

Budget Season Update

Anyone who has been following the budget process at our State Capitol knows that our elected representatives have a long way to go before a final budget is produced. This leaves towns in the position of not knowing what funding to expect. The Governor's budget would represent significant cuts to funding for Pomfret. All we know is that the legislative body does not seem to support these cuts. There is presently no way of knowing what the eventual compromise will look like.

The Board of Finance has been meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education to work on what we can control, which are the spending plans. We currently have budgets that represent year over year cuts in the General Government budget and cuts in the Pomfret Community School budget. The Board of Education budget will show an increase overall due to the added enrollment at Woodstock Academy. I believe these are responsible budgets that provides continued services to town residents and a quality education for our children.

If the final funding from Hartford was level year over year then I would expect to see little, if any, impact on the mil rate. If the Governor is successful in cutting funding to Pomfret by over 1 million dollars then the impact could be as much as 3 mils. Every town in Connecticut is experiencing the same uncertainty. Some towns are presenting final budget numbers and mil rates but they are just taking their best guess. The simple truth is that we won't know the impact on taxation until a budget is passed in Hartford. We will be presenting the final budgets to you in the coming weeks. We will then set the mil rate when, at a minimum, we have better direction than we do today.

Ken Kristal

Board of Finance, Chair