

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

The financial situation has sent Town departments scurrying to find ways to make ends meet while still complying with State and Federal mandates. This hasn't been an easy task, to say the least. In an effort to lower costs in the Collector's office, a new software vendor was chosen to replace our longstanding company. As can be expected with any new programs, we have been experiencing some problems with the transition, particularly with the excise conversion. Another more noticeable result is that the bills are not providing as much information as taxpayers had become accustomed to seeing in past years. Unfortunately, we no longer have the additional information that numerous callers have been requesting.

Reassessments allowed for a drop from the fiscal 2005 tax rate of \$15.62 per thousand to the fiscal 2006 rate of \$14.18 per thousand dollars of assessed value. However, property values were increased by an average of approximately 19%, so even with the new rate, most home owners saw an increase in their tax.

I would continue to urge any resident homeowners over the age of 70 to check the exemption criteria used by the Assessors. Some may find that they qualify and this exemption can certainly help to ease their tax burden.

Calendar year tax collections for 2004:

Real estate:	7,098,506.69
Community Preservation:	34,168.48
Personal Property:	165,976.01
Motor Vehicle:	640,116.05
Interest:	43,634.80
Charges:	8,100.00
Total:	7,990,502.03

Respectfully Submitted:

Eva A Wiseman
Tax Collector