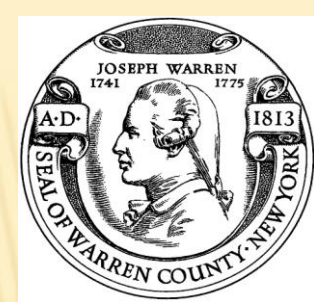


# **WARREN COUNTY 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET**



*Presented by:*  
**FRANK E. THOMAS,**  
**BUDGET OFFICER**  
*November 5, 2021*

# GOALS OF THIS BUDGET

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- ✓ Continue our compliance with the property tax cap.
- ✓ Responsibly invest in County resources.
- ✓ Protect the County's long term financial position.

# PROPOSED BUDGET

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## GOAL: Continue our compliance with the property tax cap.

- The tax cap allows a 3.81% (\$1,758,217) increase from the 2021 tax levy of \$46,153,902.
- The proposed budget calls for a levy of \$46,831,961. That's under the tax cap and represents a 1.47% (\$678,059) increase from 2021.
- The proposed levy means the County tax rate will decrease by approximately two cents per thousand dollars of assessed value (to \$3.899 per \$1,000).
- This means a homeowner with a \$200,000 property would pay about \$4.00 less next year.<sup>1</sup>
- The reduced tax rate and effort to stay well below the tax cap reflect sensitivity to the economic toll of COVID-19 on our taxpayers.

<sup>1</sup>This is the County rate. The equalization rates for each municipality in Warren County will determine the exact rate and amount of increase or decrease in any given municipality.

# PROPOSED BUDGET

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## GOAL: Responsibly invest in County resources.

- The proposed budget includes gross appropriations of \$173,338,735, which is an increase from the 2021 COVID austerity budget of \$158,785,042.
- The majority of this increase (\$7.8 million) is due to a record-level investment in the County's road paving program.
- The County also settled contracts this year with three of its largest labor unions (CSEA, PBA and the Alliance) and this budget proposes a modest 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment) for nonunion employees, the first such increase since before COVID-19.
- Additional investments proposed in this budget include four additional Sheriff's Deputies, enhanced cybersecurity, additional funds for the OFA senior meal program, continued investment in the Public Health COVID-19 response, an improved recycling program, additional Veterans Services and Planning Department personnel, and new grant-funded programs in several departments including Probation and indigent legal defense.

# PROPOSED BUDGET

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## GOAL: Protect the County's long term financial position.

- Appropriation of Fund Balance remains flat at \$1 million.
- Funding of reserves for capital investment continues at an enhanced level, including vehicles (\$642,000) and IT equipment (\$154,000).
- This budget calls for effective planning to maintain major County public works infrastructure and keep these large costs predictable & affordable long into the future.
- Increased contingency appropriations of \$179,000 to cover anticipated additional personnel costs.

# ROAD PROJECTS

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- Warren County's 250 miles of roads need consistent maintenance, and that program traditionally costs between \$3 million and \$3.5 million per year.
- Due to budget cuts in prior years, we are still behind on paving projects. The longer you're behind these projects, the more expensive they become.
- In order to get back to budgetary stability in this program, we would need to do invest approximately \$5.5 million per year over the next several years. If we don't spend this money, the out-year costs increase. This not only delays the date when we eventually catch up, but also makes every year from now until then more expensive than it has to be and with less to show for the investment.

