



# Town of Natick Summer 2009 Newsletter

Issued by *Martha White,*  
*Town Administrator*

## Natick Board of Selectmen

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Joshua Ostroff, Vice Chair  
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John Connolly

Town of Natick, Massachusetts

13 East Central Street

Natick, Massachusetts

01760

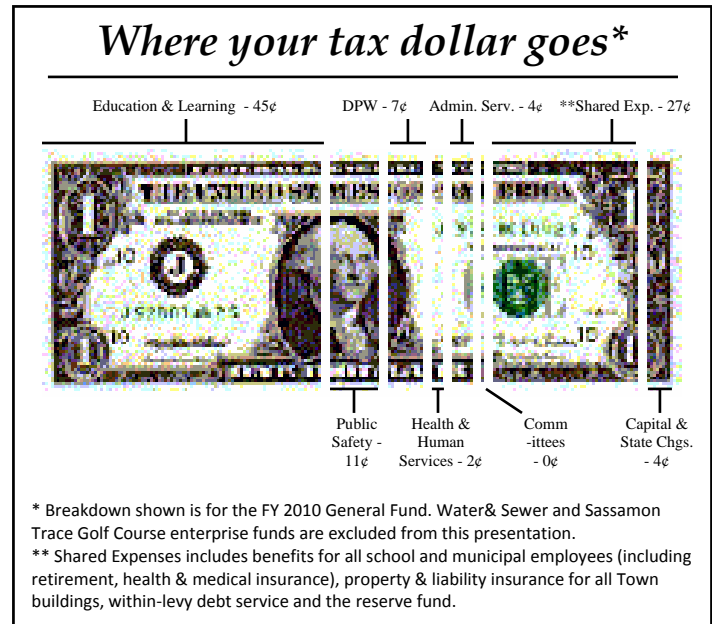
This issue of the Town Administrator's newsletter is devoted largely to explaining the Town's budget and to inform you - the taxpayer - where your money goes. This Budget Summary has been designed to inform everyone in the simplest manner possible how the Town of Natick raises and spends the money it collects to provide a wide variety of government services. Included in this summary are breakouts of revenues, expenditures, a summary of the services provided and even an estimate as to what the taxes will be on a median single-family home this upcoming fiscal year. We hope this summary will be useful and signifies our continued commitment to responsive, transparent and understandable government.

Building the Fiscal Year 2010 budget (which begins July 1, 2009) was among the hardest in recent memory. Intensive thought and deliberations spanning the late fall, winter and spring among elected officials, appointed officials and Town staff culminated in the Spring Annual Town Meeting approval of \$116,187,211 in total expenditures between the three major funds operated by the Town of Natick - the general fund (totaling \$101,730,415) the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund (totaling \$13,530,366) and the Golf Course Enterprise Fund (totaling \$926,430).

Besides the budget, other items of note this newsletter include:

### Police Chief Retirement/Interim Chief Appointment

Police Chief Dennis Mannix is retiring after serving the Town of Natick in this capacity for over 20 years. Chief Mannix has led the Natick Police Department during times of change and modernization and has consistently been a champion of professionalism and innovation in public safety. Chief Mannix will be missed, and we wish him well in his retirement. *More on the reverse of this page* →



### Taxes for Home of Median Value

(median home value = \$408,600)

	FY 2009	FY 2010
Base Levy Amount	\$ 4,118	\$ 4,530
Allowable Prop. 2.5% Increase	\$ 103	\$ 113
Override (approved March 2008)	\$ 250	\$ 0
Excluded Debt (Wilson M.S.)	\$ 60	\$ 58
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,531</b>	<b>\$ 4,701</b>

**Notes:**  
1) Estimates ONLY. Actual bills will be calculated after Selectmen approve final tax rates in December 2009. 2) Assumes no change in assessed values. 3) Assumes no change in median value from FY 2009. 4) Tax bill is inclusive of all property taxes charged by the Town of Natick. Does not include Water & Sewer Rates/Costs.

## Services Provided

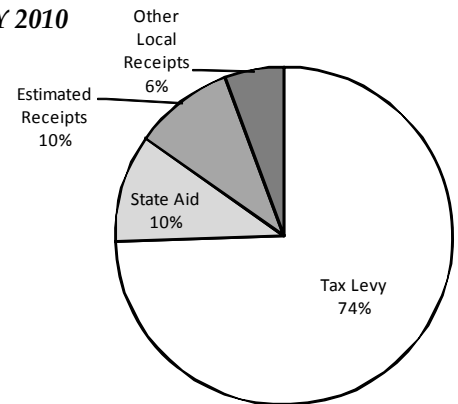
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| <p><b>Education &amp; Learning</b><br/>Primary and Secondary Schooling (K-12), Joseph P. Keefe High School, Morse Institute Library, Bacon Free Library</p> | <p><b>Public Safety</b><br/>Emergency Management, Patrol &amp; Enforcement, Traffic Control, Criminal Investigation, Fire Suppression, Fire Investigation, Fire Prevention &amp; Emergency Medical Services, Dispatch</p> | <p><b>Public Works</b><br/>Public Building Maintenance, Engineering Services, Snow Removal, Street Maintenance, Recycling &amp; Refuse Collection &amp; Disposal, Parks &amp; Forestry &amp; Natural Resource Maintenance</p> | <p><b>Health &amp; Human Services</b><br/>Council on Aging &amp; Human Services, Youth Services, Veterans Affairs, Public Health, Recreation Services &amp; Programs</p> | <p><b>Administrative Services</b><br/>Selectmen, Town Administrator, Legal Services, Finance, Information Technology, Town Clerk &amp; Elections, Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures, Parking Enforcement, Building Inspection, Conservation, Planning &amp; Zoning Enforcement</p> |
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**Revenues**

