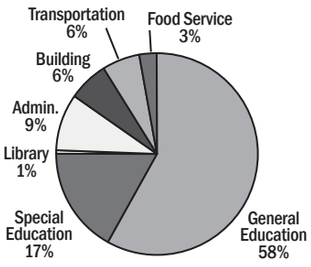
Budget *from page 1*

$2,177,454 to $1,904,971.

In contrast, it is presently estimated that by the end of 2004 (the current school year) there will be no unexpended surplus available to reduce taxes for 2005. Without any unexpended surplus to reduce the school portion of our tax bill this year, we see a 22% increase over the school portion of the 2004 tax bill.

The estimated net amount to be raised by real estate taxes to fund the schools -- $2,330,128 -- is about 68% of the total tax bill. The resulting 2005 school tax rate is estimated to be $9.31



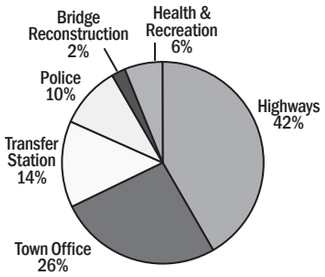
Proposed $3.2M School Budget

per $1,000 of assessed property value, an increase of 22.5% over last year's rate of $7.60. For a "typical" Andover property assessed at $100,000, $931 of the property's tax bill will go toward funding our schools.

Andover Town Budget

The proposed 2005 Andover Town budget is $1,547,138, an increase of $371,387 over the appropriated 2004 budget of $1,175,751.

Much of this increase is for the reconstruction of the Dyer's Crossing



Proposed $1.1M Town Budget

Road bridge and for police service for the Route 11 reconstruction.

The State will reimburse the Town for 80% of the bridge costs and for 100% of the Route 11 police expenses. Withdrawals from capital reserve accounts will offset other expenses that we have planned for. Taking these reimbursements and offsets into account, the net estimated 2005 Town budget becomes $1,136,509, down about $39,000, or 3%, from the 2004 figure.

It will be difficult to predict the amount of revenues received throughout 2005 that will offset the amount of real estate taxes to be collected by the end of the year. But by adding in some of the unexpended funds from 2004, if necessary, the Budget Committee expects that the Town tax rate for 2005 can be held approximately the same as last year at $1.44 per $1,000 of assessed property value, or $144 for a "typical" $100,000 property.

Andover Fire Department

The Andover Fire Department serves the portion of Andover west of Mountain Brook. Their proposed 2005 budget is $66,096. An extension to the rear of the Fire Department building will be financed by a five-year bank loan for $75,000.

Anticipated revenues will result in a net amount to be raised through taxes of $60,996, and an estimated tax rate for properties west of Mountain Brook of $0.59, or $59 for a "typical" property. This is the same as it was for 2004.

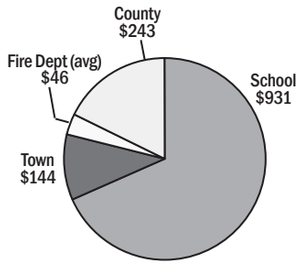
East Andover Fire Department

The East Andover Fire Department serves the portion of Andover east of Mountain Brook. Their proposed 2005 budget is $50,600. Anticipated revenues of $2,035 result in a net amount to taxes of $48,294 and an estimated tax rate for properties east of Mountain Brook of $0.33, or $33 for a "typical" property. This is the same as it was for 2004.

County Assessment

It is unknown at this time what the Merrimack County assessment for Andover for 2005 will be. However, as the article by our State Representative James Danforth in the last issue of the *Beacon* indicated, an increase similar to the one we received in 2004 should be expected.

The assessment went from $328,523 in 2003 to $475,398 in 2004, an increase of $144,657, or 44%. An equal dollar increase in 2005 would bring the estimated assessment to $615,000. The estimated tax rate for the County assessment would then be $2.43, or $243 for a "typical" property, compared to $1.87 in 2004.



Proposed $1,364 Tax Bill On A $100,000 Property

Combined Andover Tax Rate

Combining the budgets for the various departments in Andover results in the estimates for 2005 tax rates and tax bills shown in the table on the left.

