

November 17, 2011

2011 TAX RATE

The 2011 tax rate is \$25.45/\$1000 last year's rate was \$18.77/\$1000. The following will explain how the new rate was arrived at.

1. The town was reassessed and the average assessment went down 21%. To raise the same amount of money the rate must go up 21%. $\$18.77 \times 1.21 = \22.71 .
2. The selectmen used \$600,000 of reserves last year to reduce the tax rate. There are no reserves to do the same this year. There are two reasons for the lack of reserve funds. The revenues are down and there is approximately \$500,000 in unpaid taxes. Using the new assessments, every time you spend \$367,032 it cost \$1 on the tax rate. To make up the \$600,000 reserve used last year you divide \$600,000 by \$367,032 which equals \$1.64.
3. The town spends about \$740,000 a month on schools and bills. The state requires us to set aside \$800,000 in reserve funds that cannot be used without permission of the state. The unpaid taxes amount to \$500,000 right now. I strongly feel we should have at least one month's expenses in reserve at all times. $\$800,000 + \$500,000 + \$740,000 = \$2,040,000$. Starting the month of December if revenues are received as projected we will have about \$900,000 in the bank \$800,000 of which we can only use in an emergency with the permission of the state. Not a strong position for a town with an approximate \$13,000,000 budget! The only way we can increase our reserve is by spending less, increasing revenues or adding to the overlay fund. The selectmen are adding \$174,323 to the overlay this year. $\$174,323 / \$367,032 = \$.48$.

When we add this all up you will see that there is still \$.62 that is due to actual increased spending at Town and School District Meetings.

\$22.71

\$ 1.64

\$.48

\$.62


\$25.45 2011 tax rate

There are 2488 registered voters in Wilton only 172 attended 2011 Town Meeting. There are 3544 registered voters between Wilton and Lyndeborough only 164 attended 2011 School District Meeting. The only people that attend any budget meetings are Department Heads and the occasional resident.

Taxpayers!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The only way you can have a say in this is to attend 3 (three) meetings!

1. School District Meeting
2. Town Meeting
3. School and Town Budget Meetings

If you choose not to attend these meetings you will have to live with what the people who choose to attend vote for!



Mark Whitehill, Town Treasurer