



*Town of Chatham*  
*Office of the Select Board*  
*Town Manager*  
*549 Main Street*  
*Chatham, MA 02633*



Jill R. Goldsmith  
TOWN MANAGER  
[jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov](mailto:jgoldsmith@chatham-ma.gov)

**June 14, 2024**

Tel: (508) 945-5105  
Fax: (508) 945-3550  
[www.chatham-ma.gov](http://www.chatham-ma.gov)

*For Immediate Release:*

*Contact: Carrie Mazerolle, Finance Director*

[cmazerolle@chatham-ma.gov](mailto:cmazerolle@chatham-ma.gov)

*508-945-0985*

**CHATHAM RETAINS AAA BOND RATING BY S&P GLOBAL**

Finance Director Mazerolle announced on Friday, June 14, 2024, that the Town received competitive bids from bond underwriters for a 20-year, \$9.5 million general obligation (GO) bond issue. Fidelity Capital Markets was the winning bidder on the bonds with a true interest cost of 3.38 %. The Town received a total of 8 bids on the bonds. The bond proceeds will finance multiple Town projects.

Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Ratings assigned its "AAA" rating to Chatham for the \$9.5 million issuance and reaffirmed the Town of Chatham's AAA bond rating on existing debt with a "stable" outlook. This follows a ratings review call with Town Manager Jill R. Goldsmith, Finance Director Carrie Mazerolle, Treasurer/Collector Sharon Drown, the Town's financial advisors, and S&P Analysts to discuss the issuance of the GO bonds. The bond proceeds will finance the Town's wastewater and water infrastructure improvement projects, transfer station design and engineering costs, and water treatment facility projects.

AAA is the highest bond rating for municipalities.

The rating report states, "Chatham's bonds are eligible to be rated above the sovereign because we think the town can maintain better credit characteristics than the nation in a stress scenario." The rating further reflects S&P's view of Chatham's:

- Very strong economy
- Strong budgetary performance and growing reserves
- Very strong management with well-embedded financial policies and practices, including robust and comprehensive multi-year capital planning along with a suite of formal reserve, debt management, and investment policies – and strong institutional framework
- Manageable direct debt and retirement costs

The report acknowledges Chatham’s elevated environmental risk due to its location along the Atlantic Ocean but determined it to be in line with other coastal communities. It recognizes the town “has proactively managed this risk by pursuing coastal resiliency grants, implementing its 2018 hazard mitigation plan that is currently being updated, and hiring a director of coastal resources to oversee various resiliency efforts.” S&P considers “Chatham’s social and governance risks neutral.”

Town Manager Jill Goldsmith expressed her delight with the reaffirmation of the AAA rating, noting the efforts of the new Finance Director and the Finance Team in a statement to Select Board members: “This was our first ratings call with our new Finance Director, Carrie Mazerolle. She, along with our Finance Team, meticulously prepared and submitted the necessary financial documentation to S&P well in advance, leading to a smooth review process. The discussion primarily focused on the Town’s environmental, social, and governance practices. Our strong budgetary performance, inclusive budgeting, financial management reviews, cybersecurity measures, and coastal resiliency initiatives were significant factors in maintaining our AAA rating with a stable outlook.”

The GO bonds are scheduled for issuance on June 27, 2024. The AAA/Stable rating is for both the new issuance and is reaffirmed for outstanding GO Bonds. The Bond Award is scheduled for the Select Board’s meeting on June 18, 2024.

# # #