

**Immediate Release  
December 15, 2023**



## **Town Council and Town Manager Address Town's Revaluation**

*On December 15, 2023, in Watertown, Litchfield County, CT,* the Town Council, led by Chairperson Mary Ann Rosa, is actively communicating with residents and business owners regarding the ongoing property Revaluation process. Notices have been sent to all property owners, and it is essential to carefully follow the provided instructions. This process is pivotal for upholding a just and transparent property tax system within our town. It ensures that property assessments precisely mirror current market values. Through Revaluation, disparities in property assessments are rectified, with assessments being updated to align with fair market values as of October 1, 2023. This, in turn, fairly redistributes the property tax burden among town parcels, with each being assessed at 70% of its fair market value.

For addressing any questions from the community, our online resource on Watertown's website ([www.watertownct.org](http://www.watertownct.org)) provides answers under the 'Departments' section, specifically under 'Assessors' and then 'Revaluation.' This resource is designed to assist property owners in comprehending the Revaluation process and what they can anticipate.

The forthcoming notices will offer comprehensive guidance on the upcoming steps in the Revaluation process and how property owners can inquire about new property values. It is crucial to note that any increases in property values resulting from Revaluation are not directly tied to taxes owed. The Town Council will diligently scrutinize the numbers to make precise adjustments to the mill rate, with the aim of alleviating any undue tax burden on residents.

It's important to acknowledge that Watertown initially sought earlier hearing dates to better serve residents and business owners. However, the Revaluation company has clarified that the selected dates are due to Watertown's status as the largest town they are valuing, enabling them to efficiently focus their efforts on our community.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that there isn't a direct correlation between the significant increase in property values experienced by residents, which can be as high as 30 to 40 percent, and an immediate rise in property taxes. The Town Council, in collaboration with the Town Manager, will meticulously navigate the budgetary process, taking into account the town's operational and infrastructure requirements, along with the expansion of the grand list. After a thorough evaluation, the Council will determine a reduction in the mill rate to mitigate the impact of increased property values on property taxes. Any change in mill rate will be effective in the next fiscal budget year, which would be billed out July 2024.

The Town Council underscores their commitment to fiscal responsibility and a fair property tax system and is dedicated to minimizing potential tax increases resulting from Revaluation. Property owners are strongly encouraged to stay informed and actively engage with the town. Consider participating in informal phone hearings with the Revaluation Company to address any concerns related to assessments. Your feedback and questions are invaluable to us, and we are fully committed to providing assistance throughout the process. Together, we can uphold Watertown as an exceptional place to reside and conduct business.

Lastly, it is essential to be aware that Section 12-62 of the Connecticut State Statutes mandates that every municipality conduct a property Revaluation at least every five (5) years, with a physical inspection required every ten (10) years.

**For more information, press only:**

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