

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

By the time that you have this report in hand, the new town website will have been activated, and among other things, our Annual Town Reports will be available in the Board of Assessors section. Everyone will be able to easily access applications for abatements of real estate taxes, personal property and motor vehicle excise. Exemptions for veterans, seniors over 70, those who are blind and others, as well as charitable institutions will be included as well as brochures that explain the requirements for receiving them in addition to the benefits they provide. Annually filed chapter land forms, including a Chapter 61 comparison chart will be there as well. There are miscellaneous forms included, FAQs and a section of additional information. Our section will also include our online property cards and assessors maps. We hope to be able to post reminders for those required to file applications or annual forms, (which because of their signature requirements must still be mailed or hand delivered) as well as keeping you informed of where and when we will be doing our field work and cyclical inspections. We are excited to be able to provide such expanded access to our office online in a continuing effort to make it easier for everyone to understand what we do and to get what you need.

Last year, the voters stood beside us in our request to raise funds to digitize our tax maps. We are currently coming to the end of what has proved to be a complicated process. Working with Cartographic Associates, Inc., our mapping company, we have matched each map to its' corresponding property record card(s). What sounds easy has proved challenging, especially where it involves some massive amounts of state owned land that have been combined by them over many years. Once this step has been verified, our new maps will be easily accessible online from our website. Additional information about their capabilities will be posted as well.

In normal times, the upcoming fiscal year would see our town in the midst of a revaluation. However, the Department of Revenue has seen fit to postpone our next revaluation until Fiscal Year 2015. With that in mind, they have also included the reminder that it is time for us to begin another round of cyclical inspections. We will be working on a plan and will keep you posted on its details, as they become available. Watch the Additional Information section of our new website! We will also be sending out letters to those who have purchased homes in town over the past couple of years. We would hope that those new taxpayers would complete and return the questionnaires. It is an effort to confirm accurate information and assure proper assessments for all. We would thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

This year, even with the uptick in the economy, it is interesting to note that while it took some time for Worthington to initially feel the pinch of the tighter economy in the decline of our property values, it is also taking us a longer time to see those values turnaround. To date, Worthington's values are holding steady. The good news is that our tax bills in 2012 reflected our situation in that the average taxpayer saw his bill drop by about \$66.00.

The Fiscal Year 2013 Tax Recapitulation breakdown follows:

Local Expenditures:

Appropriations	\$	3,159,377.37
Cherry Sheet Offsets		1,449.00
State & County Cherry Sheet Charges		1,686.00
Assessors' Overlay		<u>20,615.71</u>
Gross Amount to be Raised	\$	3,159,377.37

Estimated Receipts and Available Funds:

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$	217,485.00
Local Estimated Receipts		163,100.00
Free Cash		175,964.00
Other Available Funds		<u>429,422.39</u>
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	\$	985,971.39

Gross Amount to be Raised	\$	3,159,377.37
Total Estimated Receipts & Available Funds	-	<u>985,971.39</u>
Net Amount to be Raised	\$	2,173,405.98

Real Property Values	\$	157,499,433.00
Personal Property Values		5,180,655.00
Total	\$	162,680,088.00

Fiscal Year 2013 tax rate is \$13.36 per thousand, a decrease of \$0.17 from last year.

Please feel free to stop in during our Tuesday evening meetings beginning at 7:30 PM or contact us at 238-5577 extension 104. Voice mail is available.

Respectfully submitted:

John Fosnot, Chairman
Beverly J. Bowman
Jean Boudreau