in the form of charges to users of such services. The Enterprise Funds consist of the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund.

EQUALIZATION RATIO – Indicates the relationship between assessed value and market value. This ratio is determined for each municipality every year by the NH Department of Revenue Administration through a study of the qualified sales that occurred within the municipality during the previous year.

EQUALIZED VALUE – Assessed value calculated by the state to ensure that property under its jurisdiction is appraised equitably at market value.

EXPENDITURE – Actual outlay of monies for goods or services.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS – A category of funds used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and which therefore cannot be used to support the government’s own program.

FISCAL YEAR – A twelve-month period of time to which the annual budget applies and at the end of which a governmental unit determines its financial position and result of its operations. The fiscal year for the City of Portsmouth begins July 1 and ends on June 30.

FULL REVALUATION – means the revaluation of all taxable and nontaxable properties in a municipality, with a complete measure and listing of all taxable and nontaxable properties to occur at the same time of the



establishment of the new base year, to arrive at full and true value as of April 1. The term includes “full reappraisal” and “full reassessment.” Rev 601.24

FULL STATISTICAL REVALUATION – means the process of a revaluation of all taxable and nontaxable properties in a municipality, using existing property data, to arrive at full and true value as of April 1. The term includes “statistical update” and “statistical reassessment.” Rev 601.25

FUND – An independent fiscal and accounting entity which a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and/or other resources together with all related liabilities, obligations, reserves and equities that are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities.

FUND BALANCE – The excess of an entity’s assets over its liabilities also known as excess revenues over expenditures or net assets. A negative fund balance is sometimes called a deficit.

FUND BALANCE POLICY – Policy to maintain fund balance at a predetermined target level.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND – A bond for which the full faith and credit of the City is pledged for payment.

GOALS – Statements of broad direction, purpose, or intent based on the needs of the community. A goal is general and timeless.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICER’S ASSOCIATION (GFOA) - A private, nonprofit organization which has actively supported the advancement of governmental accounting, auditing and financial reporting since 1906.

GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPE – Governmental accounting includes eight types of funds: general, special, debt service, capital, enterprise, internal service, trust, and agency. These types are indicative of accounting procedures to be used and the function of each type.

INFRASTRUCTURE – The basic facilities, equipment, services, and installations needed for the growth and functioning of a country, community, or organization.

LEAVE AT TERMINATION – Accumulated earned leave owed to employees when they leave municipal service.

LINE-ITEM – Separate listing of each expenditure category along with the dollar amount budgeted for each.

MISSION STATEMENTS – Broad, general statements which summarize the aims and values of an organization.

MODIFICATION FACTOR (MOD FACTOR) – The mod factor is used when determining workers compensation premiums. The mod factor is a value that compares the claim profile of the employer to the claim profile that would be expected of an employer of similar size payroll in the same in the same industry. A value of 1.00 is average, meaning the frequency and severity of actual losses equaled the expected losses. A mod factor greater than 1.00 means the employer experienced worse than expected losses during the rating period, and a mod factor of less than 1.00 indicates the employer’s losses were better than expected for the rating period.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL ACCOUNTING – A basis of accounting in which revenues are recognized in the accounting period when they become available and measurable and expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the fund liability is incurred.



MUNICIPAL SERVICE AGREEMENT – An agreement between the City of Portsmouth, the Town of Newington and the Pease Development Authority to provide municipal services in the airport district of the Pease Development Authority.

NET POSITION – The residual of all other financial statement elements presented in a statement of financial position.

NON-OPERATING BUDGET – Expenditures that are not directly attributed to the day to day operations of any one particular department: TANS, Debt Services, Contingency, Overlay, County Tax, Capital Outlay.

OBJECTIVES - The goal intended to be attained (and which is believed to be attainable) by the City of Portsmouth.

OPERATING BUDGET – Expenditures that are directly attributed to the day to day operations of a particular department: Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Utilities, etc.

OVERLAY – An appropriation to fund potential tax abatements.

PARTIAL UPDATE – the process of analyzing market sales throughout the entire municipality to identify and implement needed value changes to the affected areas, or classes of property, to bring those properties to the Municipality's general level of assessment utilizing the existing base tax year and providing an addendum to the existing USPAP compliant report.

PEASE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PDA)– A body politic and corporate of the State of New Hampshire located in Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE – An indicator of the attainment of an objective; it is a specific quantitative measure of work performed or services provided within an activity or program, or it may be a quantitative measure of results obtained through a program or activity.

