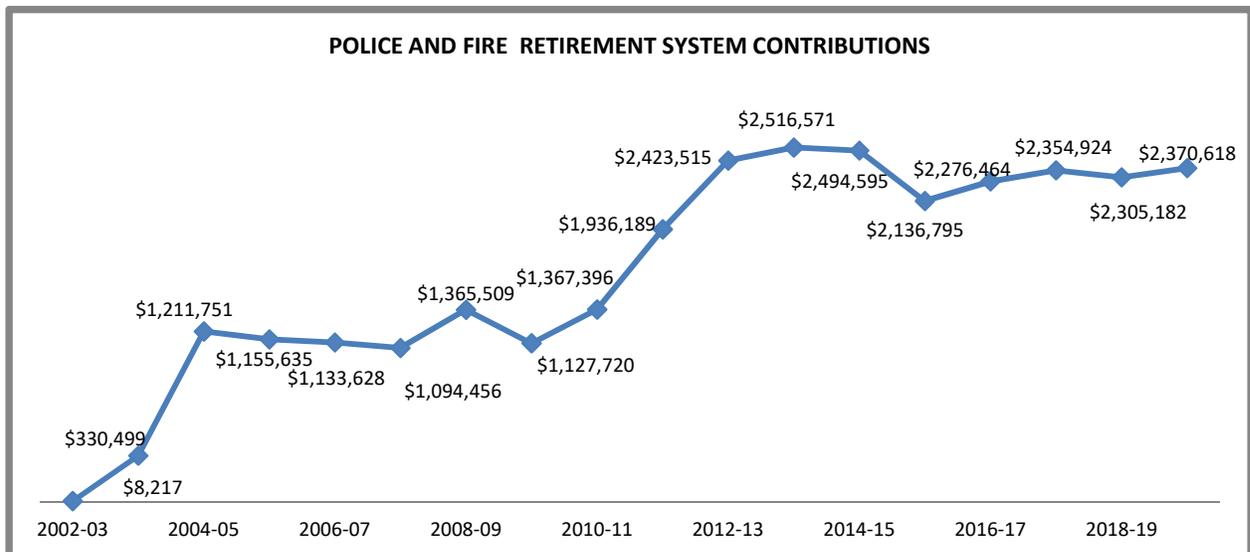
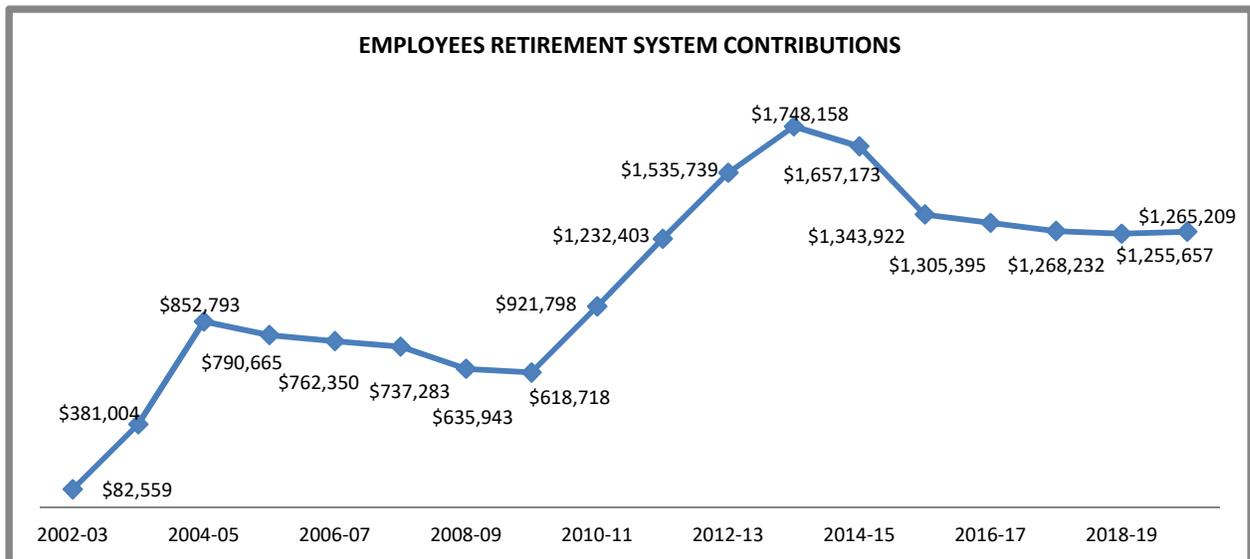


Comptroller's Department

Retirement System Payments

This week, the City paid its contribution to the Employees Retirement System and to the Police and Fire Retirement System.



