**Questions from Windham regarding Vermont Property Taxes**

**(with some initial responses)**

1. Why does the state charge nonresidents a higher percentage than residents? (Kathy Scott)

Heather said the legislature thinks residents pay more through other taxes, and nonresidents deplete the housing stock for residents.

1. Since it took 20 years for the state to complete a “weighting study,” which was not complete for Windham until 2024, should we get some money back? (Kathy Scott)

Heather thought the delay was due to government bureaucracy.

1. Why do we have so many expensive supervisory unions? With fewer students in Vermont, why aren’t there far fewer supervisory unions? (Kathy Scott)

Heather agreed that we have more than are needed.

1. How can we create solutions? (Kathy Scott)

Heather said we need to get more legislators involved. They want to educate kids equally throughout the state, and they realize communities can’t sustain the level of taxes.

1. What can be done when someone fills out the 112 and 144 and still doesn’t receive an appropriate amount of income sensitivity? (Cathy Stover)

Heather said she will help individuals take their problems to the Tax Dept.

1. Should some of the education tax come from individual income taxes? (Michael Pelton)

Heather said the legislature paid down $88 million, which was a bad situation. She said the legislature voted without all the needed information.

1. Would it help for Windham taxpayers to go to Montpelier? (Kord Scott)

Heather said yes, you need to push the legislature to be creative and address the problem.

1. Can tax payments be delayed? (Michael Pelton)

Kord said our town attorney said the selectboard does not have the authority to delay payments.

1. Should tax payers seek tax abatement? (Michael Pelton)

Kord said individuals can seek tax abatement, but that can create more problems, as the town must still pay the state the taxes they calculated. Abatements can cause legal problems for the town. Michael said folks at the state advised against encouraging abatements. Cathy said the VT website said abatements only apply to penalties and interest.

1. Can tax payments be spread out? (Pat McLaine)

Other towns do this.

1. Can tax invoices come out earlier? (Pat McLaine)

This year invoices came out shortly after revised property assessments, leaving little time to prepare to pay large tax bills.

1. What is the process for individuals to follow with property tax concerns? (Abby Pelton)

They can begin by working with Heather.

1. How much money has Windham sent to the state for education in the past several years, and how much of that did we get back? (Kord Scott)
2. Which other towns might work with us to bring about changes in property taxes? (Kord)