PROPOSED BUDGET – The operating and capital budgets submitted to the City Council by the City Manager.

RESERVE FOR DEBT – Account where retained earnings are set aside to satisfy outstanding debts.

RESERVE FOR PROPERTY APPRAISAL – Account where retained earnings are set aside to cover property appraisals.

RESTRICTED NET POSITION- One of three components of net position that must be reported in both government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. It consists of restricted assets reduced by liabilities and deferred inflows of resources related to those assets. Generally, a liability or deferred inflow of resources relates to restricted assets if the asset results from a resource flow that also results in the recognition of a liability/deferred inflow of resources or if the liability will be liquidated with the restricted assets reported.

RETAINED EARNING- The accumulated equity balance in an enterprise or internal service fund resulting from operations over the years. This is the difference between fund assets and fund liabilities.

REVALUATION – means the act of re-estimating the worth of real estate of the entire municipality using standard appraisal methods, calibration of the CAMA tables and models, establishment of a new base year with a USPAP compliant report, and providing for statistical testing whether by either a Full Revaluation, Full Statistical Revaluation, Cyclical Revaluation, or Partial Update.

REVENUE – The income received by the City in support of a program of services to the community; includes such items as property taxes, fees, user charges, grants, fines, interest income and miscellaneous revenue.



REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED (RSA) – The State of New Hampshire’s statutes.

ROLLING STOCK - The equipment available for use as transportation, such as vehicles owned by the City of Portsmouth.

SPECIAL REVENUE FUND – A fund used to account for the proceeds of specific revenues that are legally restricted to expenditure for specific purposes.

SUSTAINABILITY – Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; to the use of ecosystems and their resources in a manner that satisfies current needs while allowing them to persist I the long term.

TAX LEVY - Taxes that are imposed and collected.

TAX RATE – The amount of tax levied for each \$1,000 of assessed value.

UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – A fund balance that has not been selected or assigned to a specific purpose.

UNRESTRICTED NET POSITION – One of three components of net position that must be reported in both government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. It is the difference between total net position and its two other components (net investment in capital assets and restricted net position).

URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANT (UDAG) – An economic development initiative established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the early 1980’s whose goals were to establish public/private partnerships that would stimulate economic development in communities’ downtown districts.

USER FEES – The payment of a fee for direct receipt of a public service by the person benefiting from the service.



Abbreviations / Acronyms

ACO – Animal Control Officer
ADA – Americans with Disability Act
AFI – Alpha Flying Inc.
AFSCME – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
AMR – Automated Meter Reading
APC – Atlas Pilatus Center Inc
ARC – American Red Cross
ARRA – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ARS – AIDS Response Seacoast

BAF – Biologically Aerated Filters
BBBSNH – Big Brothers, Big Sisters of New Hampshire
BBH – Bureau of Behavioral Health
BFC – Bicycle Friendly Community
BIS – Bureau of Investigated Service
BTLA – Board of Tax & Land Appeal

CAD – Computer Aid Design
CAFR – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
CALEA – The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Association
CAMA – Computer Aided Mass Appraisal
CAW – Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
CBC – Central Business District
CBERN – Chemical, Biological, Explosive, Radiological, Nuclear
CCC – Connect Community Church
CDBG – Community Development Block Grant
CDP – Community Diversion Program
CDRW – Compact Disc Re-Writable
CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Strategy
CFAI – Commission on Fire Accreditation International
CFC – Chlorofluorocarbon
CFS – Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
CIBOR – Commercial Investment Board of Realtors (NH)
CIM – Capacity Improvement Multiplier
CIP – Capital Improvement Plan
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information Services
CO₂ – Carbon Dioxide
COAST – Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation
COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment
CPI – Consumers Price Index
CPI-U – Consumer Price Index-Urban
CREAT – Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool
CRH – Cross Roads House
CSO – Combined Sewer Overflow
CST – Crime Scene Team
CTE – Career Technical Education

DAF – Dissolved Air Floatation
DES – Department of Environmental Services
DO – Dondero School
DOT – Department of Transportation
DSA – Deer Street Associates

ECC – Emergency Communications Center



EDC – Economic Development Commission
EMO – Emergency Management Office
EMS – Emergency Medical Services
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
ERZ – Economic Revitalization Zones
ESOL – English as a Second Language

