



Gateway to the Blackstone Valley
Millbury, Massachusetts

Finance Committee
Municipal Office Building
127 Elm Street, Millbury, MA 01527

Brian Turbitt, Chairman
Steven Hebert, Vice - Chairman
Julie Fitton - Clerk
Michael O'Connor
Michael Chludenski
Sandra Gaspie, Secretary

May 6, 2008

Dear Millbury Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our Annual Town Meeting (ATM). In this booklet are your Finance Committee recommendations for the coming fiscal year 2009 budget, beginning July 1, 2008. It is your vote that determines the final results. Please understand that additional spending at tonight's meeting could put us over the levy limit. The budget is based on the governor's budget: state aid has not yet been finalized. Changes with a negative impact could require us to return to town meeting until we are able to vote a balanced budget.

The budget is based on the preservation of "level services" for all departments and the budget will allow Millbury to remain under the Proposition 2 ½ Levy Limit. Over half of Millbury's budget (52%) is spent on education, with employee benefits at 15%, public safety at 9%, debt at 7%, public works at 4% and general government at 4%, and sundry expenses at 4%. On the funding (revenue) side property taxes bring in 51%, followed by state funding at 26%, local taxes at 13%, free cash (last year's left over money) at 5% and available transfers at 5%.

Proportionately, the Millbury school budget is our biggest expense. The Millbury School's budget increase is projected to be 8.7%. Massachusetts financial aid for schools (Governor Patrick's Budget) for next year (FY2009) is expected to increase only 4.4%. This will place an increased burden on the Millbury taxpayer to support the budget for schools. This budget provides for replacement of some capital assets (\$150,000) for the Department of Public Works. This department has not been provided with any funding of significance for asset replacement for a number of years.

As in previous years, transparency continues to be a key issue with the Millbury Finance Committee, although improvements have been realized in this current year. Regular financial reporting providing information specified in Millbury's Bylaws, continues to be essential for departments in meeting objectives within committed budgets. Reporting also allows for public scrutiny.

The Finance Committee weighed all aspects of budget requests and held a public hearing for your input. We believe what we are now recommending to be in the best interests of the Town of Millbury. We appreciate your support tonight of our recommendations.

Respectfully,

Millbury Finance Committee