

On behalf of the Town of Dryden, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

When you look at this year's tax bill, you'll notice the county rate decreased from last year and the town rate increased by a similar amount. ***The town is taking advantage of the "sales tax offset" to keep your combined county and town taxes as low as possible.***

While the change is small for average taxpayers, it will result in \$35-45,000 in new revenue for town services. Revenue that doesn't come from residents. This change ***lowers the amount we must raise in property taxes.***

Why we did this:

- **It allows the town to collect more than \$15,000 in annual revenue from state forest lands.** Here's how: New York State law allows towns to tax state forest lands, but counties can not. Having a higher town tax rate allows the town to bring in that extra revenue. To offset the higher town rate, the county ***lowers your county tax*** and keeps the sales tax revenue it previously distributed to the town. This is known as the ***sales tax offset***. Many other towns take advantage of it.
- **It enables the town to collect an additional \$20-30,000 in annual Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTs) for approved solar projects and other future projects.** Due to Dryden's leadership in developing solar power, large investments are now subject to PILOTs. These payments are distributed based on town, county, and school tax rates. With our tax rate adjusted due to the ***sales tax offset***, the town will double its revenue from solar projects.

The bottom line is that the changes you see in your tax bill mean ***new revenue for the town and less burden for taxpayers.*** We hope you share our excitement about this change and the many great things in store for our town in 2019!