

Beacon from page 1

tion to the level that the job marketplace expects, and at that point, the *Beacon* should be able to continue for as long as the community continues to support it.

I'm confident we can achieve this, as there are still literally hundreds of Andover families who still haven't donated to the *Beacon* this year. Now that we know that canvassing is an effective fundraising approach for the *Beacon*, I'm sure we can bring more and more of those families into the fold and some-

day soon get to 650 and sustainability! A huge "Thank you!" to our 20 friends and neighbors who volunteered as canvassers this year. You did an awesome job and have pointed the *Beacon* toward a bright new future. And thanks also, of course, to the 330 families who have donated so far this year. There would literally be no *Beacon* without you!

If you haven't donated yet this year, it's not too late! Use the coupon on page 4, or scan that gizmo on your smartphone, or click the Donate button on any page of AndoverBeacon.com.

IS THE BEACON FAILING?

Absolutely not! This fall's fundraising drive was because while we are not failing, we also are not yet in a financial position to continue forever.

The problem is a simple one - I'm getting older and definitely plan to step down from my full-time position at the *Beacon* at some point (sooner rather than later, hopefully). But the problem is that I work too many hours for too few dollars to reasonably expect anyone else to take on this job.

If the *Beacon* is going to continue long past my tenure, the *Beacon's* Board of Directors estimates that the paper and AndoverBeacon.com will require the financial support every year of about 650 Andover households. At that level of support, we expect to be able to hire a part-time person to help with the workload and also increase the salary for my position to the level that the job marketplace expects for someone who publishes a newspaper and a Web site and runs a small non-profit organization.

So let me say it again: **The *Beacon* is not failing!** But it can't continue forever with only 200 Andover households donating every year. So please, get a round tuit and donate today!

Tax Rate from page 1

cult process. High School Tuition costs are directly related to the number of students attending, which is difficult to predict. A trust fund of \$26,000 has been established to fund unbudgeted High School Tuition costs.

Special Education costs are directly related to the needs of the student population, and are even more difficult to predict. A trust fund of \$65,000 has been established to fund unbudgeted Special Education costs.

The school's year-end unexpended balance for 2012-2013 was returned to the Town to reduce the tax burden for 2013 and is primarily responsible for reducing the tax rate increase from the predicted 10% to the final 3.9%.

The components of the tax rate dis-

Education Grant of \$856,642 and applying the unexpended previous year surplus of \$309,095, the amount to be raised by taxes for 2013 is \$3,281,778, up from last year's amount of \$3,190,276 by \$91,502.

The School tax rate for 2013 becomes \$12.38 (\$2.35 for the State component and \$10.03 for the Town component).

To Be Raised By Taxes - 2013

Department	2012	2013	Change	%
School	\$3,190,276	\$3,281,778	\$91,502	2.9%
Town	\$895,750	\$949,810	\$54,060	6.0%
Fire Depts	\$125,166	\$121,435	-\$3,731	-3.0%
County	\$712,308	\$752,807	\$40,499	5.7%
TOTAL	\$4,923,500	\$5,105,830	\$182,330	3.7%

This is an increase of \$0.36 (3.0%) over the tax rate for 2012 of \$12.02.

Andover Town Taxes

The 2013 Town Meeting voted to appropriate a total budget of \$1,570,583. This is an increase of \$169,089 above the \$1,401,494 appropriated in 2012. After accounting for estimated revenues and other adjustments, the amount

to be raised by taxes in 2013 comes to \$949,810, up \$54,060 from \$895,750 in 2012.

As a result, the Town tax rate for 2013 is \$3.55, up \$0.20 (6.0%) over the tax rate for 2012 of \$3.35.

Tax Rates for 2013

Department	2012	2013	Change	%
School	\$12.02	\$12.38	\$0.36	3.0%
Town	\$3.35	\$3.55	\$0.20	6.0%
Andover FD	\$0.64	\$0.63	-\$0.01	-1.6%
E Andover FD	\$0.35	\$0.34	-\$0.01	-2.9%
County	\$2.66	\$2.82	\$0.16	6.0%

Total Tax Rates

Andover	\$18.67	\$19.38	\$0.71	3.8%
E. Andover	\$18.38	\$19.09	\$0.71	3.9%

cussed below are summarized in the tables that accompany this article.

Andover School Taxes

The 2013 School District Meeting voted to increase the Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$4,484,528 by \$131,428. The increases consisted of \$67,000 for an additional fourth grade teacher and \$64,428 to fund a full-day kindergarten program. This brought the total appropriation for 2013 to \$4,615,956, up over the 2012 appropriation of \$4,351,029 by \$264,927 (6.1%).

After accounting for offsetting revenues, including the New Hampshire

County Taxes

The bill that Andover received from Merrimack County for the Town's share of the County's 2013 budget is \$752,807, up from the 2012 amount of \$712,308. The tax rate to fund this bill is \$2.82, up \$0.16 over the 2012 rate of \$2.66.

Fire Department Taxes

The total amount to be raised by taxes for the two Andover fire departments for 2013 is \$121,435, down by \$3,731 from last year. The tax rates for 2013 are \$0.63 for the Andover District and \$0.34 for the East Andover Precinct, each down \$0.01 from last year.



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