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funding and therefore don't impact this year's taxes) were about \$12,000 higher than for 2008.

Significant changes in appropriations for 2009 (rounded to the nearest \$1,000) included:

- \$60,000 to complete the reappraisal of property values (compared to \$18,000 appropriated in 2008 for this purpose).
- An increase in the Highways and Bridges appropriation by \$65,000 for additional summer materials and winter equipment rental.
- Reduction in Highway Capital Improvement Projects by \$74,000.
- Reduction in Town Office expenses by \$15,000.

On the revenue side there were a number of unexpected changes.

- The shared revenue contribution from the State of New Hampshire (typically about \$8,000) was held back this year because of budget problems at the State level.
- A significant grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency of \$123,000 was received. Of this, \$108,000 was compensation for

the damage caused by the Mother's Day Flood of 2006. An additional \$15,000 was to compensate for the damages caused by the ice storm of 2008.

To Be Raised By Taxes - 2009				
Department	2008	2009	Change	%
School	\$2,311,786	\$2,582,420	\$270,634	11.7%
State Ed.	\$636,142	\$663,277	\$27,135	4.3%
Town	\$585,868	\$609,474	\$23,606	4.0%
Andover FD	\$71,593	\$69,975	-\$1,618	-2.3%
E Andover FD	\$51,219	\$51,033	-\$186	-0.4%
County	\$771,975	\$707,359	-\$64,616	-8.4%
TOTAL	\$4,428,583	\$4,683,538	\$254,955	5.8%

- The amount of surplus that the Selectmen applied toward reducing taxes was much less than in previous years - only \$100,000 this year. This reduction was based on their concern that next year's expected revenues will be significantly lower due to the threatened loss in Room and Meals Tax distribution from the State, and that the surplus account should therefore not be unduly depleted this year.

As a result, the total taxes required to support the Town operations for 2009 were \$609,474, compared to \$585,868 for 2008, an increase of \$23,606 or 4.0%.

Fire Department Taxes

The total amount to be raised by taxes for the Andover and East Andover fire departments dropped by about \$1,800 (or 1.5%) in 2009.

County Taxes

The amount Andover is charged to support Merrimack County in 2009 is \$707,359, down from the 2008 amount of \$771,975, a drop of about 8.4%. This reduction results primarily from the fact that the County building projects for the jail and nursing home in Boscawen have been completed.

Overall Tax Bills

For a property in the Andover Fire District valued at \$200,000, the total tax bill for 2009 is \$3,610. For a property in the East Andover Fire Precinct valued at \$200,000, the total tax bill for 2009 is \$3,546.

Does your tax bill include a \$10 penalty? If it does, it's because you didn't return your inventory form to the Town Office by the April 15 deadline this year.

Are you seeing a rise in your tax bill greater (or less) than this year's approximately 5.8% increase in the total amount to be raised by taxes? If you are, then check your assessment. With this year's town-wide revaluation, the total value of all properties in Andover decreased by about 3% compared to the total value in 2008.

If your property assessment for 2009 decreased by 3% compared to 2008, then your share of the total tax burden should be the same as it was in 2008, so your tax bill should be *up* by about 5.8% (the same as the 2009 increase in the total tax burden).

If your assessment for 2009 decreased by *less than* 3% (or actually increased), then your share of the total tax burden increased, and your tax bill for 2009 should be *up more than* the 5.8% increase in the total tax burden.

If your assessment for 2009 decreased by *more than* 3%, then your share of the total tax burden decreased, and your tax bill for 2009 should have gone up *less than* 5.8% (or perhaps even decreased).

For more information on how a town-wide revaluation impacts taxes, see the article on page 4 of the October issue of the *Beacon*. It's online at AndoverBeacon.com/online.asp.

Total Andover Tax Rate Up 8.9%

The town-wide revaluation makes it particularly confusing to look at the tax rates this year. We've seen that the total amount to be raised by taxes is up by 5.8% this year. But if you look at the table of tax rates below, you'll see that the total tax rate for properties in the Andover Fire District is up by 8.9%,

and for properties in the East Andover Fire Precinct by 9.2%.

The difference between the increase in the tax burden (5.8%) and the increase in the tax rate (8.9%) is 3.1%,

Tax Rates for 2009				
Department	2008	2009	Change	%
School	\$8.49	\$9.78	\$1.29	15.2%
State Ed.	\$2.44	\$2.64	\$0.20	8.2%
Town	\$2.15	\$2.30	\$0.15	7.0%
Andover FD	\$0.65	\$0.65	\$0.00	0.0%
E Andover FD	\$0.32	\$0.33	\$0.01	3.1%
County	\$2.84	\$2.68	-\$0.16	-5.6%
Total Tax Rates				
Andover	\$16.57	\$18.05	\$1.48	8.9%
E. Andover	\$16.24	\$17.73	\$1.49	9.2%

or the amount by which the total of all property assessments decreased with the revaluation in 2009.

If the total of all property assessments had stayed about the same from 2008 to 2009 (as it pretty much does in a typical year), then the tax rate - the charge *per thousand dollars* of property value - would have changed by about the same

TAX RATES IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

New London	\$15.07
Webster	\$17.42
E Andover	\$17.73
Andover	\$18.05
Wilmot	\$18.26
Salisbury	\$18.29
Sutton	\$18.33
Danbury	\$18.50
Franklin	\$20.59
Boscawen	\$21.60
Warner	\$23.60

percentage as the tax burden. That's what we see in a normal year, and that's why we're used to thinking of changes in the tax rate and changes in our taxes as being pretty much the same thing.

But because the total town assessment dropped by about 3% in 2009, there was less total property value to which to apply the tax rate in order to raise the money required. Therefore the tax rate - not the total taxes, just the charge per thousand dollars of property value - had to go up by 3% just to keep the total taxes raised even with last year.

But staying even with last year wasn't good enough this year. The tax rate had to raise about 5.8% more in total taxes than it raised last year. So with about 3% just to keep even and 5.8% to deal with the increased tax burden, the tax rate had to go up 8.9% for properties in the Andover Fire District (and 9.2% for properties in the East Andover Fire Precinct, which had less of a decrease in its tax burden than the Andover Fire District did).



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- Large Barn
- Views
- Hayfields

**Andover
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- .23 Acres
- Views
- Highland Lake Access

**Andover
\$69,000**

Highland Lake



One Floor Living



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- 2 Baths
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