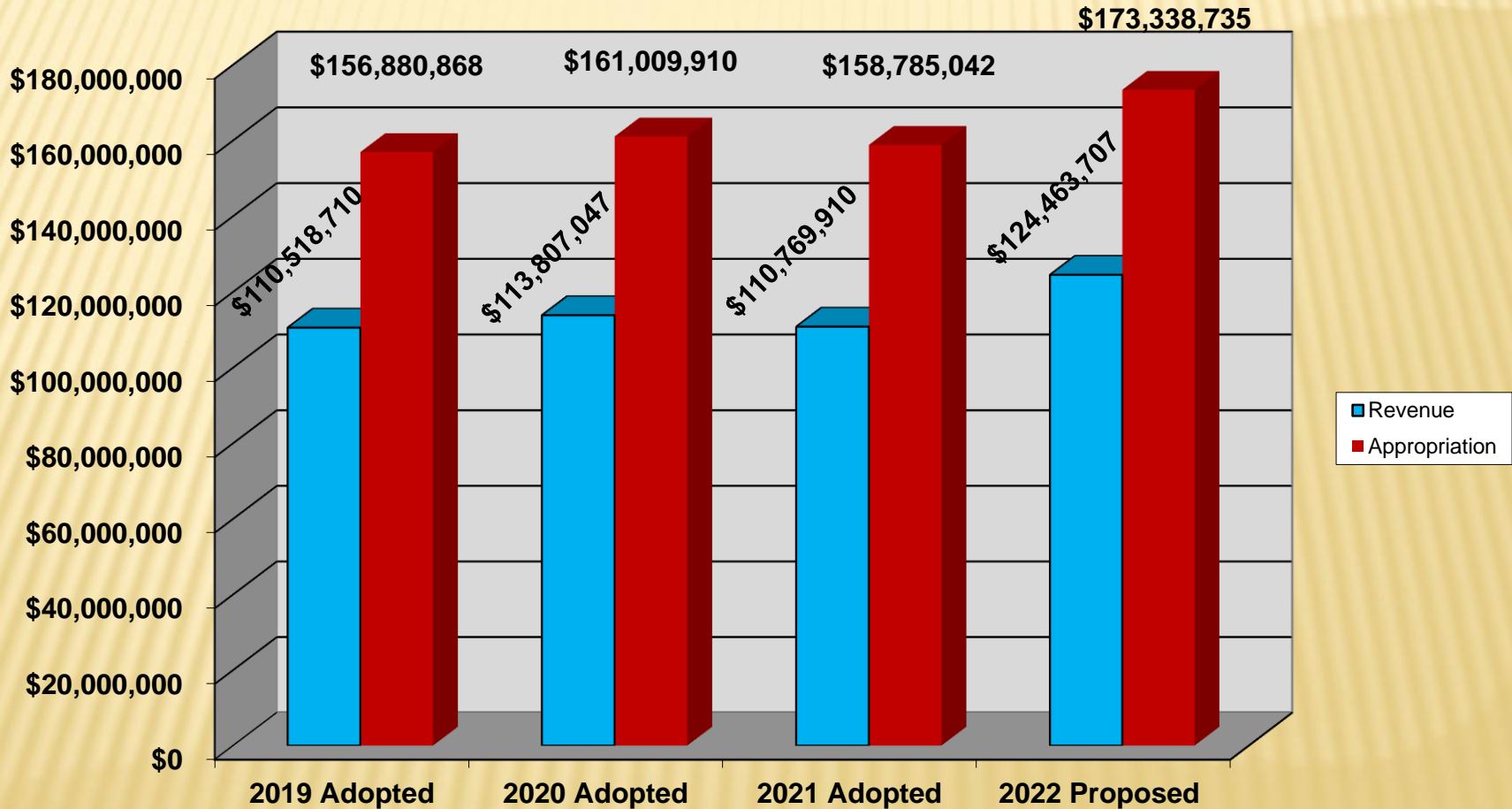
# ROAD PROJECTS

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- Current rates for a 5-year BAN are close to 1%. The most recent BAN the County Treasurer did was five years ago, and those rates were 2.25%. We can borrow money at a very low rate in order to make necessary investments now that will help us stabilize costs later.
- The Proposed Budget accommodates \$10.5 million of paving projects next year, compared with \$3.25 million appropriated for the 2021 paving program. \$6.2 million would come from BAN proceeds, \$2.6 million from anticipated State Aid, and the remaining \$1.7 million from county taxes and surplus road funds.
- This strategy is about establishing a new, predictable, and affordable baseline that we need to invest annually in our roads.

