

## **TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish parameters and provide guidance governing the issuance, management, continuing evaluation of and reporting on all debt obligations issued by the Town of Farmington.

Debt obligations, which include general obligation bonds, special assessment bonds, revenue bonds, bond anticipation notes, lease/purchase agreements and any other debt obligations permitted to be issued under Connecticut law, shall only be issued to purchase capital assets that cannot be acquired with current revenues.

### **II. POLICY STATEMENT**

Under the requirements of Federal and state laws and Town Charter provisions, ordinances and resolutions, the Town may periodically issue debt obligations to finance the construction or acquisition of infrastructure and other assets or to refinance existing debt. It is the Town's goal to assure that such debt obligations are issued and managed in such a manner as to obtain the best long-term financial advantage to the Town and its residents, while making every effort to maintain and improve the Town's bond ratings and reputation in the investment community.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICY**

The Director of Finance shall be responsible for issuing and managing the Town's debt program. In carrying out this policy, the Director shall:

1. at least annually consider the need for debt financing based upon the progress on the Capital Improvement Program;
2. at least annually review the Town's adherence to this policy statement and compare the debt ratios established in this policy with where the Town actually is;
3. at least annually review the Town's authorized but unissued debt to determine if any authorizations are no longer needed;
4. at least annually determine if there are any opportunities for refinancing current debt;
5. review every three years the services provided by the Town's financial advisor, bond counsel, paying agents and other debt financing service providers.

The Chief Financial Officer shall report his/her findings to the Town Manager and Town Council in January of each year, prior to the Town Council's review of the Capital Improvement Program.

#### **IV. GENERAL DEBT GOVERNING POLICIES**

The Town hereby establishes the following policies concerning the issuance and management of debt:

- A. The Town shall not issue debt obligations or use debt proceeds to finance current operations of the Town.
- B. The Town will utilize debt obligations only for acquisition, construction or remodeling of capital improvement projects that cannot be funded from current revenue sources or in such cases wherein it is more equitable to the users of the project to finance the project over its useful life.
- C. The Town will measure the impact of debt service requirements of outstanding and proposed debt obligations on single year, five, ten, and twenty-year periods. This analysis will consider debt service maturities and payment patterns as well as the Town's commitment to a pay as you go budgetary allocation.

#### **V. DEBT POLICIES, RATIOS AND MEASUREMENT**

- A. Purposes of Issuance – the Town shall only issue debt obligations for acquiring, constructing or renovating Town owned fixed assets or for refinancing existing debt obligations.
- B. Maximum Maturity – All debt obligations shall have a maximum maturity of the earlier of: (1) the estimated useful life of the Capital Improvement being financed; or, (2) twenty years; or, (3) in the event debt obligations are being issued to refinance outstanding debt obligations the final maturity of the debt obligations being refinanced.
- C. Direct Debt Per Capita – The Town shall adhere to a debt management strategy that achieves the goal of maintaining Direct Debt Per Capita at or below the median for Connecticut municipalities rated Aa1 by Moody's or AA+ by Standard & Poor's. Direct Debt Per Capita shall not exceed 110% of said median. The Direct Debt Per Capita shall be calculated by dividing the Town's direct debt by the most current population.
- D. Direct Debt as a Percent of Estimated Full Assessed Value – The Town shall adhere to a debt management strategy that achieves the goal of maintaining the ratio of Direct Debt to Full Assessed Value of properties within Town at or below the median for Connecticut municipalities rated AAA by Standard & Poor's. Said ratio shall not exceed 110% of said

median. The ratio of Direct Debt to Estimated Full Assessed Value shall be calculated by dividing the Town's Direct Debt by the estimated full-assessed value of all taxable properties within the Town.

- E. Average Maturity of General Obligation Bonds – the Town shall have at least 70% of outstanding general obligation bonds mature in less than ten (10) years.
- F. Debt Service Levels – The Town shall adhere to a debt management strategy that achieves the goal of limiting annual general fund debt service to 10% of the total General Fund budget.
- G. Net Present Value Savings – The Town must achieve a Net Present Value Savings of at least 2 percent over the life of an existing bond issue in order for it to be considered for refunding.
- H. The Town shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of its statutory debt limitation.
- I. Bond Covenants and Laws – The Town shall comply with all covenants and requirements of the bond resolutions, and state and Federal laws authorizing and governing the issuance and administration of debt obligations.

This policy shall be reviewed on a biennial basis during the month of January in each even numbered year.

Approved by the Town Council:	October 11, 2005
Approved by the Town Council:	February 13, 2007
Approved by the Town Council:	January 12, 2010
Amended by the Town Council	January 11, 2011
To change from Odd to Even years / Per Town Manager's Report	
Approved by the Town Council:	January 10, 2012
Approved by the Town Council:	January 14, 2014
Approved by the Town Council:	January 12, 2016
Approved by the Town Council	January 9, 2018