

REMINDER: Set your clocks back on Sunday, November 6



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

November 2016

2016 TAX RATE SET!

On 10/25/2016 the State Department of Revenue Administration set New London's 2016 tax rate at **\$15.67/\$1,000**

This is a 1.4% increase over the 2015 tax rate.

The new tax bills, due on 1/2/2017, are in the mail and you should have yours soon.

Tax Rate Breakdown:

Town portion	\$4.35	7.4% increase
County portion	\$2.95	0.6% increase
School portion	<u>\$8.37</u>	1.2% decrease
	\$15.67	

TOWN TAX CALCULATION:

Voted Appropriations (at 2016 Town Meeting)	\$8,695,304
Estimated Revenues	-\$3,712,245
War Service Credits	\$161,500
Reserve for Abatements	\$21,495
Fund Balance used to reduce taxes	<u>-\$275,000</u>
Total Amount to be collected for the Town	\$4,891,054
Divided by Town Valuation	\$1,124,902,770
Town tax rate/\$1,000 valuation	\$4.35

Board of Selectmen Offer Explanation of Increased 2016 Town Tax Rate

New London's 2016 Town tax rate is \$4.35. Why did the tax rate increase by 7.4%?

There are 2 principal explanations:

For the past four years the Board of Selectmen have chosen to use a total of \$1,700,000 of Unassigned Fund Balance* to reduce the tax rate. In so doing, the Unassigned Fund Balance remaining at year end has fallen from over \$1,000,000 in 2012 to approximately \$900,000. This fund balance is a measure of the financial stability of the Town. The State of New Hampshire recommends that a minimum Unassigned Fund Balance of 5% of regular operating expenditures be maintained, or in the case of New London at the end of Fiscal Year 2016, \$1,002,775. The Board of Selectmen chose this year to partially close the gap between the minimum recommended balance and New London's actual balance by applying \$275,000 of the Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the 2016 tax rate, leaving an Unassigned Fund Balance of \$946,352.

Management of cash flow for the Town requires that the Town collect adequate tax revenue in a timely fashion to meet its cash obligations. The Board of Selectmen prefers not to borrow funds to meet these obligations. Due to the increasing obligations to Merrimack County and the Kearsarge Regional School District, cash flow has become tighter, and the use of less Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate assists in having adequate cash on hand.

** Unassigned Fund Balance is the accumulation of unexpended appropriations and excess revenues. The increase to Unassigned Fund Balance for the year ended June 30, 2016 was approximately \$318,000. The Board of Selectmen may vote to use a portion of Unassigned Fund Balance to reduce the tax rate.*

Selectmen Decide Not to Pursue 1941 School Building

At the Board's October 17th meeting, Chair Helm read from a prepared statement:

"At its September 19 meeting the Board of Selectmen had an extensive discussion regarding the 1941 Building and related issues of Town space needs. I indicated at that time that I needed another 3-4 weeks to solidify my position on these matters.

In the interim I have met with the Recreation Commission to discuss the particulars of its facility needs, I have met with officials of the School District to better understand the cost and timing of its potential cafeteria/library project at the old Middle School, and I have further reviewed the capital priorities of the Town.

It is now my conclusion and recommendation that the Board of Selectmen not pursue further consideration of acquiring rights to the 1941 Building. I agree with Nancy [Selectman Rollins] that there is not a compelling enough case for the Town use of the Building, and that the ongoing operating costs could be significant. I agree with Janet [Selectman Kidder] that a vote of the Town would be instructive, but I now believe that the effort to support that vote would unnecessarily distract us from establishing and funding the other capital needs of the Town.

I do believe that there continues to be a strong need for additional facilities in New London, particularly for recreation programming for all ages. In my view it will be important for the future stability of New London to offer opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in cultural, health and wellness, and physical activities that make for a sustainable community, both physically and mentally.

With the latter in mind, I will continue to suggest that we engage in a Town wide dialogue on what we want New London to be as a residential, educational and commercial center."

The Board voted to conclude the Town's efforts to acquire the 1941 School Building for use by the Town.

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 526-4821 ext.13; townadmin@nl-nh.com

Chili Fest

A "Party With A Purpose" was held in the Phillips Barn at the New London Historical Society on Saturday, October 22. It was a perfect fall evening dinner outing for all ages, a classic New England style gathering where folks gathered in a rustic barn for a hearty meal while building strong relationships and services to better the community. Many tasters fancied themselves chili experts and placed a vote for the People's Choice Award. (The Recreation Department served hot dogs for the non-chili types.) Organizations participating in the event benefited from the admission fees and had a good opportunity to share more about their organization.

COA took the People's Choice Award!

From the Desk of Richard Lee, Public Works Director:



- Public Works is in the process of having the new sand and salt shed built. The trusses should be set the first week of November.
- I would like to remind our residents to have their tires checked before winter; make sure there is enough tread on them for winter travel. And **PLEASE** remember to leave a little more travel time in bad weather and a little more space between vehicles on slippery roads.
- Please be sure your outside hose is turned off and disconnected from the faucet. Check toilets and sinks for leaks.

Medication Drop Box at New London Police Station

Yes

Prescription and over the counter pills
Prescription patches
Prescription ointments
Over-the-counter pills
Vitamins
Pet medication pills

No

Needles/sharps
Inhalers
Aerosols
Liquids

