

## Budget from page 1

uncertainty of estimating the amount of revenues that will be available to offset expenses. Based on estimates of revenues now available, the tax rates that will determine our tax bills in the fall will be as shown in the table below. With the possibility that revenues could decrease considerably this year, the table shows an increase in the tax rate by about 2.5%. In that scenario, the tax on a property assessed at \$200,000 would increase by about \$90.

The decrease in revenue could come in two big chunks. Funding assistance from the state to Andover is expected to be reduced by approximately \$100,000 due to the financial problems at the state level.

The other big chunk is a matter of prudence. It is not prudent to count on any unexpended surplus from the previous year's school budget, since that school year is still ongoing. But on the other hand, last year there was \$126,023 available to offset taxes. If that same amount were available again this year, that would be enough to change the 2.5% increase in the tax rate to a very small decrease.

### Andover School Budget

The recommended budget for the Andover School District for 2010 is \$4,251,130. The appropriations voted last year were \$4,297,020. The budget for 2010 is down by \$45,890 (-1.1%) from the previous year. The major reductions in budgeted expenses for 2010 include:

- Reduction in building maintenance by \$50,000 (The gym floor replacement was completed last year.)
- Reduction in high school tuition expenses by \$41,000 (Fewer students are expected to attend.)
- Reduction in expenses for Special Education by \$25,000
- Reduction in staffing by \$13,000 (The number of aides was reduced.)

Offsetting these reductions in budgeted expenses is an increase in teacher salaries by \$75,000, which is a 3% increase as specified in the last year of the current three-year teachers' contract.

Based on available estimates of revenues from the state and federal governments, the present estimate of the school tax rate for 2010 is \$12.75. This

is an increase of \$0.33 (2.7%) over the tax rate for 2009 of \$12.42.

As explained above, it is assumed here that there will be no unexpended surplus from the 2009 school year to reduce taxes for 2010, though last year there was \$126,023 available. If that same amount were available again this year, the resulting School tax rate for 2010 would be reduced to \$12.27, down

Proposed Net Budgets for 2010			
Department	2009 appropriated	2010 proposed	Change
School	\$4,297,020	\$4,251,130	-\$45,890
Town	\$1,399,161	\$1,312,265	-\$86,896
Fire			
Andover	\$69,847	\$69,275	-\$572
E. Andover	\$51,033	\$55,313	\$4,280
County	\$707,359	\$707,359	---
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,524,420</b>	<b>\$6,395,342</b>	<b>-\$129,078</b>

Net budgets exclude pass-through items that don't impact this year's tax rate. Two common examples: the State reimbursing the Town for part of a road project, or the Town buying equipment with funds appropriated in prior years.

\$0.15 (-1.2%) from the 2009 tax rate. Whether there will be surplus available again this year cannot be determined until the school year ends on June 30.

### Andover Town Budget

The recommended net budget for the Town (omitting pass-through items)

Tax Rate Estimates for 2010				
Department	2009	2010	Change	
School	\$12.42	\$12.75	\$0.33	2.7%
Town	\$2.30	\$2.40	\$0.10	4.3%
Fire				
Andover	\$0.65	\$0.64	-\$0.01	-0.8%
E. Andover	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.03	9.1%
County	\$2.68	\$2.68	---	---
Total Estimated Tax Rates for 2010				
Andover	\$18.05	\$18.47	\$0.42	2.3%
E. Andover	\$17.73	\$18.19	\$0.46	2.6%
Tax On A \$200,000 Property				
Andover	\$3,610	\$3,694	\$84	2.3%
E. Andover	\$3,546	\$3,638	\$92	2.6%

The 2010 figures in this table do not take into account any surplus from last year's school budget that may become available in June to reduce tax rates. The 2009 figures include over \$126,000 in school budget surplus that reduced tax rates.

is \$1,311,995. This is down \$87,166 (-6.2%) from last year's net appropriation of \$1,399,161. Major reductions in budgeted expenses for 2010 include:

- approximately \$30,000 reduction in reappraisal and revaluation expenses
- \$102,000 reduction in planned Special Road Projects expenses (The Highland Lake project is completed, and this year will see the completion of Chase Hill Road work.)

One significant increase will be the cost of solid waste disposal at the Penacook facility, which is expected to increase by approximately \$24,000.

It is expected that the revenues from the state to offset taxes for 2010 will be reduced from last year by about \$100,000 as a result of the fiscal difficulties that the state finds itself in. Based on that significant reduction in

revenues, the present estimate of the tax rate for 2010 is \$2.40. This is up \$0.10 (4.3%) from last year's rate of \$2.30.

### Andover Fire Precincts

Andover has two fire precincts. The Andover Fire Precinct is funded by taxes from properties located west of Mountain Brook. The East Andover Fire Precinct is funded by taxes from properties located east of that boundary.

The budget for the Andover precinct is recommended to be \$69,275, slightly less than the 2009 figure of \$69,847. The resulting 2010 tax rate is estimated at \$0.64.

The budget for the East Andover precinct is recommended to be \$55,313, slightly up from the 2009 figure of \$51,033. The resulting 2010 tax rate is estimated at \$0.36.

### County Tax Rate

Last year the Merrimack County charges to Andover were \$707,359, and

the resulting tax rate to pay for this was \$2.68. The county charges for this year have not yet been announced. For the purpose of estimating the total tax rate that Andover taxpayers can expect in December, it is assumed that the County tax rate will remain the same.

### Estimated Total Andover Tax Rates

The total estimated tax rates for 2010 are \$18.47 for Andover taxpayers and \$18.19 for East Andover taxpayers. These figures assume no surplus from last year's school budget to reduce tax rates and are approximately 2.5% higher than the rates for 2009. If in June a surplus does become available from last year's school budget, it could wipe out that increase.

By comparison, 2009's actual tax rates (which included \$126,023 in offsetting surplus from the school district) were approximately 9% higher than for 2008.

# Get Ready For Town Meeting Season 2010

By Charlie Darling  
Beacon staff

Town Meeting season is upon us. Here are the dates you need to keep in mind in order to participate in the important decisions facing our town this year.

**Friday, January 29** – Filing period for Andover Town and School District Officers ends at 5 PM.

**Tuesday, February 2** – Last day to petition the Selectmen to include an article in the warrant for Town Meeting.

**Saturday, February 27** – Supervisor of the Checklist available to correct the checklist, Town Hall, 11 AM to 11:30 AM

**Monday, March 1** – Andover School District Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7 PM.

**Monday, March 1** – Andover Village District Annual Meeting, Andover Town Hall, 7 PM.

**Tuesday, March 9** – Voting, AE/MS Gym, 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM.

**Tuesday, March 9** – Andover Town Meeting, AE/MS Gym, 7:30 PM.

**Wednesday, March 17** – Andover Fire District Annual Meeting, Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

**Tuesday, April 13** – East Andover Fire Precinct Annual Meeting, East Andover Fire Station, 7:30 PM.

For more info, contact the Town Office at 735-5332 or AndoverNH@tds.net.

**THE 15TH!!!!!!**  
Please have everything to the *Beacon* by the 15th of each month!



**Fenton's Construction, Inc.**  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 72 Fenvale Rd  
 Andover, NH  
 03216  
 Tel: 735-5524  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 Les Fenton  
 Owner



**KEYSER'S GARAGE**

Quality Automotive Service & Repair  
 State Inspections  
**603-735-6160**

Visa/MasterCard Accepted  
**Chuck Keyser**  
**46 Keyser Road, Andover NH 03216**