

Dear Thurman Residents

The proposed 2023 budget has a tax rate of 7.18. This rate is much higher than the 2022 rate due to the fact that no fund balance is being used to lower the rate. Last year \$305,379 of fund balance was used to keep the rate low. That resulted in our tax levy limit being \$859,255. This year the proposed taxes to be raised is \$1,223,027, which is \$363,772 over the tax cap. A tax cap override will allow this to happen without penalty.

The primary reason for this is the town board would like to go ahead with the plans for the highway garage. Having money in the bank, instead of using it to keep taxes low, will be useful for bank loan collateral and/or grant matching.

The highway garage was inspected by the Department of Labor and had quite a few violations (ventilation system, furnace, electric, bay doors, stairs, ramp, main beam and a lack of sufficient space to walk around the trucks, etc). The cost of repairs will be excessive. Also, the trucks do not fit in the garage with the plows on them, which makes it necessary for the crew to put the plows on before plowing, outside in the cold, and then remove them before putting the trucks in the garage. Not all equipment fits in the garage and must be kept outside in the weather.

A new highway garage at the landfill location will open up plenty of opportunities for the town, such as running water and a bathroom for the landfill employees, eliminating the need for the port o john that has been an expense for years. The old garage can then become a Free Store and the water can be relocated to the Youth building. Then the Youth building bathroom will be functional, and a concession stand can be built for use at events.

The Ice Rink was delivered yesterday, and I would also like to see sledding, cross country skiing, equipment rental and a concession stand for hot chocolate and food. This would be a source of revenue for the town. The Ice Rink was purchased with a Generous Acts Grant.

The town also has three large payments due each year for the new highway truck, the new loader, and the garbage truck. These total \$157,766.05 per year for 2023 and 2024. Once the garbage truck arrives, the town board has discussed going to curb side garbage pick up. Residents who pay for this service will save on that monthly fee and for most residents the savings will exceed their increase in taxes.

The C&D is required to be closed within ten years and the town is required to put \$50,000 each year away toward the cost of closing. The C&D must be monitored by the engineer throughout the process.

The town board would also like to see the cracked sidewalk repaired and the town hall building painted. All of these expenses take money and planning. I hope you will support these additional expenses and understand that a few hundred dollars in additional tax will make a huge difference in our town.

The 2023 rate is \$2.24 per thousand higher than the 2022 rate.
Here is an example of the 2023 tax rate's affect on a homeowner.

| Assessed Value | Increase over last year |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 100,000 | 224.00 |
| 150,000 | 336.00 |
| 200,000 | 448.00 |
| 250,000 | 560.00 |
| 300,000 | 672.00 |

