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TOWN OF MAYNARD, MA

"As the town administrator, it's my job to present the budget to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee, and other key stakeholders in the community. ClearGov can help me do that using a platform everyone can access to better understand how money is being spent."



Greg Johnson Town Administrator

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

Create budget transparency that helps town officials and residents better understand how money is being spent and how the budget will impact their day-to-day lives.

CHALLENGE:

When the Board of Selectmen of Maynard set their priorities for what they wanted to achieve in the coming year, budget transparency was high on their list. To Greg Johnson, that meant communicating finances in a way that made sense to the average person.

Johnson says, "I collaborate with the Finance Director a lot and we mostly work in spreadsheets. The finished product is usually bland and not easily translatable to the general public." As a forwardthinking leader, Johnson knows the budget is about more than just numbers and columns. Every line item affects the community he serves and he wants tax-payers to have a clear understanding of the town's finances.

"The budget alone doesn't always tell the full story," said Johnson. "You need to be able to show how that budget impacts the potholes on the roads, or the local events in town."



SOLUTION:

Last year, town officials applied for and received a Community Compact IT Grant from the state of Massachusetts to implement an Open Budget solution that gives citizens access to fiscal information in an easily understandable format. They used the funds to purchase a subscription to ClearGov.

Now stakeholders and residents have access to a dynamic dashboard of the town's finances presented in an infographic-style format. "Until now, it was likely unclear to the average taxpayer how their money was being spent," said Johnson, "Our residents want to be able to see the return on their investments. ClearGov translates our financials into a nice graphical format that allows us to speak to what's on the spreadsheet." Johnson says the Board of Selectmen and other elected officials are pleased with Maynard's new Transparency Center and they're excited about ongoing enhancements to the platform. They especially like the way they can customize peer groups to compare their spending to similar communities.

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"Other communities would appreciate this platform to help communicate their budget and talk to the numbers. Having a nice graphic to speak to goes a long way when conveying our intentions and how we're meeting the needs of the community."



Greg Johnson Town Administrator

CLEARGOV PAGE: TOWN OF MAYNARD TOWN OF MAYNARD WEBSITE fown of Maynard, Massachuset rd, MA 01754 MAYNARD **Roadway Construction Notices** cial Transparency Co understand, interact Debt DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT 10.526 MAYNARD \$90.134 S327.600 MASTER 13% LOWER THAN 27% HIGHER THAN AG LOWER TH PLAN FINANCIAL OVERVIEW ak 💟 🖪 Projects & Programs REVENUES EXPENSES ••• **\$43.2**м \$42.2_м Today's Events \$4,102 \$4,013 No events today. Upcoming Event Apr 1 – Finance C 7.00 pm, Public Me **REVENUES vs EXPENSES** pr 2 - Board o \$40M \$30M \$20M intact the Maynard DPW at 978-897-1317 or DPU May 20 – Annual Town N May 20 - Special Tox 7:00 pm, Public Meet Legal Notice: Planning Board Public Hearing 1 Cummor Ct _ Anr 72

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