

The Arrowsic Arrow

Vol. 14, No. 8

Happy Holidays!

Nov / Dec 1999

now on the town web site at www.gwi.net/arrowsic

Many Thanks to GWI for providing us with this service



**Celebrate the Solstice December 19 at 3:00
Town Hall. Details inside...**

* Town Hall will be closed
Friday, December 24th *

**Notice of an Important Meeting Dec 2, 6 pm
at the Town Hall**

by Larry Wilson, Selectman 443-6970

At the June 1999 Annual Town Meeting, we voted, "to direct the Selectmen to prepare, for presentation at the June 2000 Town Meeting, a five year plan for the Fire Department." Your Selectmen are starting this process with an open discussion and an information gathering opportunity on **December 2, at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall.** Our speakers will be, Neil Courtney, Technical Services Specialist with the Maine Fire Training and Education and Steve Willis State Fire Administrator. Neil did a study of our fire department in 1995 and his report along with the committee report is available at Town Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to have as many of us as possible hear what other towns, similar to ours, are doing for fire protection, how they are recruiting volunteers, what equipment and commitment a town needs to fulfil mutual aide responsibilities and what level, expense and time are necessary for training.

The Selectmen acknowledge the professional abilities of the Fire chief and recognize the work done in '95. However, an acceptable 5-year plan requires a large number of residents working together in arriving at a shared common vision regarding the appropriate level of equipment, training and facilities.

Some considerations are:

- What age and size of truck should we purchase?
- Should we build a fire barn that will house the equipment and also provide meeting rooms along with kitchen facilities?
- How do we pay for better equipment and a new fire barn?
- How do we attract volunteer fire fighters?
- How do we attract support-volunteers for the fire department?

Our town needs our support, involvement and input, if we are to make the right financial and moral judgement regarding our fire department. Most of us are busy and certainly don't need additional commitments. However, we ask that you attend, if at all possible, the Dec 2nd meeting. Remember it is December 2nd at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall.

The second article on taxes by Larry Wilson

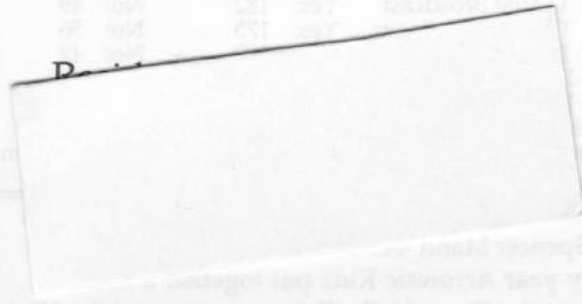
The purpose of this article is to help us better understand how our property taxes are determined. I will use a hypothetical property to show how property taxes are calculated and how one property identical to another pays a different tax.

The value of all the land and buildings in our hypothetical (Town Assessed Value) = \$50,400,095.00
Voters at the annual town meeting voted to raise:
\$650,200.00

Dividing the amount of money to be raised by taxes (\$650,200.00) by the town's assessed value (\$50,400,095.00) gives the mill or municipal rate. Calculations, for determining municipal tax rate, are below.

**Municipal Tax Rate = \$650,200.00
Divided by \$50,400,095.00 = .0129**

A hypothetical property within the town has a land assessment of \$85,000.00 with buildings assessed at \$125,000. Having no exemptions, the assessed land value (\$85,000) is added to the assessment for the buildings (\$125,000) for a total of \$210,000.



The property tax for this property is determined by multiplying The \$210,000.00 (net assessed value) by .0129 (municipal tax rate).
\$210,000.00 x .0129 = 2709.00 = Property tax

Assume a war veteran, who has placed most of the land into Tree Growth, owns this property.

The value of land put into tree growth is determined by the State Tax Assessor and not by fair market value. Each year the State Tax Assessor determines the 100% valuation per acre for each forest type by county or region. These valuations are filed with the Secretary of State by October 1 each year and are certified to municipal assessor(s) before April each year. Taxes on land put into Tree Growth are based on productivity value rather than on fair market value.

Assume for the above example that the State Tax Assessor determines that the productivity value of the land was \$10,000.00 and the fair market value of the land was assessed at \$85000.00. The land value, for tax purposes, is \$10,000.00.

The owner being a war veteran qualifies for the Veterans Tax Exemption, which is \$5000.00. The property tax is calculated as follows:

Land Value (tree growth)	\$10,000.00
Building Value	\$125,000.00
Total land and building value	\$135,000.00
Minus Veteran's Tax Exemption	-\$5000.00
Net Property Assessed Value	\$130,000.00

\$130,000.00 (Net assessed property value)
X .0129 (Municipal Tax Rate)
\$1677.00 (Property Tax)

The taxes on the exact same property was, in the first example, \$2709.00 because there were no exemptions and in the second example \$1677.00 because of the exemptions.

