

TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN
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Press Release - For Immediate Release

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Francestown Tax Rate Set at \$22.77 / \$1,000

At their October 29th meeting the Francestown Board of Selectmen announced that the tax rate had been set by the Department of Revenue Administration at \$22.77 / \$1,000, an increase of 5.37% from 2012's rate of \$21.61. Following is a breakdown of the components of the rate:

- Town portion - \$7.29, an increase of 6.58% from \$6.84
- Local School portion - \$12.11, an increase of 5.58% from \$11.47
- State School portion - \$2.29, an increase of 2.69% from \$2.23
- County Portion - \$1.08, an increase of 0.93% from \$1.07

Going into Town Meeting, the majority of the Board of Selectmen recommended a budget and warrant articles that would have resulted in a Town tax rate of approximately \$7.05 (an increase of \$3.01%). At Town Meeting the Board recommended an amendment to increase the operating budget \$13,874 for welfare expenses. Town Meeting also increased the operating budget \$70,000 with the intent of constructing a temporary bridge on the 2nd NH Turnpike South, which had been closed upon the recommendation of NH Department of Transportation in early December. The temporary bridge was able to be constructed with the assistance of Highway Department staff and only required an expenditure of approximately \$55,000. The Board of Selectmen agreed to increase the amount of Undesignated Fund Surplus applied to reduce the tax rate by \$15,000.

Board of Selectmen Chair Betsy Hardwick stated, "The voters at Town Meeting appropriated \$70,000 with the intent of constructing a temporary bridge on the Turnpike. Since we were able to do it for less thanks to the work done by the Highway Department, I felt it only made sense to apply the left over money to reduce the tax rate."

Tax bills will be mailed out by the end of the week of the 31st and will due on Tuesday December 3rd.

End