

## Reasons for the Tax Levy Increase

If you missed the special Board meeting regarding the Town Budget and taxes, you may be interested in where your taxes are going and why we needed to increase the mill rate.

### Debt Service

#### Sunnyside Seed Farm

On May 17, 2005, the Town electors approved the Town contributing \$1,250,000 toward the purchase of the Sunnyside Seed Farm by Dane County for a new County park.

#### Schiller Property

On April 11, 2006, the Town electors approved the Town purchasing 15.01 acres of land directly south of the Town Hall for \$1,501,000 that will be used in part for the new Middleton Fire District Station #2.

### Lack of Growth

In the past, much of the yearly increase has been paid for by new residents resulting in little or no increase in taxes paid by the taxpayer. As there has been little growth lately, this is no longer the case and increases are paid for through increased mill rates.

### Past Levies

In the past, the Town Board has worked very hard to keep taxes low. This was with very good intentions but it meant no increase in funds spent on road maintenance while costs went up. In addition, reserves on hand were spent to keep the levy down. This year the Town is putting money aside for maintenance and future replacement of equipment.

### Roads

As mentioned above, the Road budget has not kept up with associated costs. We are now making an adjustment for these increases.

### Middleton Fire District

The Middleton Fire District has increased its budget for 2008, in part due to expenses for its new station, (Town of Middleton's share of the increase is \$120,000) and this is passed along in the Levy.

### State

#### Comprehensive Planning Committee

The State has mandated that all municipalities do a comprehensive plan prior to 2010. This has resulted in \$54,000 of additional expenses incurred by the Town for Facilitators, Maps, Web Resources, and Salaries etc.

#### Road Aids

As has been the case for some time, State Road Aid has not kept pace with increases in the price of asphalt oil. This is especially true in these days of high oil prices. The difference is made up by local taxpayers

### Comparison with other years

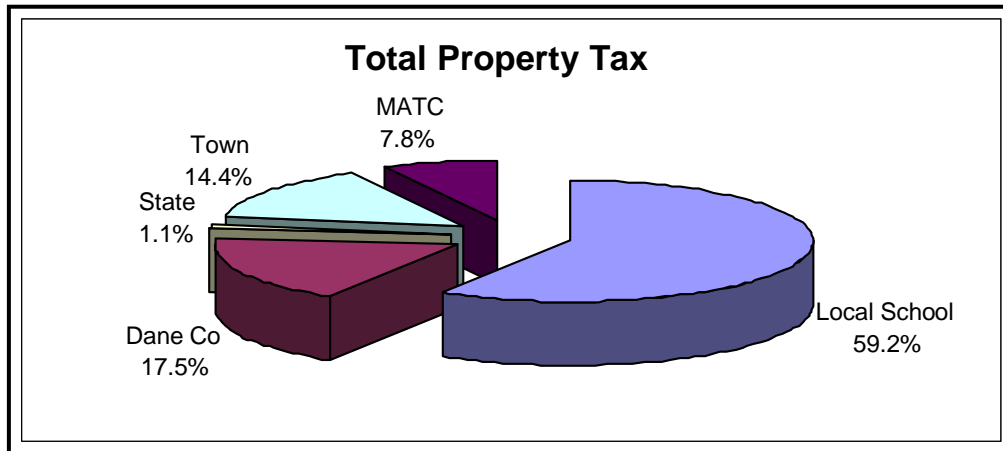
Here is a comparison between this year and some recent years. You will notice that the rates have not changed a great deal.

Mill Rate	2000	% of Total	2005	% of Total	2007	% of Total
Town	\$ 1.47	12.0 %	\$ 2.14	11.8 %	\$ 2.37	14.6 %
Local School*	\$11.37	59.5 %	\$10.90	60.2 %	\$ 9.59	59.0 %
Dane Co.	\$ 3.76	19.7 %	\$ 3.36	18.6 %	\$ 2.85	17.5 %
MATC	\$ 1.47	7.7 %	\$ 1.49	8.2 %	\$ 1.26	7.8 %
State	\$ 0.20	1.1 %	\$ 0.22	1.2 %	\$ 0.18	1.1 %
Total	\$18.27	100.0 %	\$18.11	100.0 %	\$16.24	100.0 %

\*Middleton Cross Plains Area School District used for comparison

## Mill Rate Contributors

Agency	Dollars	Mill Rate
Town	\$2,312,116	2.372276
Dane Co	\$2,810,147	2.850548
State	\$ 176,124	0.178689
MATC	\$1,244,317	1.262433
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District	\$9,398,700	9.589434
Verona Area School District	\$ 56,390	11.297786
Madison Metropolitan School District	\$ 5,824	10.610311
State School Credit	N/A	- 1.438390
MCPASD Total	N/A	14.789003
VASD Total	N/A	16.497354
MMSD Total	N/A	15.809880



## Expenses

The Town expenses are listed below. Over half are due to basic services such as Roads, Police & Fire.

Road Repair	\$762,050	23 %
Tourism	\$ 21,000	1 %
Public Safety	\$685,810	20 %
Reserve	\$200,000	6 %
Debt	\$582,700	17 %
Recreation	\$ 78,820	2 %
Gen. Government	\$555,420	16 %
Planning	\$ 82,320	2 %
Public Works	\$440,910	13 %
Total	\$3,409,030	100 %

