

## Coventry taxpayer

Enclosed is your interim tax bill. **The Town of Coventry is operating under a temporary 90-day budget while we wait for the State of Connecticut to resolve their budget crisis** and provide Coventry with information about the level of revenues we will receive from the State and what, if any, new financial obligations will be mandated by the State. An interim mil rate of 32 mils was established subject to further modification and required town voter authorization.

This alternative process has been reviewed and authorized for this year by the Town Attorney based on State law and court rulings. It will not become a common practice.

**Your real estate tax bill most likely will not equal ½ of your tax obligation for this year, as is usual. Motor vehicle and personal property bills may also require a supplemental bill since they are billed only once per year.**

The governor's revised proposed budget would result in more than \$6 million of lost Town revenue compared to the town's FY 16/17 budget and new obligations may be forced onto the Town. If passed, this could impact Coventry's taxes by as much as 20% (over 6 mils) which could represent an increase of \$900 based on the median household.

There is still an opportunity for the State Legislature to soften the impact of the governor's budget by making additional cuts or raising revenues from other sources. **Once the State adopts its budget, the Coventry Town Council will propose a budget reflecting the State Aid to the Town for the entire year, hold a town meeting and bring it to a vote at referendum.**

The current temporary mil rate reflects a zero increase in the town's overall spending and also reflects the impacts of the cuts the State of Connecticut made in the revenues we received during the last fiscal year, after our budget was in place. This required a mil rate of 32 mils. **Once a permanent budget is in place adjustments may be made tax bill(s) that reflect the final amount of Coventry's budget approved at referendum. Real estate taxes will likely be included in any second payment. Motor vehicles and personal property tax adjustments, if required, will be a supplemental bill.**

This is an extraordinarily unusual and difficult year due to the uncertainty and lack of direction from the State. Please contact the Town Manager or members of the Town Council if you have any questions. Please carefully follow the news and view the minutes and tapes of the Town Council meetings (found on the Town website: [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org)) for additional information.

We encourage you to subscribe to our communication initiatives for the latest information as the budget process unfolds. Subscribe to receive the Town's e-blast, Coventry Community Update, in the "Notify Me" section of our website at <http://www.coventryct.org/list.aspx>. Follow the Town Manager's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoventryCTTownManager/> or email [JElsesser@coventryct.org](mailto:JElsesser@coventryct.org) with questions or concerns. You can also email your Town Council members individually or as a group – see this page of the Town website for information and email links: <http://www.coventryct.org/index.aspx?nid=225>.