

School tax rate rises in Pownal

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POWNAL — The town's homestead education tax rate is up 9 cents this year, according to a letter the Select Board received from the state at Thursday's meeting.

Last year, the homestead education tax rate was \$1.47 per \$100 of a property's assessed value. This year, the homestead education tax rate is \$1.56. The nonresidential rate last year was \$1.54 per \$100 of a property's assessed value, and has jumped this year by 17 cents.

The education tax rate is set by the state and is added to the municipal tax rate for a total. Board Chairman Nelson Brownell said the town does not plan to set its tax rate until August.

The education tax rate is affected by the town's common level of appraisal (CLA), which is a figure applied by the state to equalize appraisal values among towns. The rate is based on the comparison of property sales within the town over the last three years to the value of the grand list. According to the Vermont Department of Taxes, Pownal's current CLA is 79.11 percent, which is down from a CLA of 88.55 in 2008.

The board also received a letter from the state ordering it to have the town's grand list reappraised. The board already voted in December 2008 to go ahead with a town-wide reappraisal to be performed by Bailey Appraisal Associates. Michael Bailey, the company's president, said the reappraisal would cost between \$100,000 and \$145,000.

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