

## **How the Tax Rate is Set**

The tax rate setting is not a function of local government. Property tax rates are set each fall by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) located in Concord. Consider it a form of check and balance for the community.

To do the calculation each municipality must send in its total assessed value, exemption and credit figures, and its municipal budget. The school district and county also send in their respective budgets and the legislature sets the state education figure.

Once the DRA receives all these items, the tax rate is calculated by dividing the total of the budgets by the total taxable assessed value of the Town or City.

For example, if the total of all the budgets is \$100,000 and the total taxable assessed value of the Town is \$1,000,000, then the tax rate would be \$10 ( $100,000 \div 1,000,000 = .10$  or \$10 per thousand). Though this example is oversimplified, it does provide a realistic model of the process.

Property tax rates across New Hampshire have reached an all-time high, and Lyme is no exception. Residents can play a role in efforts to help keep tax rates in check.

Each taxing authority's respective governing body determines its budget. While residents may have limited input on the exact amount of money to be raised and appropriated, concerns and feedback can still be expressed. Contacting the appropriate groups, such as the Town Budget Committee, Select Board, School Board, County Commissioners and legislators, allows residents to share the desire to reduce spending or explore new revenue sources.

## **Review Your Property Record Card**

Review property record card(s) for data accuracy. The assessed value is only as good as the accuracy of the data on the card.

## **Exemptions and Credits**

The following exemptions and credits are available to eligible property owners.

Elderly, blind, deaf and disabled Exemptions. Veteran regular and disabled credit.

Elderly Exemption: [elderly\\_exemption\\_packet.pdf](#)

Blind Exemption: [blind\\_exemption\\_qualifications\\_and\\_packet\\_0.pdf](#)

Deaf Exemption: [deaf\\_exemption\\_qualification\\_packet\\_0.pdf](#)

Disabled Exemption: [disabled\\_exemption\\_packet\\_0.pdf](#)

Veteran's Credit & Disabled Veteran's Credit: [vet\\_credit\\_packet.pdf](#)

Contact 603-795-4639 for information and questions.