Please find below the references and a brief description of Tree Growth, Farm and Open Space and Veteran's tax exemptions.

Maine Tree Growth Law : Reference: Title 36, M.R.S.A., Section 571 - 584-A PL 1999, c.33 (amd)

The Maine Tree Growth Tax Law provides for the valuation of land, which has been classified as forest land on the basis of productivity value, rather than on fair market value. The law is based on Article IX, section 8 of the Maine constitution, which permits such valuation of forest lands for property tax purposes.

Farm and Open Space Tax Law Reference: Title 36, M.R.S.A., Sections 1011 - 1121 as amended by PL 1999, c. 449.

The Farm and Open Space Tax Law provides for the valuation of land which has been classified as farmland or open space land based on its current use as farmland or open space, rather than its potential fair market value.

Tax Exemptions for Veterans References: Title 36, M.R.S.A., 653, and c.462, PL 1999

Veteran means any person who was in active service in the armed forces of the United States and who, if discharged, retired or separated from the armed forces, was discharged, retired, or separated under other than dishonorable conditions. A Veteran of the Vietnam War must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days, any part of which occurred after February 27, 1961 and before May 8, 1975

Election Results Jean Kane, Registrar of Voters

We had a very good turnout for this election, about 60% of the registered voters voted in this election. Let's see if we can do better next election. Results are as follows:

Question 1: Abortion	Yes: 37	No: 196
2: Marijuana	Yes: 180	No: 49
3: Highway bond	Yes: 187	No: 42
4: Hazard Cleanups	Yes: 186	No: 41
5: Digital Broadcast	Yes: 182	No: 49
6: Technical Colleges	Yes: 175	No: 56
7: Public Lands	Yes: 190	No: 42
8: People's Veto	Yes: 180	No: 43
9: Reduce Taxes	Yes: 119	No: 112

Total of 235 registered voters voted, 12 were absentee ballots
395 Reg. voters in Arrowsic: 154 Dem, 88 Rep, 145 U, 6 I n, 2 Green

Kids wanted for Arrowsic's Annual Solstice Performance

contact: Spencer Mann 443-6174 or Jody Jones 443-3697

Every year Arrowsic Kids put together a Solstice Performance at the Town Hall. This year, some of the High School kids will be working with younger kids on Sunday Afternoons to put together a unique show. Performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 19 at 3 pm. Kids from Kindergarten on up are invited to join. No experience needed! For more information, contact Spencer or Jody.

Arrowsic Artworks will not hold a Holiday Showcase this season. For your convenience, we have listed those Arrowsic Artists who do not mind being contacted in their studios for purchase or commission of their works and talents.

A Touch of Glass (Eugenia Knowles) 443-1145
Hand Sculpted Glass

Anderson Glass Art (Avery Anderson) 443-4157
Stained Glass, Etched Glass, and Fused Glass

Noreen Blaiklock 443-3725

Felted Wool Items, Catnip balls, Sheepskins

Sally Brooks and Jayne Elliot 443-6814

Hand and Machine Quilted Items, quilting demonstrations

Clay Soup, Inc. (Jeff Mann) 443-6174

Clay Sculptural Pieces

debi-kos (Debi Gill and Nanako O'Donnell) 442-7022

Assortment of debi-kos available for gift ideas. debi-kos are expressive miniature wire people (2"-3" tall) engaged in a variety of activities. We have ice skaters, skiers, snowshoers, hikers, dancers and angel ornaments to name a few. Please feel free to call.

Phine Ewing 443-9795

Pen and Ink Illustrations, Postcards and Notecards

Pat Harcourt 443-6005

Fine handwovens

Kat Mead-VonHuene 442-8145

Paintings

Patty Olds 443-6174

One of a Kind Silk & Velvet and Chamois & Flannel scarves, wall hangings, and bags

Lucy Pieh 442-7693

One of a kind fabric boxes

Karen Robbins 442-7533

Sculpture and Paintings

Rachel Schlein 443-3209

Little polymer people pins

John Stone 443-1208

Half hull models

Andreas VonHuene 442-8145

Sculpture and public art

Kathy Woell Gallery 443-1760

Sale of Chenille Sweaters! Up to 50% Off!

