

For the Week of July 1, 2019

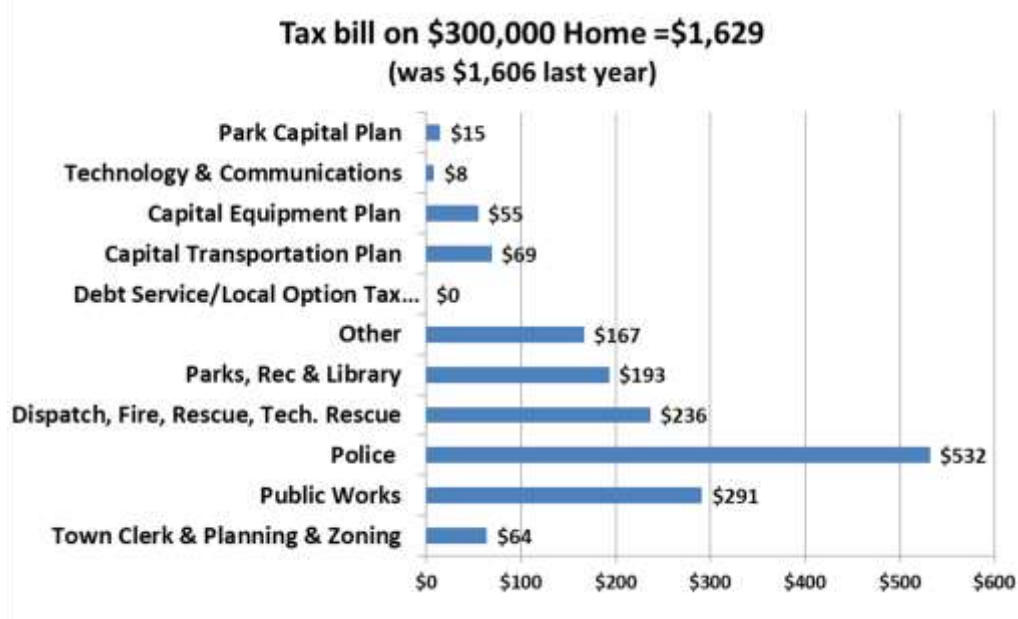
Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

2019-20 Municipal Tax Rate Set

The Colchester Selectboard has set the FY20 Tax Rate at \$0.5429, which is 1.45% higher than this year. The Grand List has increased by 1.13% to \$21,684,000. On a \$300,000 home the municipal tax bill will be \$1,629, or \$23 more than last year. In 2013 the municipal tax bill on the same home was \$1,659.

Wonder how your tax dollars are spent? The graph below is based on the \$1,629 tax bill of a \$300,000 home mentioned above.



Factors contributing to our tax rate:

- Growth and investment in Colchester resulted an increase in property value of \$2,137,741 (10.9%) from 2013 to 2020
- The establishment of a stormwater utility reduces the property tax generated budget by \$387,180.
- The use of local option tax to fund \$517,844 of our voter approved debt that was previously paid by property taxes
- *Selectboard and staff are diligent about containing costs and finding more efficient ways to manage the town using fewer of your tax dollars.*

Check out the comparison chart below. Colchester has the third lowest property tax among the listed inner Chittenden county communities, based on 2017-18 tax rate information and the 2017 census:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Williston | \$ 547 |
| Essex Town | \$ 642 |
| Colchester | \$ 663 |
| Burlington | \$ 733 |
| Winooski | \$ 743 |
| So. Burlington | \$ 798 |
| Essex Jct. | \$ 867 |
| Average | \$713 |

For more about the Town Manager’s Office visit <http://colchestervt.gov/manager> or call (802) 264-5509.

Finance Department
Lara Aley, Director of Finance

- **FY19 Budget Update:** Eleven months through the fiscal year we are at a net positive position of 3.2%. Revenues are currently trending under budget and being offset by lower than budgeted expenditures. Revenues are higher than expenses by \$416,177.
- **Local Option Tax Fund:** As of May 31, 2019 the balance of the Local Option Tax Fund (with use restricted to voter-approved capital projects) is \$3,031,520. In FY19, we have received \$1,269,164 in revenue and made \$594,462 in payments for such projects.
- Do you have questions about how the LOT works? For answers to commonly asked LOT questions, see the informative LOT presentation (PDF format) on our website at: <http://bit.ly/Colchester-LOT>

For more about the Finance Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/317/Finance-Department> or call (802) 264-5655.

