

FY 25-26 Budget FAQs

If the revised budget proposals pass, will my property taxes go up?

The proposed Government and Board of Education budgets both still show an expenditure increase. However, the Revenue budget will increase with an appropriation from the undesignated fund to offset these increases. This means that there will be no additional taxes based on budget expenditures. This would bring us to the same mill rate as the previous year if we did not have a revaluation. Any increase or decrease a taxpayer may see would be due to a change in their real estate assessment and/or their motor vehicle assessment. Most motor vehicle assessments will be going down because motor vehicles are being assessed at MSRP less depreciation and the mill rate on vehicle taxes is going from 29.24 to 20.72. Those that see an increase in real estate taxes, could see an offset of that increase with a decrease in their motor vehicle taxes.

How do I figure out if there will be an increase in my property taxes?

To figure out your real estate tax: assessed real estate value X .02072= real estate tax

DON'T FORGET TO PUT THAT 0 AND DECIMAL POINT AT THE BEGINNING!

Motor vehicle taxes are trickier to figure out. This is the first year that motor vehicles will be assessed at MSRP less depreciation. Most taxpayers are expected to see a lower motor vehicle tax based on the mill rate being lower by 8.52 mills.

Where do we cut the budgets if the mill rate goes down enough to affect a lower mill rate?

In order for the mill rate to go down by one mill to 19.72, we would have to cut over \$300,000 to do so. The Board of Education budget cannot go below the previous years budget due to Minimum Fund Balance requirements. This means that over \$200,000 would have to be cut from the Government budget. Approximately 75% of our town government budget is mandated services. A cut this large would result in a loss in non-mandated services which could include eliminating the recreation programs, public library, reduction in road work, and senior services (we would lose the senior van). The Board of Selectmen does not believe that the increase some taxpayers might have because of their personal real estate investments is a responsible reason to cut the Government budget to less than the previous year, which a cut of this size would result in. The Board also realizes that costs are increasing in contracted services, utilities, and insurances and it is unrealistic to have no budget expenditure increase.

Where is the water project in the proposed budgets?

The water project is not in the budget. We are currently doing a water study which is funded with a grant, and not Voluntown taxpayer money. Where is the blight ordinance in the proposed budgets?

Where is the blight ordinance in the proposed budget?

The blight ordinance failed at the Town Meeting. It is not in any of the proposed budgets.

Where is the money in the proposed budget for the dead chickens?

There is no money in the budget for dead chickens. The state is insisting on using the state on property next to the transfer station as a composting site for chickens in the event of a massive avian influenza outbreak. The town put in for and received a STEAP grant for \$1,000,000 to do road work on Congdon Road. There is an allocation in the Capital Projects Budget for \$200,000 to go towards the engineering of this project. This money is coming from the unassigned fund and does not come from budget expenditures. The road work has nothing to do with the chicken composting site. In the State's plans for the site, they intend to transport the dead chickens up Brown Road, not down Congdon Road. This investment in the needed work on Congdon Road will save taxpayers money to avoid future road costs.

Where is the trash incinerator in the proposed budgets?

There is no incinerator in any of the proposed budgets. There is no word of trash incinerator coming to Voluntown.