MTW: 11/22, 11/23, 11/24 1-5 pm

November / December

ALS PLUMBING & HEAT
ARSENAULT, JAMES E
BROWN, CHARLOTTE
CARLTON, ANN
CHAFFEE, JOHN W
COLEMAN, GENE KEVAI
COLLIER, DAVID M
CUNNINGHAM, PAUL
DETWILER, BRIAN W
DRESSER, CAROL H
DUNN, FLOYD L JR
EWELL, RICHARD H

ARSENAULT, JAMES E
BASSETT, KRISTEE
BLAIKLOCK, WILLIAM
BLAIKLOCK, WILLIAM
BRIDGE, ALEXANDER
BRUMMER, KATHLEEN D
CARLTON, JAMES R
COLE, CHARLES D

FITZHERBERT, DAVID
GOWELL, RANDALL R
HEATH, RALPH W
HILTON, WANDA
HINDS, JOHN F
JONES, ANNE MARIE
JORGENSEN, MARK
JORGENSEN, MARK
KENNEY, JUDITH
KIDD, MARK R
MCLUER, PAULINE
MITCHELL, ROBERT D

COLE, CHARLES D
DOWNS, GEORGIA K
DUNN, SALLY K
ELWELL, KIMBERLY
ELWELL, RICHARD H
ELWELL, RONALD
ELWELL, RONALD C
ELWELL, SUSAN

FANDANGO MUSIC
FOSTER, DAVID R
GEIGER, JENNIFER L
GIBERSON, DEBRA

MORRISON, HOWARD
PACKARD, NANCY
PATZLAFF, GARY H
PIEH, LUCY K
RICHARDSON, JOAN
RICHARDSON, JOAN E
ROBBINS, KAREN M
STONE, JOHN F JR
STUART, LISA W
STUART, SCOTT E
WARNER, JASON
WEISS, SANDRA W
WEST, BARBARA

GRILL, MARIA M
GUCKENBURG, GREGOR
HENDRIE, NANCY
JORGENSEN, MARK
KNOWLES, EUGENIE F
MACLEOD, JAMES K
MANN, JEFFERY S
OLDS, PATRICIA A
SCOTT, KEVIN P
STOEBE, JEFFREY A
STURGEON, MAYBELLE
STURGEON
SULLIVAN, TIMOTHY

A Million Thank-yous to Margaret Bertocci, Jerry and Lucy Pieh, Julie and Warren Cerrone, Judy Jones, Albert and Grace Stone, the Spencers, several anonymous donors and anyone I forgot to mention for your generous donations.

Thanks to these folks, we have \$250.00 in the Arrow account and we can continue to publish the Arrow until Town Meeting. Thanks to all for answering the Arrow SOS.

Below is a brief summary of the response we've gotten. I'll print some of the letters in Jan. Arrow (where we'll have room to stretch out a bit).

Briefly, many email folks (9) said send The Arrow via email. If you email your addresses to lwilson@zwi.net, Larry will notify you via email that The Arrow has been posted on the Town website. However (I just realized this), you should know that in order to mail The Arrow as easily as I do (by addressing simply "Resident, HC 33") you will still receive the paper version. The reason I address to "Resident" is so everyone in town receives the Arrow without mailing labels or the constant upkeep of mailing lists (we do not currently have a mailing list of residents in town).

Equal numbers (7) said paid subscription would work as well as a box outside Town Hall, or getting folks to sponsor an issue (as 2 of our anonymous supporters have done). Several (4) were concerned about using town moneys and by implication, losing our freedom of the press. Most (10) were concerned that everyone should receive The Arrow rather than just whoever can afford the price of a subscription. More ideas next month...stay tuned.

Notices and Goings On

Sally Brooks (443-6814) has been thinking about starting a quilting (knitting, crocheting, whatever) group to meet at the Town Hall regularly to work on projects and exchange ideas. Call her if you are interested.

Billie Todd, Publisher of the Georgetown Tide (available from Billie by subscription 371-2667), called to tell me that Arrowsic and Georgetown residents are invited to a Christmas Party at the Robinhood Free Meetinghouse on Dec. 19 from 1-4 pm.

Joan Reynolds is looking for some land to buy and/or a small house/apartment to rent in Arrowsic or Georgetown. You can leave her a message at 442-7061.

Trash Pickup dates for Nov/Dec: **Fri, Nov 12; Mon Nov 29; Fri, Dec 10 and Mon Dec 27.** Y2K schedule in next Arrow.

From Liz Rollins, Tax Collector 443-3658

The following registrations are due in these months (so sorry about the confusion in Oct/Nov last month—editor mixup!)

Have a business or service you'd like listed? Drop your listing in The Town Hall mail slot addressed to The Arrow.

© You will soon gain something you have always wanted but did not dare to hope for. ☺