# REVENUES & EXPENSES

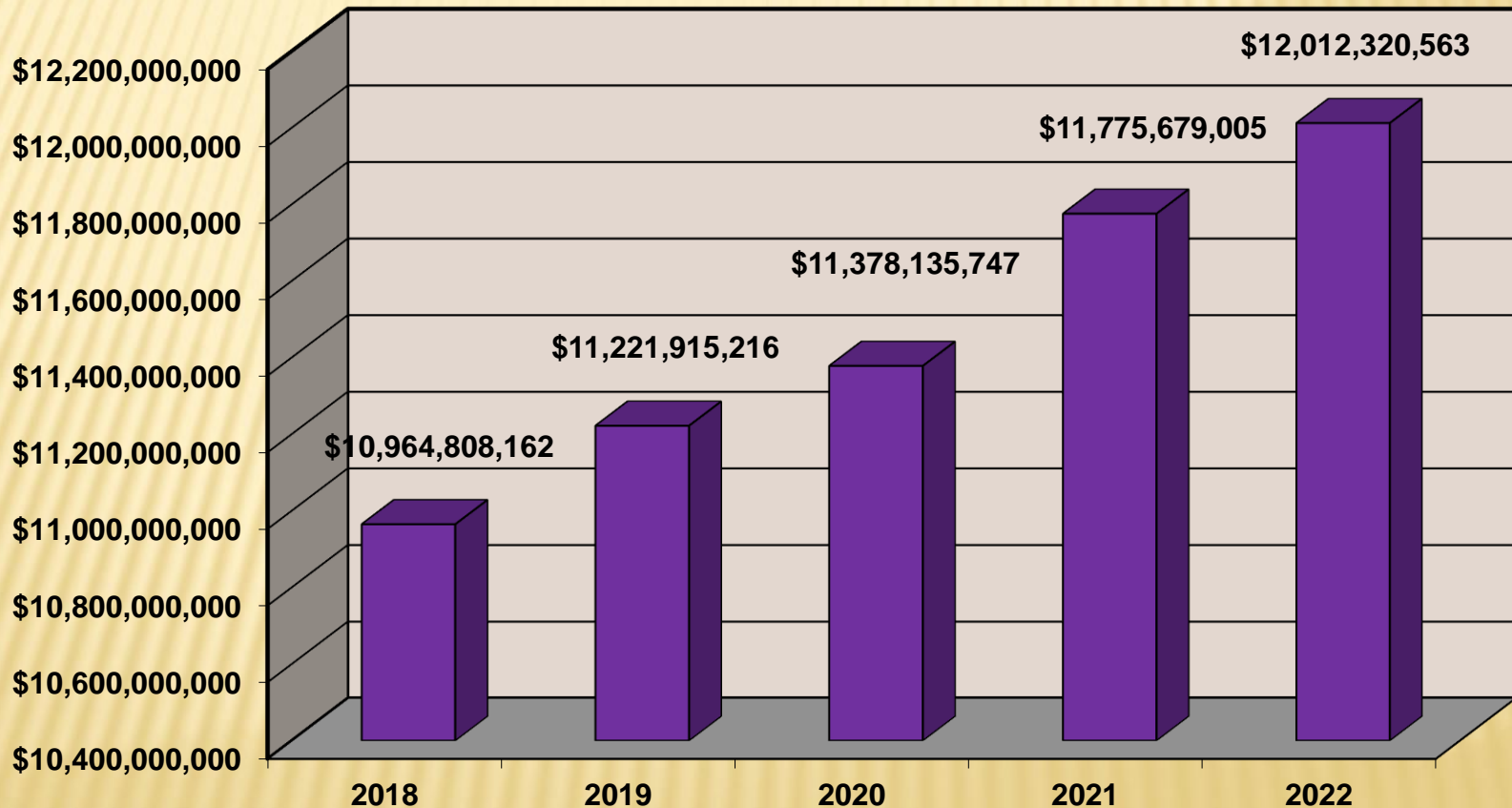
## BUDGETED REVENUE AND APPROPRIATIONS





# PROPERTY VALUES

## FULL VALUE TAX BASE



# SIGNIFICANT REVENUES:

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## General Fund:

❖ Sales Tax Collections	\$56,621,485
❖ State Aid	\$16,266,898
❖ Federal Aid	\$11,463,772
❖ Departmental Income	\$12,529,591
❖ Other Income	\$13,305,862