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FICA – Federal Insurance Contribution Act
FMLA – Family and Medical Leave Act
FOG – Fats, Oil, and Grease
FS – Family Services
FT – Full Time
FTA – Federal Transit Administration
FTE – Full Time Equivalent
FTO – Field Training Officer
FTZ – Foreign Trade Zone
FY – Fiscal Year

GAAP – Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GASB – Government Accounting Standards Board
GFOA – Governmental Finance Officers Association
GIS – Geographic Information Systems
GMR – Guaranteed Maximum Rate
GPTMA – Greater Portsmouth Transportation Management Association
GSA – General Services Administration

HAZ-MAT – Hazardous Materials
HDC – Historic District Commission
HIDTA – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
HM – Hazardous Materials
HR – Human Resources
HUD – United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
HVAC – Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning

IBPO – International Brotherhood of Police Officers
ICAC – Internet Crimes Against Children
ICC – International Code Council
ICLEI – International Clearinghouse on Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection/ Local Government's for Sustainability
ICMA – International City Managers Association
IRS – Internal Revenue Service
ISO – Insurance Service Officer
ISSA – Information Systems Security Association
IT – Information Technology

JBC – Joint Budget Committee

LED – Light Emitting Diode
LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LGC – Local Government Center
LH – Little Harbor School
LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
LTCP – Long Term Control Plan

MAAP – Municipal Agent Automation Project
MAN – Metropolitan Area Network



MEP – Manufacturing Extension Partnership
MOD – Modification factor
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization
MSW – Municipal Solid Waste
MUTCD – Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

NAMI – National Alliance on Mental Illness
NECAP – New England Common Assessment Program
NECHPS – Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools
NEMSN – New England Municipal Sustainability Network
NEPBA – New England Police Benevolent Association
NF – New Franklin School
NFPA – National Fire Protection Association
NHDES – New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
NHDHHS – New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
NHDOT – New Hampshire Department of Transportation
NHFSTFF – New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Fire Fighters
NHRS – New Hampshire Retirement System
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

OCLC – Online Computer Library Center
OT – Overtime
OU-2 – Operable Unit 2
OW – Outside Work

PACA – Portsmouth Arts and Cultural Alliance
PAEPT – Portsmouth Area Emergency Planning Team
PDA – Pease Development Authority
PEAK – Program for Elementary Age Kids
PEDLP – Portsmouth Economic Development Loan Program
PEEP – Portsmouth Early Education Program
PFC – Perfluorochemicals
PFOS – Perfluorooctane Sulfonate
PHS – Portsmouth High School
PHS – Portsmouth Historical Society
PIWWTF – Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility
PLC – Professional Learning Communities
PMA – Professional Management Association
PMS – Portsmouth Middle School
PNSY – Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
PPAF – Prescott Park Arts Festival
PPD – Portsmouth Police Department
PPL – Portsmouth Public Library
PPDTV – Portsmouth Police Department Television
PREP – Piscataqua Region Estuary Partnership
PT – Part Time
PULA – Public Undeveloped Lands Assessment

RCA – Rockingham Community Action
RDC – Redundant Dispatch Center
RFI – Request For Information
RFP – Request For Proposal
RFQ – Request For Qualifications
RJL – Robert J. Lister Academy
RMCC – Richie McFarland Children's Center
RMS – Records Management System
RNMWP – Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Program



RSA – Revised Statutes Annotated
RSVP – Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

S&P – Standard & Poor's
SAC – Senior Activities Center
SAG – State Aid Grant
SASS – Sexual Assault Support Services
SBAC – Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
SBDC – Small Business Development Center
SCADA – System Control and Data Acquisition
SCS – Seacoast Community School
SELF – Service Above Self Scholarship
SFFP – Seacoast Family Food Pantry
SFP – Seacoast Family Promise
SIPP – Save the Indoor Portsmouth Pool
SIU – Special Investigative Unit
SMA – Supervisory Management Alliance
SMHC – Seacoast Mental Health Center
SMPO – Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization
SPED – Special Education
SRF – State Revolving Fund
SRO – School Resource Officer
SUV – Sport Utility Vehicle
SWEPT – Statewide Education Property Taxes

TCP/IP – Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TQP – Teacher Quality Panel
TY – Tax Year

UDAG – Urban Development Action Grant
UNH – University of New Hampshire
UPS – United Parcel Service
USEPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

VDI – Virtual Desktop Interface

WFC – Walking Friendly Community
WMP – Wastewater Master Plan
WWTF – Wastewater Treatment Facility

YMCA – Youth Men's Cristian Association





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