For further information or comment, please call Linda Gustainis at 802.264.5509

Police Department
Douglas Allen, Police Chief

- **Speeding Complaints:** We have received a large number of complaints involving speeding vehicles and reckless driving around our community. Now that school is out and there are more pedestrians and bicyclists on the roads we ask everyone to be aware when driving. We have placed new electronic speed signs at several locations around town and we will be following up with enforcement action. **Please, buckle up, slow down, and put down the phone.**
- **New CPD Officer:** Officer Jennifer Czachor (pronounced “Za-her”) has completed her training and is patrolling our community. We have other officers attending training in drug interdiction, professional standards investigations, and interviewing techniques.
- **Fireworks:** A reminder about fireworks! They remain **unlawful to possess and ignite in our state and in our community**—as well as being incredibly dangerous. From Vermont Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety –*“In Vermont all fireworks (not including Sparklers and other novelty smoke devices) are illegal except for permitted, supervised public fireworks displays. Fireworks are dangerous and unpredictable, especially in the hands of amateurs. All too often Fireworks result in serious burns, hearing loss and other injuries due to miss-use. Public fireworks displays conducted by trained professionals and supervised by local fire departments are a good alternative to personal fireworks use. These displays are the smartest and safest way to enjoy fireworks.”*
- Over the past four weeks, CPD officers responded to 1168 calls for service. These calls resulted in 42 arrests. These arrests were for violations that included Felony Domestic Assault, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Grossly Negligent Vehicle Operation, among others.

For more about Colchester Police Department visit <http://colchestervt.gov/police> or call (802) 264-5556 (non-emergency).

Rescue and Technical Rescue Squads
Scott Crady, Rescue Chief

- Colchester Rescue and Technical Rescue hosted participants of the summer camp “Hall of Heros” this week. We all had a great time showing our station,

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demonstrating our equipment and seeing the children's skills in coloring and problem solving.

- We welcome our 2 new volunteers, Amber LaFountain and Colby Fischer, both are certified as EMTs. Amber is assigned to the Friday Day-shift and Colby to Thursday night-shift.
- There were 129 emergency medical calls in the last 30 days, compared to 132 calls last year for this time frame.
- We anticipate ending FY19 with a total call volume of approximately 1,670, this is an increase of approximately 220 EMS incidents from FY18.



The crew practicing full spinal immobilization!

For more about Colchester Rescue, please visit <http://colchestervt.gov/rescue> or call (802) 264-5990.

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Upcoming Town Meetings:

- **Planning Commission:** 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00 PM. Next July meeting: 7/16.
- **Development Review Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM. July meeting: 7/10
- **Recreation Advisory Board:** 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7:00 AM. *Champlain Room, 2nd floor.* July meeting: 7/10
- **Conservation Commission:** 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, at the Bayside Activity Center or per agenda. July meeting: 7/15
- **Selectboard:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 PM. July meetings: 7/9
- **Colchester Cemetery Advisory Committee:** 3rd Thursday of the month (or per agenda) 8:00 AM in the Champlain Room, 2nd floor. Next meeting: 7/18
- **Library Trustees:** 3rd Thursday of the month, 4:30-5:30 PM *at Burnham Memorial Library.* Next meeting: 7/18

(All meetings take place at the Colchester Town Offices, 781 Blakely Road, in the Outer Bay Conference Room on the 3rd floor unless otherwise noted.)

Upcoming events:

- **49th Annual 4th of July Celebration:** Thursday, July 4. See full schedule at: <http://colchestervt.gov/363/4th-of-July-Celebration>
- **Summer Concert Series:** Thursdays, 7/11 – 8/1, 7 PM at Lower Bayside. See full schedule at: <http://colchestervt.gov/551/Summer-Concert-Series>
- **Sunset SUP & Sip:** Friday, 7/19, 7:30– 10:30 PM at Bayside Beach. Cider tasting provided by Shacksbury. Must be 21+ to register. Sign up at: <http://bit.ly/WebTracColchester>
- **35th Annual Colchester Triathlon:** Sunday, 7/28 at Bayside Park. Race begins at 8:30 AM. Registration is OPEN! Visit <http://www.colchestertri.com/> for details.

Notices:

- **The CSWD Rover is coming to Colchester on Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 9 AM to 1 PM at Malletts Bay School!** You may drop off hazardous waste such as automotive fluids, chemicals, pesticides, fertilizers, paints, stains, etc. NO explosives, medications or asbestos please.



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