# ITEMS DRIVING REVENUES

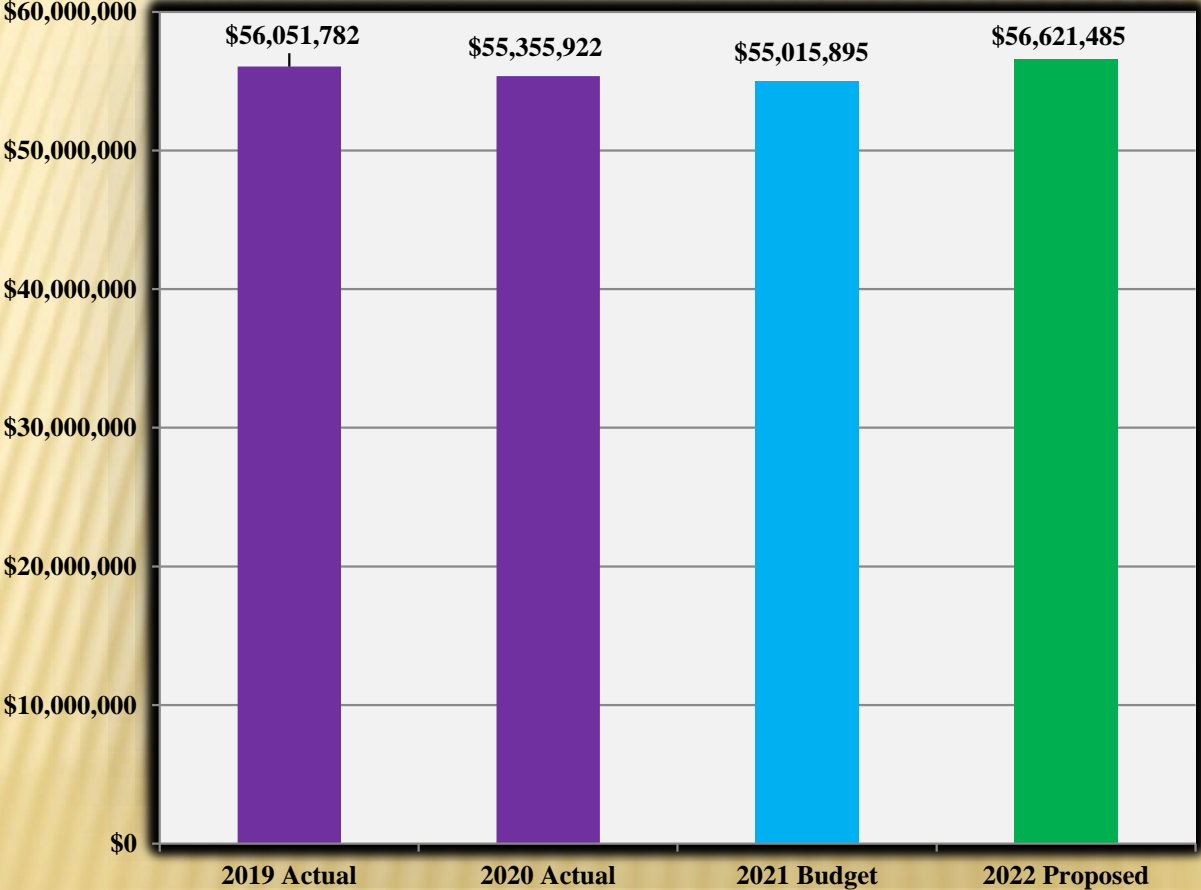
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## Significant Items Driving Increase in Revenue

Sales Tax	\$1,605,590
Occupancy Tax	\$1,515,876
State Aid	\$908,918
Federal Aid	\$710,076
Rental Payment (DSS Offices)	\$393,145
Mortgage Tax	\$250,000