The tax rates for last year were $11.50 and $11.24 respectively. So for a "typical" property assessed at $100,000 the tax bill for 2005 is estimated to be about $230 higher than last year, an increase of about 20%.

Proposed 2005 Tax Rates And Tax Bill On $100,000 Property

Dept.	Net To Taxes	Tax Rate		"Typical" Tax Bill	
		Andover	E. Andover	Andover	E. Andover
School	$2,330,128	$9.31		$931	
Town	$362,335	$1.44		$144	
Fire	$109,290	$0.59	$0.33	$59	$33
County	$615,000	$2.43		$243	
TOTAL	$3,416,753	$13.77	$13.51	$1,377	$1,351

Hall *from page 1*

at the rear of the building by the Union Hall Associates that is in disrepair. This section provided a stage, a kitchen, and a dry toilet in support of the many suppers, dances, club activities, and community players and musicians.

The Highland Lake Grange Restoration Committee would like your thoughts and support in restoring this building for wider service to the Andover community. Please consider each of the following questions:

• How best can the building serve the Andover community?

• What activities would you like to see taking place in a renovated building?

• What are the requirements to accommodate these activities?

• How would you support the restoration? - Assist in construction - Donate materials - Conduct or assist in fund raising - Feed or refresh volunteers - Donate funds

Your input is essential. Send your comments to me at the address below, or call me at 735-5271. All contributions are greatly appreciated and fully tax deductible.

Send your comments and/or contributions to Highland Lake Grange Hall Restoration Committee, c/o Irene Jewett, Chairperson, PO Box 211, East Andover NH 03231.

Bills Before The 2005 New Hampshire Legislature

By James W. Danforth
State Representative

Our man in Concord, State Representative Jim Danforth, sends this report on what's happening in the legislature.

Charter Schools

The House has two bills dealing with charter schools. House Bill (HB) 103 is before the Finance Committee and seeks to appropriate one million dollars for the support of charter schools. This would be direct State funding of charter schools.

The second bill, HB 76, is before the Education Committee and is proposing rewording RSA 194-B:11. Currently, state law reads "The pupil's resident school district or the Department of Education shall pay tuition in cash." If passed, the section "or the Department of Education" would be removed. This would place 100% of the cost of attending a charter school on local school districts.

State Flag

HB 123 would change the state flag by adding the words "Live Free or Die."

Hate Crimes Repeal

HB 136 is seeking to repeal increased penalties for crimes substantially motivated by hostility toward the victim's religion, race, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, or sex. This hate crimes statute is seldom used.

See Bills *on page 15*

Classified Ads

FURNITURE: King-size bedroom set with mattress and two mirrors. $250 or best offer. Call Blanche at 735-6025.

BOAT: Walden Cuda sit-on-top kayak with rudder. Great for fishing or exploring. $600 OBO. Call Rob at 735-5454.

APPLIANCE: Amana commercial-quality electric dryer. Seven-cycle with auto dry. White. Used less than two years. Like new - switched to gas. $250 or best offer. Call Steve at 735-6426.

COLLECTIBLE: Over 800 record albums from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, from Aerosmith to Zevon, plus some jazz, some comedy. $500 or best offer. Call Rob at 735-5454.

FOR RENT: Office space available in former R.P. Johnson office building in Cilleyville. Up to 4,000 sq. ft., but smaller units possible. Can renovate to meet needs. Price negotiable, depending on size and usage. Call Dick at 526-4990.

AUTO: Truck bed liner, fits S-10, maybe others? $40. Call Rob at 735-5454.

SELL YOUR STUFF IN THE BEACON!

Whether it's a vehicle in your front yard or a closetful of "treasures," a classified ad in the *Beacon* is a great way to turn stuff into cash.

40 words, $5 per month. Add 10¢ for each additional word.

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If it's not in your ad, above, tell the *Beacon* how to contact you:

_____

Andover Beacon • PO Box 149 • Andover NH 03216 • Thank you!