



Town of Windham

Town Offices
8 School Road
Windham, Maine

Cover Sheet

File Number: 16-101

Agenda Date: 8/23/2016

Version: 1

Status: Agenda Ready

In Control: Town Council

File Type: Order

I. Council Action Requested.

To set the tax rate for 2016-2017 at \$15.70 per thousand dollars of assessed value.

II. Basis for Council Action.

Council approval of this item is required because;

- a. Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Charter the approval of the budget at budgetary town meeting established " the amount of the levy for the purposes of the Town in corresponding fiscal year," and
- b. Pursuant to Article II, Section 3(I) of the Charter the Town Council has the authority to "[e]xercise all the legislative, financial, borrowing and other powers now or hereafter given by statute to inhabitants of towns acting in Town Meeting."

III. Issue Summary.

The budget approved at budgetary town meeting establishes the amount to be raised for town and school purposes. The amount of the levy also includes the Town's share of RSU expenses, county taxes, and an amount for overlay, which can only be set by the legislative body. Overlay is the amount in addition to the amount to be raised which accounts for rounding of tax amounts and to cover the amount of reasonably anticipated abatements of value during the coming year.

A memo from the assessor and copy of the tax rate worksheet are attached. At \$15.70 per thousand the total proposed tax rate is 3.6% higher than for 2015-2016.

Overlay for last year was \$44,080 compared to \$55,912 with the tax rate as proposed. To the extent overlay, which is used to offset tax abatements, remains unused it lapses to fund balance and helps stabilize the town's overall finances, budget and tax rates in the future. Abatements granted by the assessor were \$35,859 for last year.