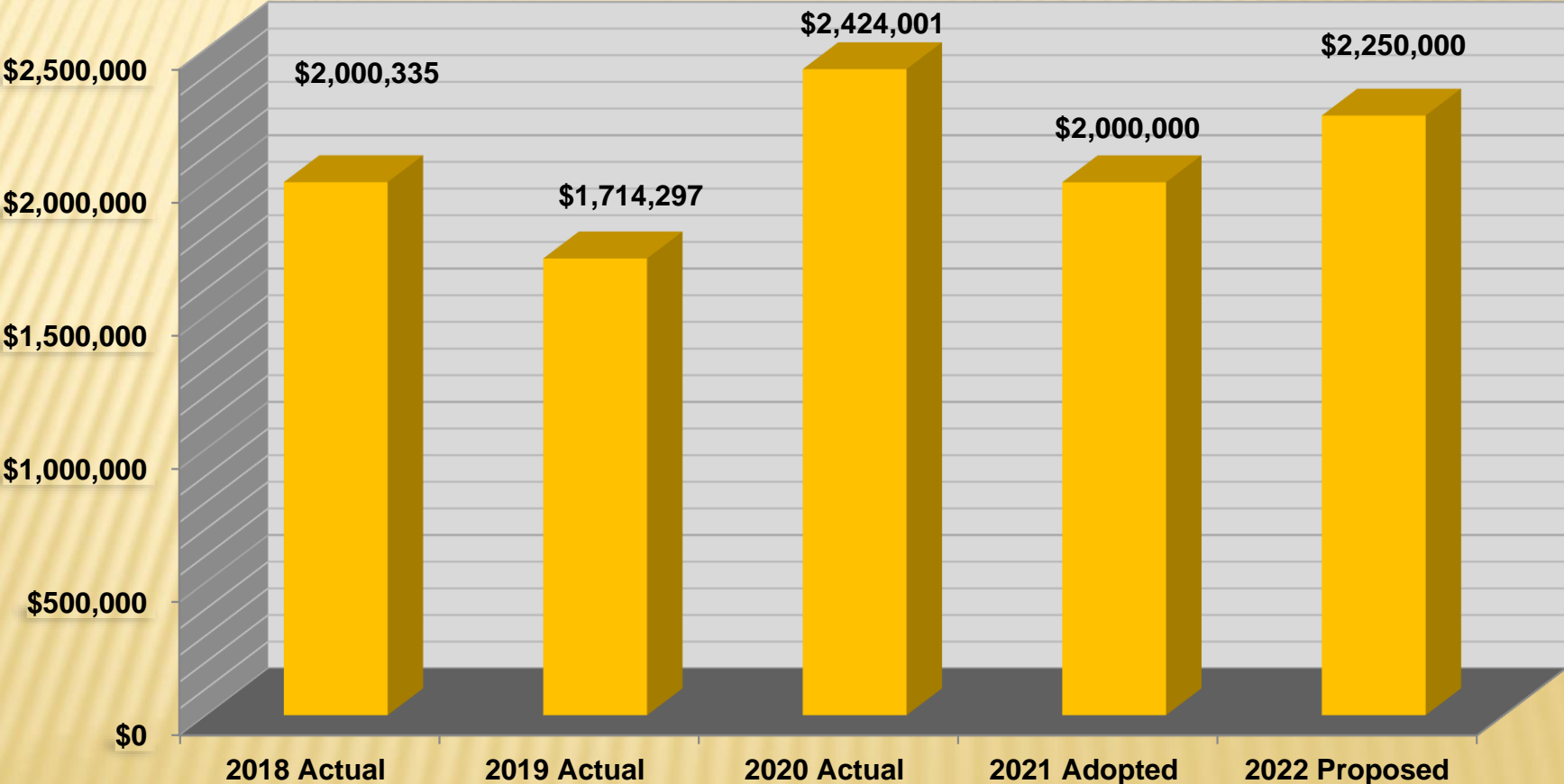
# REVENUE DETAILS:

## Total Sales Tax Collections



# REVENUE DETAILS

## Mortgage Tax



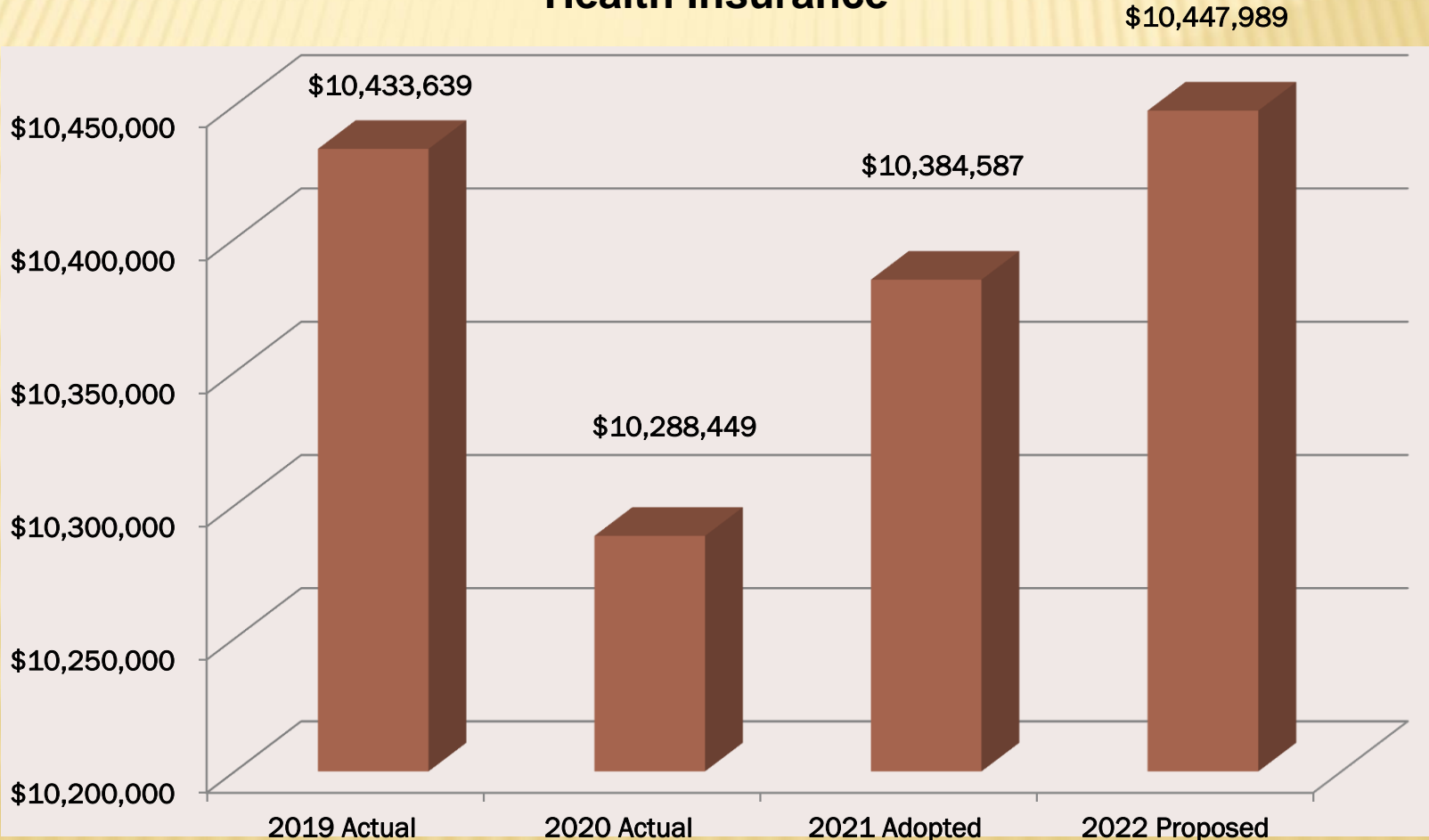
# ITEMS DRIVING APPROPRIATIONS

## Significant Items Driving Increase or (Decrease) in Appropriations

Wages	\$3,293,710
Health Insurance	\$63,402
Retirement	(\$793,959)
County Roads <small>(not including wages or fringe)</small>	\$6,423,720
Debt Service	(\$65,900)

