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On the evening of November 9, 2017 during a joint Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee Meeting- Selectman Ryan Thibeault and Chairman Andrew Rawson were able to set the tax rate at \$25.89. Careful deliberation, and financial planning allowed the Selectmen to arrive at this rate and save your valuable tax dollars. The Board of Selectman in Milton is very cognizant of the implications the tax rate has on all the tax payers in the Town of Milton. They are delighted to report to the Community that with careful planning, management, including frugal collaboration among all your Town Departments, has resulted in them being able to again decrease the tax burden. To assist in accomplishing this reduction your Selectman elected to use \$500,000 of the fund balance to buy down the tax rate for the Town of Milton, had they not done so, your tax rate would have been \$27.09. As you are aware the fund balance must be maintained for a catastrophic emergencies and to reduce the tax rate. When used to reduce taxes there must be a healthy level left in the fund balance within normal Department of Revenue Administration recommended guidelines to ensure that funds are available should an unexpected emergency, catastrophe or if an urgent unfunded mandate were to occur. They fund balance cannot be exhausted in any calendar year because to do so would artificially lower the tax rate and not truly reflect the cost to operate the services of the municipality. Your selectmen weighed all factors then proceeded judiciously and with all Tax payers in mind on the advice of DRA and our Town's Finance Director. The Town of Milton has met all recommendations by DRA and strived to serve the fiscal needs of the Town and its residents.

2016 Town Portion	\$ 7.99	2017 Town Portion	\$7.47
2016 Local School Portion	\$15.09	2017 Local School Portion	13.84
2016 State School	\$2.40	2017 State School	2.03
<u>2016 County</u>	<u>\$2.92</u>	<u>2017 County</u>	<u>2.55</u>
TOTAL:	\$28.40	TOTAL	\$ 25.89

The Selectman will continue to seek to entrepreneurial ways to stabilize and enhance the tax base and attract new business to Town. If you have any ideas that you would like to share with the Selectman please contact them directly or the Town Hall at 652-4501. Thank you for your support and help.