Engineering Department

Hydroelectric Repairs

New entrance doors are being constructed and will be installed the week of December 23, 2019.

Thompson Park Pool

The concrete pool floor and shotcrete for all the pool walls are complete with entire pool structure protected with thick insulation blankets and will remain protected throughout the winter months. The bathhouse foundation footer and 3' high bathhouse foundation wall are complete and insulated. Atlantic testing has performed all testing for shotcrete compression, structural fill, and concrete for the pool structure and bathhouse. The masons are to arrive next week to begin installation of exterior 8" CMU bathhouse walls with an anticipated schedule of approximately 10 work days. The roof trusses are currently being fabricated and are expected to be delivered and installed the 2nd week of January. Material samples for color selection will be selected this week for EIFS walls, windows, and roof shingles.



JB Wise Retaining Wall Project

Driscoll masonry has completed the removal of plant life and debris of the existing limestone retaining wall and has completed re-pointing, restoring, and cleaning all sides of the retaining wall. They have also completed the removal of graffiti and tar located on the north, south, and west walls. Driscoll will return in the spring to complete the site rehabilitation when weather conditions allow.



Watertown City Court Expansion Project

The layout drawings are complete, incorporating the OCA's and the Judge's comments, and we have received approval from the Judge. A resolution has been set on the December 16, 2019 agenda for approval for Engineering and Architectural services to finalize the design plans. Bidding is scheduled for December 2020 and project start-up in the spring of 2021.

Planning Department

Downtown Christmas Tree Lights

As a way of making the downtown more festive, the lights on the large and small Christmas trees will now be lit from 2:00 pm - 2:00 am, instead of just 5:00 pm -10:00 pm. In order to not disturb downtown residents, the lights will continue to only include the light show and music from 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm. The rest of the time, the lights will remain statically lit.

Police Department

Justice Reform Law

During the December 9th City Council Work Session, the City Council Members were presented with important information pertaining to critical changes in the State "Justice Reforms" law that will become effective January 1, 2020:

- Police bail will be eliminated (bail that the police desk sergeant can place on violations, class "A" and class "B" misdemeanor crimes and most class "E" felonies).
- Police will (as of January 1, 2020) be required to issue appearance tickets and release arrestees in those cases (with few exceptions), regardless of the danger that person may pose to the community.
- Judges will only be able to place bail on defendants for violent felony crimes and some other designated crimes, such as domestic assaults and sex-related crimes. Drug dealers and most other defendants will be required by law to be released by the judge on their own recognizance. Again, regardless of the danger they may pose.

Another major change in the law will be that the District Attorney's Office will now have only 15 days from a defendant's arraignment to provide all evidence to the defense. Additionally, this will be required on all arrests, prior to any plea offers. Currently, the DA only has to provide complete discovery if a defendant is going to trial (about 5% -10% of cases). This will be a huge burden on the District Attorney's Office and on local law enforcement agencies. We will report additional information to the City Council and the public as the implementation of these new laws occurs.

Shop with a Cop

Ten members of the Watertown Police Department will be participating in the “Shop with a Cop” event on Saturday, December 14th. Shop with a Cop is organized by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and has been an annual event for about 17 years. Local children are paired up with members of local law enforcement, corrections, probation, parole, fire departments and EMS organizations. “Shop with a Cop” begins with a caravan of emergency vehicles running lights and sirens, transporting the children from the Metro-Jefferson Public Safety Building to the Walmart store on outer Arsenal Street (Route 3). Children will go shopping and then be treated to a pizza party at the Sam’s Club store adjacent to Walmart. Santa will also be on hand to give out additional gifts to the children. We hope the kids have a great time again this year!

Neighborhood Watch

Officer Shane Ryan is the Watertown Police Department “Neighborhood Watch Liaison Officer.” There has been limited interest shown in the program to date. For information on how to start a Neighborhood Watch Group, the “National Neighborhood Watch” website at nnw.org is a great place to start! We encourage any NW groups to make contact with Officer Ryan by email at sryan@watertown-ny.gov. He will be available to attend NW group meetings and will assist with communication between WPD and NW groups.