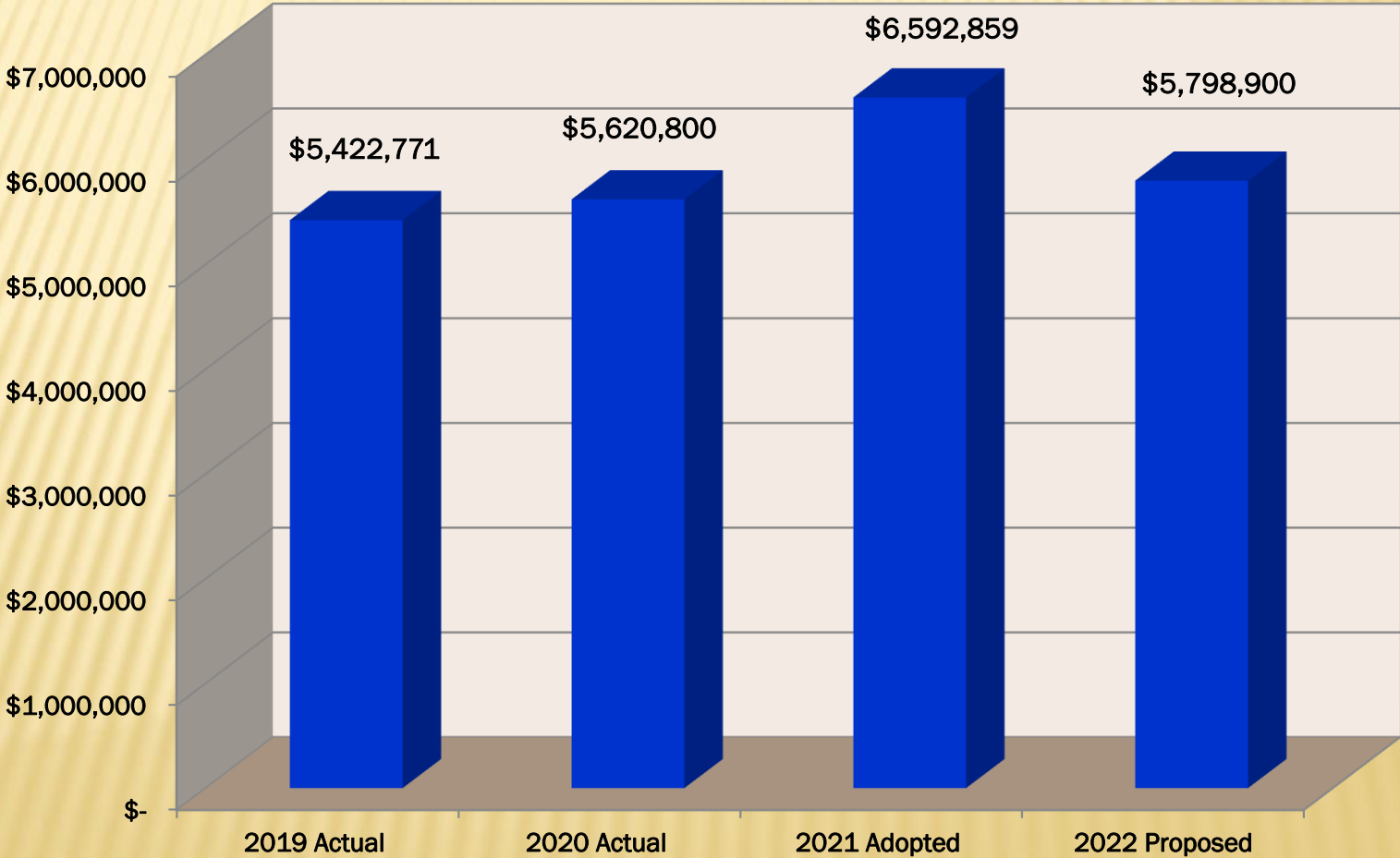
# COST DETAIL

## Health Insurance



# COST DETAIL:

## Retirement





# FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATION

Appropriation of \$2,993,067 in fund balance includes:

+ General Fund	\$1,000,000
+ County Road Fund	\$750,000
+ Road Machinery Fund	\$478,000
+ Occupancy Tax	\$545,689
+ Westmount	\$219,378

# FUTURE PRIORITIES

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- ✓ Continue to look for efficiencies that will cut costs while providing quality services.
- ✓ Continue to look for revenue to offset expenses, keep property taxes in check, and control the use of surplus funds.
- ✓ Continue to plan for investments in Warren County's future, including infrastructure, economic development, and workforce development.
- ✓ Continue advocating for County taxpayers in the State Capitol.
- ✓ Continue to enhance County Departments by adapting to new challenges and promoting good management.

# TAX RATES BASED ON PROPOSED BUDGET

## (Equalized County Tax Rate \$3.899)

TOWN	2021	2022
BOLTON	3.579	3.556
CHESTER	3.917	3.882
GLENS FALLS	5.216	5.182
HAGUE	4.680	4.489
HORICON	3.920	3.899
JOHNSBURG	206.177	205.190
LAKE GEORGE – IN	3.920	3.899
LAKE GEORGE – OUT	3.920	3.899
LAKE LUZERNE	4.082	4.102
QUEENSBURY	3.914	3.895
STONY CREEK	403.715	415.317
THURMAN	4.110	4.171
WARRENSBURG	4.034	4.099