

## TAX BILL NEWS!

The first thing you shall notice on your tax bill is that they went up, and if you stop at this point you won't understand why. I think it is important to have an understanding of the how and why, and then you can make your voting decisions based on facts.

**HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION:** You will receive another 5K exemption on the value of your home this year, making it a total of 15K. What this simply means is that you don't pay taxes on 15k value of your home. In Union we now have just over 10 million in homestead exemptions, with a tax value of \$175,000. The State of Maine is supposed to reimburse us a portion of that, the other is simply lost revenue. Our schools, county, etc. still need to be paid so we are forced to raise the mil rate to cover the loss.

Confusing? A bit, in simple terms it is nothing but a cost shift.

**HOW IT WORKED OUT :** Here are the results

DEPARTMENT	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	DIFFERENCE
Town	2,296,185.00	2,301,672.04	\$5,487.04=.023%
County	218,083.10	224,182.16	\$6,099.06 = 2.8%
School	2,033,033.41	2,196,106.00	\$163,073=8.02%

### NET TO BE RAISED= TAXES NET VS NET

Town	1,240,995.03	1,218,126.33	\$(22,868.70)
School	2,033,033.41	2,196,106.00	\$163,073.00
County	218,083.10	224,182.16	\$6,099.06

### BY THE PERCENTAGES

**SCHOOL**      **61.37%**

**TOWN**        **32.36%**

**COUNTY**     **6.26%**

### QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

If you have a question about your home's value or how tax rates are calculated please make an appointment with the Assessors agent. He is in the office most Thursdays and occasional Tuesdays.

School budgets concerns please call your School Board members listed on our web site. For all other budget inquiries please call the Town Manager.