


## NON PROPERTY TAX FUNDING

Over two million (\$2,000,000) of our 11.7 million dollar operating budget is generated from sources other than property taxes:

- \$ The Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning generate \$472,000 or **49%** of expenses
- \$ Public Works generates \$386,016 or **16%** of expenses plus much more in capital grants
- \$ Public Safety Dispatch, Rescue and Technical Rescue generate \$541,257 or **49%** of expenses
- \$ General government (the Selectboard, Town manager, human resources, IT, cemetery, health services, assessor, economic development, finance, and intergovernmental expenses) are funded with non-property tax revenues of \$583,085 or **32%** of expenses

 The Town of Colchester primarily provides services that require labor. For this reason, salaries and benefits make up 73% of our budget. This reduced budget attempts to balance cost pressures with the services that our residents want and have come to expect from the Town.



## VOTER INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Citizens are requested to vote on the Town and School Budgets on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 7:00am to 7:00pm, at the following locations:

**District 9-1** (comprised of the area east of I-89, the west side of I-89 north of the Malletts Creek inlet, excluding the south side of Blakely Road) votes at the **Colchester Meeting House** on 830 Main Street in Colchester Village.

**District 9-2** (comprised of the area west of I-89 south of the Malletts Creek inlet, including the south side of Blakely Road) votes at **Colchester High School** on 131 Laker Lane (off Blakely Road).

The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, April 30th. If you have not voted in Vermont before, you must take the Voter's Oath. For information about the Oath visit the Vermont Secretary of State's webpage:

[www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/voters/registration.aspx](http://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections/voters/registration.aspx)

### Absentee & Early Voting

Persons who wish to vote early can do so in the Town office during regular office hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) until closing on the day prior to the election. Voters who expect to be absent on Voting Day may request that a ballot be mailed to them. An authorized person may apply for an early voter absentee ballot on behalf of such a voter. The request may be made by phone (802- 264-5520) or email: [town-clerk@colchestervt.gov](mailto:town-clerk@colchestervt.gov).

### TOWN OF COLCHESTER

781 Blakely Rd.

P.O. 55

Colchester, VT 05446

Phone: 802-264-5500

Visit us on the web: [www.colchestervt.gov](http://www.colchestervt.gov)

## TOWN OF COLCHESTER

FY 2015

### Budget Reductions: An Overview



The Town's budget was defeated by 166 votes at Town Meeting. As a result, the Selectboard sought public input via a survey that was available at the Town Offices during tax payment time and various social media.

Of the 231 survey respondents, **77%** indicated they were satisfied with the quality of services provided by the Town. Less than **8%** of the respondents were dissatisfied. When asked which services should be eliminated, free recreation events, private road plowing and Currently Colchester garnered more than 15% of the responses for complete elimination.

Despite inflation and the cost of operating supplies continually rising, our non-personnel related expenses are **\$51,000 less** than they were four years ago.

This new budget proposal calls for a 1.73% property tax increase, rather than 3.06% as previously proposed. The proposed tax rate will result in an increase of **56 cents per week**, or \$29.25 annually, for the average household in Colchester.

# The Cuts



**Immediate** cuts totaling \$129,822 include

- ✦ **\$128,806 (99% of cuts)** in wages and benefits for additional
  - ✦ winter snow removal
  - ✦ library hours of operation
  - ✦ police overtime
  - ✦ public safety dispatch overtime
  - ✦ reduction of police and administrative wages and benefits
- ✦ **\$4,592 (1% of cuts)** in fuel expense.

Additional revenue of \$20,677, combined with the cuts, reduces the amount for taxpayers by **\$150,499**.

In addition, a hiring freeze has been implemented. We have further increased our scrutiny of travel, conferences, overtime, and major capital purchases. We are reducing the number of vehicles in our fleet and exploring increased cross-training for staff-sharing. Town land is to be inventoried and considered for sale or lease. A Local Option Sales tax is being explored to reduce property taxes.

### Longer Term Reductions:

The Town understands the need to manage cost increases carefully and will be implementing a number of cost containment measures. However, some of the budget reduction measures we are considering will take time to accomplish due to union contract considerations and staff resources. Given budget constraints, the Selectboard is re-evaluating its priorities.

## HOW DOES COLCHESTER'S TAX RATE COMPARE TO OTHERS IN CHITTENDEN COUNTY?



2013-14 MUNICIPAL TAX RATES FROM TOWN LISTER/ASSESSOR'S DATA

Williston	0.2500
South Burlington	0.4214
Essex Town	0.4635
<b>Colchester</b>	<b>0.5640</b>
Essex Jct.	0.7152
Burlington	0.7584
Winooski	0.9962
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.5955</b>

## How are my taxes spent?

