

Article 14

Water Enterprise Fund Budget

- This article funds the Town's water system. The Town's water distribution system is a single service pressure zone system supplied by two sources. The primary source of water is the Charles River Well Field, consisting of three groundwater-pumping stations. Needham's second water source is a connection to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority surface water supply originating at the Quabbin Reservoir.
- The overall operating budget for FY2024 is 13.7% higher than the FY2023 budget. The higher budget is largely due to the increase in the MWRA assessment for the Town's use of water. The MWRA bills the Town for actual water consumption in the calendar year preceding the new fiscal year - the FY2024 water assessment is based on CY2022 water use. The Town's use of MWRA water was up 33.2% from the prior year.
- The budget plan relies on \$500,000 in sewer retained earnings.
- The Water Enterprise Fund budget is a self-supporting account. Water user fees and charges cover the entire cost of operations

The Select Board unanimously recommends adoption of Article 14.