



# LITTLE COMPTON TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## • • NEWSLETTER • •

PO Box 455, Adamsville, RI 02801

E-Mail: Taxpayers@cox.net Web: www.LCTaxpayers.com

May 15, 2009 Vol. X, No. 1

### Officers

Chairman: Bob Hayden  
1st Vice Chair: Roy Bonner  
2nd Vice Chair: Joe Quinn  
Sec/Treas: Roger Lord

## SPECIAL EDITION - TAX RATE GOING DOWN!

**Fiscal 2010 Budget:** Earlier this year, the Board of Directors of the Little Compton Taxpayers Association met and discussed the town budget in these economic hard times. The conclusion was that next year's tax rate (Fiscal Year 2010) should not go up at all; not a single penny. The taxpayers, especially those who have been adversely affected by the downturn in the economy, need a break and now is the time to give them one. This is only the second one in 20 years.



**Announcement:** THE TAX RATE IS EXPECTED TO DROP BY A PENNY AS OF JULY 1st!

The Town Council, the School Committee, and the Budget Committee all worked together to bring about this rather rare occurrence in Little Compton. All are to be commended for their hard and productive work.

### Hold your horses!

Do you remember the disastrous Financial Town Meeting of 2005 that went on for three evenings? Do you remember why this happened?

There was an unruly mob of rude people led by Mike Harrington who decided amongst themselves that the school budget should be higher (Mr. Harrington now heads the School Committee). They made a motion to **INCREASE** the school budget by nearly \$600,000 without a single idea of what the money would be used for. The School Committee had not asked for that increase and didn't support the increase.

The motion was defeated by a vote of 252-to-233. It was close. But they weren't done. They kept popping up with other motions, each one being slightly smaller than the previous. Each time, the motions were defeated by alarmingly small margins. The budget was ultimately passed by dropping the School Budget by ONE DOLLAR! ...after three grueling nights of battle.

### This could happen again!

Make sure you attend the Financial Town Meeting on May 19th to protect yourself against any possible repeats of what could be described as an angry mob agenda.

**The School Slush Fund:** The School Department currently has approximately \$850,000 in "carry-over" and other unexpended funds and continues to increase it. Carry-over funds are taxpayer dollars that were appropriated to the school but not spent. Instead of the money being returned to the taxpayers, the school simply "carries over" the money into the next year.

This year, the School Committee made some cuts to help keep the tax rate at zero. While the cuts that were made are appreciated, there were more cuts that could have been made with no effect on the education program. Almost all of the proposals, made by Joe Quinn, were defeated on a 4-to-1 vote. Those voting NO were Mike Harrington, Don Gomez, Lynn Brousseau Lebreux, and Micah Shapiro. The Tax Rate could have dropped even more if it hadn't been for these four people. See the video on our website and see a sampling of how it went down ending in laughter directed at one citizen in the audience whose property tax went up \$500 in a single year. He supported the cuts. They didn't. ([www.LCTaxpayers.com](http://www.LCTaxpayers.com)).

**New School:** Not unexpectedly, the School Facility Needs Committee recommended building a new school to the School Committee. Actually, their recommended plan is to retain the gym, retain the original school building built in 1929, tear down everything else, and put up new buildings for classrooms and other functions. They estimate the cost to be \$23-Million (not including interest). The State claims it will kick in 33%... once the school is occupied. Expect some public meetings this summer to sell the idea, and a Special Financial Town Meeting near the end of summer to garner taxpayer dollars for the project. That will be the subject of our next newsletter.

**Pension Fund:** There's a new "600-pound gorilla" forming because of falling markets and generosity in labor contracts. It's the pension fund. In order to stay afloat, this year's contribution will have to be \$424,375 (not counting the teachers). Last year it was \$338,040. Five years ago it was \$281,263. It's time that town employees start contributing to their own pensions as most employees in the private sector do. Talk to the Town Council!

**Web Site:** Have you seen our web site lately? We've added video clips of events and public officials saying things that you ought to know about. Take a look...

[www.LCTaxpayers.com](http://www.LCTaxpayers.com)

**Elections:** Members of the Budget Committee and Beach Commission are elected at the Financial Town meeting. We support George Crowell, Scott Morrison, and Bill Monahan for Budget Committee; and Art Jones and Joe Rocha for Beach Commission.

**We Need Your Financial Support:** In order to continue sending you our newsletters and running our web site, we need your financial support. Printing and mailing costs have risen making it difficult to continue our effort. Please give us your financial support (see the reverse side)

Little Compton Taxpayers Association  
PO Box 455  
Adamsville, RI 02801

Bulk Rate  
US Postage  
Paid  
Little Compton  
RI  
Permit No 4

POSTAL CUSTOMER

**\*\* TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER \*\***

**LITTLE COMPTON TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM** (Vol. X, No. 1)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
(For couples, please provide both first names)

OFFICE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Home Address**  Check if year-round address

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Home Address**  From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Day)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION: \$15 (Single) \$25 (Family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Other)

Mail this form and your contribution to: Little Compton Taxpayers Association  
PO Box 455  
Adamsville, RI 02801