

Summary of Appropriations and Revenues

APPROPRIATIONS & OTHER EXPENDITURES

Total Appropriations of Town Meeting	\$21,078,623.88
Overlay Deficits-Prior Year	0.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets	7,210.00
State and County Charges	56,951.00
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	98,854.08

TOTAL \$21,241,638.96

ANTICIPATED REVENUES

Property Tax Levy \$14,616,154.08

State Distributions

Government Aid	586,397.00
Police Career Incentive	5,507.00
Exemption Reimbursements	31,731.00
State Owned Land	18,275.00
Public Libraries	7,210.00
Veteran's Benefits	6,397.00
Mass. School Building Authority Payments	1,034,230.00

Local-Non-property Tax Revenues (anticipated)

Motor Vehicle Excise	980,000.00
Other Excise	8,000.00
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	51,000.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	567,022.00
Other Charges for Services	119,000.00
Fees	27,000.00
Departmental Revenues - Cemeteries	8,700.00
Departmental Revenue – Other	43,000.00
Licenses and Permits	170,000.00
Fines and Forfeits	77,000.00
Investment Income	20,000.00
Miscellaneous – Non-recurring	42,000.00

Other

Free Cash	589,572.00
Other Available Funds	1,251,689.88
Water Enterprise	981,754.00

TOTAL REVENUES \$21,241,638.96

How Your Tax Dollars Are Spent

Based on Operating Budgets

SERVICES/DEPARTMENTS	BUDGET%	BUDGET\$
Public Safety		2,327,521
Cultural/Recreation		379,993
Debt Service		1,963,220
Street Lights		36,500
Insurance/Benefits		1,444,220
General Government		867,851
Human Services		180,116
General Government Expenses		1,833,361
Public Works		1,524,009
Schools		9,669,238

TOTAL TO BE SPENT 100% \$20,226,035

Approximate Cost of Services to the Average Homeowner

TOWN SERVICE	AVERAGE TAXES
Ambulance	65.84
Cultural/Recreation	94.15
Debt Service	512.16
Fire Protection	106.37
General Expenses/Benefits	387.90
General Government	254.30
Human Services	41.59
Inspectional Services	29.08
Police Protection	345.10
Public Works	364.18
Schools	2,303.00

TOTAL AVERAGE TAX BILL \$4,416.94

(Based on average, single family home valuation of \$296,400)

Town of Sterling Valuation and Tax Summary

Fiscal Year 2011



Compliments of
The Sterling Board of Assessors
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THE ROLE OF ASSESSORS IN MUNICIPAL FINANCE

In Sterling, three members of the Board of Assessors are elected to three-year terms. The assessors' primary responsibility is to value all real estate and personal property subject to taxation. Assessed valuations are based on "full and fair cash value" as of January 1st preceding each fiscal year.

In order to maintain assessments at or near market value, the assessors' regularly compare property valuations with the selling prices of properties that have sold. Based on their findings, the assessors make appropriate value adjustments to keep valuations in line with the market.

No valuation methodology can accurately predict what a property will sell for. Perhaps a more important role of the Board of Assessors is to generate equitable assessments. To that end we continually strive to maintain an accurate property database and refine valuation tables and formulas that yield both equitable and explainable assessments.

Taxpayers are invited to ask questions about their assessments. A computer is available outside our office, enabling the public to review property records.

PROPOSITION 2 ½

Under Proposition 2½, Massachusetts' cities and towns are limited in the total property taxes that can be collect from one year to the next. Tax revenues cannot exceed 2½ percent of the prior year's allowable levy, with exceptions for revenue derived from new construction, and citizen override elections. Prop 2½ limitations do not extend to individual tax bills. Whether assessments increase or decrease, tax rates are adjusted annually to raise revenues required to fund local government operations.

ABATEMENTS

All taxpayers have the right to file for an abatement of their taxes if they believe that their property has not been fairly valued. Applications for abatement are due on or before the due date of the 3rd quarter bill (normally February 1st). Information regarding abatement procedures and filing deadlines can be found on tax bills, or can be obtained by calling the Assessors' office at 978-422-8111 (x2313). Applicants should present compelling evidence to support a claim of overvaluation.

STATUTORY EXEMPTIONS/ DEFERRALS

An exemption releases an individual from the requirement to pay all or a part of their property tax obligation. Exemptions or deferrals are available to those individuals that meet the various requirements in the following categories:

- Elderly
- Blind
- Minor children of police/firefighters killed in the line of duty
- Disabled Veteran
- Widows or Widowers
- Orphaned Minor Children
- Tax Deferrals for Elderly

Individuals who have received exemptions in the past are automatically sent their annual applications each July. Exemption applications are due within three months of the mailing date of the 3rd quarter bill (March 31, 2011). The Assessors advise applicants to file their forms by November 30th so that their exemptions can be credited against the 3rd quarter tax bill. Call or email our office to see if you qualify for an exemption

APPEALS

If you are not satisfied with the action taken by the Board of Assessors office regarding your request for abatement and/or exemption, you have the right to appeal to the State Appellate Tax Board, 100 Cambridge St. Boston, MA 02204 (617-727-3100).

Valuations by Property Class

<u>Property Class</u>	<u>Accts</u>	<u>Valuation</u>
Mixed Use	16	6,754,800
Single Family Homes	2509	743,765,900
Condominiums	133	28,142,100
Mobile Homes and Other Res	21	6,501,300
Two Family Homes	102	27,685,400
Three Family Homes	7	2,424,700
Apartments 4 - 8 Units	9	3,151,500
Vacant Land	428	25,821,500
Open Space	0	0
Commercial	74	39,391,200
Industrial	113	58,363,200
Personal Property	195	36,167,338
Forest Lands - Chapter 61	8	108,200
Agricultural - Chapter 61A	136	1,712,000
Recreational - Chapter 61B	1	960,800
TOTAL TAXABLE	3,752	980,949,938
Exempt Properties		138,891,700
TOTAL TAXABLE & EXEMPT		1,119,841,638

History of Average Residential Valuations and Taxes

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
2011	980,949,938	14.90	14,616,154
2010	1,017,236,101	14.29	14,536,304
2009	1,097,287,455	13.25	14,539,059
2008	1,095,254,623	12.63	13,833,066
2007	1,129,399,846	11.51	12,999,392
2006	1,108,872,477	11.59	12,851,832
2005	903,276,897	13.03	11,769,697
2004	860,678,532	12.60	10,844,549
2003	801,886,052	12.35	9,903,293
2002	586,990,147	16.08	9,438,802