

Important Notice to Holderness Taxpayers

Dear Holderness Property Taxpayer,

Enclosed you will find your 2009 property tax bill. This year the Holderness property tax rate has decreased 1.7% over last years rate. Here is a brief explanation of this year's rate and a comparison of the 2008 and 2009 property tax rates:

Tax Type	2008	2009	Difference
Town	2.46	2.43	-.03
County	1.64	1.40	-.24
Local School	6.73	6.55	-.18
State School	2.35	2.58	+.23
Total:	13.18	12.96	-.22

Rate Change Explanations

Town: In 2008 we embarked on a plan to change our fiscal year from a calendar year to July 1 – June 30. That plan was completed on June 30, 2009. The 18 month transition budget of FY 08/09 required use of a significant amount of the town's fund reserves or what is known as our "fund balance" and the remaining amount needed was raised by property taxes in 2008. With the transition process complete we are now able to manage the local tax rate more effectively and in fact reduce the rate slightly this year.

County: As a community located in Grafton County we support county government through our property taxes. Holderness's share of the county's expenses is based entirely on the Town's total assessed valuation. County staff, Commissioners and Delegates have worked extremely hard to manage this year's budget resulting in a budget decrease of 0.78% and a 0.50% decrease in the amount to be raised by taxes across the county. Grafton County is also benefiting from \$600,000 - \$800,000 in ARRA (stimulus \$s) this fiscal year. The matter of a new county jail is still held up in the NH Supreme Court. Our county tax obligation for 2009 is \$953,109 a decrease of \$156,294.

Local School: The local school tax rate generates the support for the operations of both the Holderness Central School and Holderness's portion of Plymouth Regional High School. The local school tax effort (expenses less revenue) in 2008 was \$4,543,486 and for 2009 is \$4,458,649. The regional school will benefit this year from some additional revenue from the State helping to offset some of the minor increases in appropriations at both the regional and local levels. The local school rate decrease of \$.18 offsets a portion of the \$.23 increase in the State Education portion of the tax rate.'

State School: The State wide property tax rate is established by the NH Legislature and is the same for most communities in the state based on 100% equalized valuation. The only properties that are not subject to the statewide property tax are utilities. Utilities pay a different rate directly to the State. 100% of the State school tax dollars collected in Holderness are retained in Holderness. The 2009 State Education rate increase is \$.23.

We are pleased that the efforts of our staff, department heads, elected officials and others at all levels of state, county, school and local government have resulted in a reduction in your 2009 property tax rate.

We hope you find these brief explanations helpful and we thank you for your continued support of the local government in the Town of Holderness.

Holderness Board of Selectmen
November 2, 2009