

Do You Know Where Your Taxes Go?

The monthly ritual of household finance is familiar to us all. You pay your gas and electric bill to the power company, your car insurance bill to your insurance company, your water bill to the water authority, your food bill to the grocery store, and so on.

Now imagine this: imagine if you were only allowed to pay all of those expenses at one place, the corner convenience store, which then would distribute it to the different service providers. Electricity, gas, water, insurance, food, the works. Eventually you'd think, *"Wow! I'm really paying a fortune to that corner store!"*

This describes exactly how local property taxes are paid in New York. The State mandates it. School tax, County tax, Town tax are only allowed to be paid at one place – Town Hall. Many people think, *"Wow! I'm really paying a fortune to the Town!"*

Actually, you're not. Out of the total property tax you pay in a year – Town, School and County taxes altogether – less than 8% represents property tax imposed by the Town of Pittsford.

The other 92% of your property tax you pay to the School District and to the County – not to the Town.

The average assessed value of a house in Pittsford is \$275,072. Total property tax – Town, School and County tax combined – on a house assessed at that value, for the twelve months ending June 30, 2015, was \$10,814.

Here's the breakdown:

School District -	\$6,899
County -	\$3,108
Town -	\$807

\$807.00. That's the total amount of tax the Town of Pittsford, itself, levied on that homeowner. That's the portion the Town, itself, gets from the entire annual property tax payment by the owner of that house.

That \$807 is what pays for all the municipal services provided by the Town. They include our library, our parks, road maintenance and plowing, our recreation programs, leaf and branch pickup and all of the other town services you've come to depend upon.

It's important to know this, in order to keep your eye on the ball and to understand who's levying the taxes, who you're really paying, and for what.

You can reach me by phone at 248-6220 or by e-mail at bsmith@townofpittsford.org. You are always welcome stop in to see me if you're coming by Town Hall.