Funding for services provided to Natick residents comes from a variety of sources. The Town is witnessing declines in its revenue stream as a result of the economic downturn. State Aid and Estimated Receipts have dropped over 14% and 8% respectively since FY

**Revenues FY 2010**



2009. Total budgeted revenue for FY 2010 is \$116,187,211. Changes since FY 2009 are shown to the left.

Major funds of revenue include:

- General Fund (Property Tax Levy, State Aid, Local Receipts)
- Enterprise Funds (Water/Sewer, Sassamon Trace Golf Course)
- Other Local Funds (Free Cash, Stabilization Fund, Overlay Surplus Water/Sewer Indirect Cost Transfers)

**Revenue Trends - FY 2010 vs. FY 2009**

	↓ State Aid*	↓ Local Receipts	↓ Other Local Funds
FY10	\$10,533,589	\$9,686,423	\$5,817,267
FY09	\$12,341,007	\$10,607,283	\$6,357,196
	↑ Property Tax Levy	↑ Enterprise Funds	
FY10	\$75,693,136	\$14,456,796	
FY09	\$73,083,995	\$14,073,699	

\* FY 2010 figure subject to final state budget approval.

**Expenditures**

Expenditures total \$116,187,211, which amounts to an approximate 0.24% decrease from FY 2009.

The FY 2010 budget decrease was required due to the lack of sufficient revenues to keep up with budget requests and service demands. Original requests were pared down by over \$5.1 million dollars to the approved level at Town Meeting. Efficiencies, including realigning departmental responsibilities, elimination of some cost-of-living adjustments, and realigning the pay plan for some employees were implemented along with program reductions, sporadic building closures (including the Morse Institute Library on Sundays) and continued hiring and purchasing freezes.

Even with these efforts, fixed cost increases in the areas of health care, pensions, regional schools, debt service and snow removal will be a reality in FY 2010. The Town will continue to work diligently to curb these cost drivers in future years.

**Major Expenditure Categories**

	FY 2009	FY 2010
↓ Education & Learning (Schools + Libraries)	\$46,812,805	\$45,270,378
↓ Municipal (General Government)	\$25,159,599	\$24,277,501
↑ Shared Exp. (Benefits, Within-Levy Debt)	\$26,430,482	\$27,722,159
↑ Enterprise Funds (Water/Sewer, Golf Course)	\$14,073,699	\$14,456,796
↑ Misc. (Capital, Reserves, Exempt Debt, etc.)	\$4,286,994	\$4,460,377
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$116,463,180</b>	<b>\$116,187,211</b>

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Residents are welcome to attend his retirement party and may contact Ms. Florance Azzariti at [flossaz@gmail.com](mailto:flossaz@gmail.com) or 654-8070 for further information.

The Selectmen have appointed Lt. Nicholas Mabardy as Interim Police Chief; we look forward to his leadership over the coming months and thank him for taking on this challenging role.

**New Director for the Morse Institute Library**

Ms. Linda Stetson has been appointed as the Director of the Morse Institute Library; she will begin work on July 20. Ms. Stetson was most recently the Director of the Millis Public Library and brings a wealth of experience – as well

as creativity and passion – to the position. We look forward to her arrival and many opportunities to collaborate with and learn from her.

**Grupposo Brothers Square**

On Memorial Day, May 25, the Town dedicated the corner of Garfield and Morse Streets as Grupposo Brothers Square. Sebastian, Robert, Joseph and Vincent served in World War II, while Anthony served in Korea. Sebastian was unable to attend the dedication, but family members brought him the dedication plaque made up at the DPW.

Sadly, Sebastian passed away a few days later. He honorably served as a Town Meeting Member, constable, veteran's

agent, parking clerk and Housing Authority Board member, and will be missed for his warmth, wisdom and civic spirit.

**Arena Brothers Square**

On Saturday, May 30, the corner of Farwell and Cottage Streets was dedicated to the six Arena brothers who served our nation: retired Police Chief John Arena, Sal, Frank, Joe and Tony served in World War II, while Jim fought in Korea.

We are all fortunate to live and serve in a community that respects its veterans and its heritage. Many thanks to the Town employees, departments and volunteers that work together to establish these tributes, including the Police and Fire Department Color Guards.