

## Bristol Town Administrator

---

**From:** Addison County Clerk <addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Cc:** Patricia Ross; McLean, Jacqueline; Chris Anderson  
**Subject:** County Tax Assessment 2020-2021

Good morning Valerie,

This is Kelly Munger, the Addison County Clerk. Thank you for your email regarding Bristol's county tax assessment for FY 20/21.

I sincerely apologize for the delay in sending towns their assessment for next year. You are correct that the number was finalized on January 17, 2020 and a few technical and staffing issues caused the delay, but that is only an excuse. I will commit to sending it faster in future years.

The proposed county budget was in the Addison Independent newspaper on 12/16/19, 12/26/19 and 1/9/20. Each town clerk and select board chairman received prior notification of our public budget meetings held on 12/9/19 and 1/17/20. It was hoped that members of the public and town officials would attend those meetings for input. No one did. In the future, I will send a copy of the proposed budget to each town clerk a month before our annual meeting to facilitate an estimate of the county assessment to include in the town's budget. We do not receive the equalized grand list from Vermont Property Valuation and Review until the final days of December, so the county tax rate is not final until after that data is received.

The county tax rate is going up 15.63% next year and the county budget 18.87% in total. This is certainly a major increase mainly due to an increase in long delayed maintenance of a very old historic building that houses the sheriff's office and operations as well as increased costs for deputy training and sheriff dispatch services and an increase in assistant judges' salaries which are at or near the lowest in the State. The county tax rate for next year is still 3.33% lower than it was 8 years ago. The county budget does reflect a decrease in administrative and energy costs at the sheriff's office to help alleviate an even further rate increase for FY 20/21.

The rest of the increase in Bristol's portion due the county can be attributed to the increase in the county equalized grand list overall and the fluctuation between the towns' portions of this grand list. For instance, even though the town of Middlebury had a reappraisal last year, Middlebury's portion of the equalized county grand list went down which pushed many of the other towns' shares even higher, including Bristol.

We do regret the rate increase next year, but the reduction in rates over the past few years has finally caught up with us and it may be a number of years before the rate once again stabilizes.

Please let me know if I can provide any further clarification. Thank you.

Kelly A. Munger  
Addison County Clerk  
7 Mahady Court  
Middlebury, VT 05753  
802-388-1966  
[addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com)

**From:** Bristol Town Administrator  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** Chris Anderson <addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Bristol Clerk <clerk@bristolvt.org>; Treasurer <treasurer@bristolvt.org>  
**Subject:** RE: County Tax Assessment 2020-2021 >> timing of notice

Hi Chris,

The Bristol Selectboard needed to take final action on the FY2021 budget by their meeting on Monday, January 27 in order to finalize the warning for posting at the end of the week and get the Town Report off to the printer. Each year they meet every Monday in January to work though budget, Town Meeting preparations, and other matters, which means they also met on January 20. We received the Addison County tax assessment on Thursday, January 30. (I didn't actually receive it until Friday, January 31 because the Bristol Clerk was out of the office on that Thursday.) We based our projection of the tax assessment on the trend of prior assessments and it turns out our projection was seriously underestimated. So, even IF the Selectboard would have been inclined to convene a special meeting to revisit the budget and Town Meeting warning, there would not have been enough time. Your note says the assessment was adopted on January 17, which suggests there were potentially two meetings at which the Selectboard could have received this information and certainly by their last one.

We can appreciate that your office might not be able to vote on a final figure to share with communities any sooner if other information you need for your inputs is not yet available. We would welcome knowing more about that. However, in this case, it was adopted on January 17 and that we did not receive it until almost two weeks later is the problem here. It's too late to do anything about it now, but in the interest of future communications, please provide this information as quickly as possible so your constituent communities can budget appropriately.

Thank you,

--Valerie

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator  
Town of Bristol  
1 South Street  
P.O. Box 249  
Bristol, VT 05443  
(802) 453-2410 ext 22  
E: [townadmin@bristolvt.org](mailto:townadmin@bristolvt.org)  
W: [www.bristolvt.org](http://www.bristolvt.org)  
FB: <https://www.facebook.com/bristolvt/>  
Tw: @BristolTownAdm

---

**From:** Bristol Clerk <[clerk@bristolvt.org](mailto:clerk@bristolvt.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2020 7:16 AM  
**To:** Bristol Town Administrator <[townadmin@bristolvt.org](mailto:townadmin@bristolvt.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: County Tax Assessment 2020-2021

Thank You,

Jen Myers  
Town Clerk, Treasurer & Delinquent Tax Collector  
Town of Bristol

PO Box 249  
Bristol, VT 05443  
802-453-2410

---

**From:** Addison County Clerk <[addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2020 8:09 AM

**To:** Allison Dickinson <[townclerk@riptonvt.org](mailto:townclerk@riptonvt.org)>; Ann F. Webster <[awebster@townofmiddlebury.org](mailto:awebster@townofmiddlebury.org)>; Betty Walker <[tckorwel@sover.net](mailto:tckorwel@sover.net)>; Brenda Jaring <[clerk@townofweybridge.org](mailto:clerk@townofweybridge.org)>; Cheryl Estey <[starksboro@madriver.com](mailto:starksboro@madriver.com)>; Gail Quenneville <[townofwhiting@shoreham.net](mailto:townofwhiting@shoreham.net)>; Bristol Clerk <[clerk@bristolvt.org](mailto:clerk@bristolvt.org)>; Joan T. Devine <[clerk@vergenes.org](mailto:clerk@vergenes.org)>; Jody Troumbley <[townclerk@hancockvt.org](mailto:townclerk@hancockvt.org)>; Julie Delphia <[leicestervt@comcast.net](mailto:leicestervt@comcast.net)>; Julie Howlett <[bridporttown@gmavt.net](mailto:bridporttown@gmavt.net)>; Julie Ortuno <[shorehamtown@shoreham.net](mailto:shorehamtown@shoreham.net)>; Kathy Werner <[granvilletown@gmavt.net](mailto:granvilletown@gmavt.net)>; Marilla M. Webb <[addisontown@gmavt.net](mailto:addisontown@gmavt.net)>; Mary Ann Castimore <[waltham@myfairpoint.net](mailto:waltham@myfairpoint.net)>; Pam Correia <[Clerk-Treasurer@pantonvt.us](mailto:Clerk-Treasurer@pantonvt.us)>; Pam Kingman <[newhavenclerk@gmavt.net](mailto:newhavenclerk@gmavt.net)>; Pamela Cousiono <[ferrisburghclerk@comcast.net](mailto:ferrisburghclerk@comcast.net)>; Rosemary McKinnon <[townclerk@goshenvt.org](mailto:townclerk@goshenvt.org)>; Sally Ober <[clerk@lincolnvermont.org](mailto:clerk@lincolnvermont.org)>; Sharon Gomez <[monktonct@comcast.net](mailto:monktonct@comcast.net)>; Susan Johnson <[cornwallvt@shoreham.net](mailto:cornwallvt@shoreham.net)>; Susan Scott <[town.clerk@comcast.net](mailto:town.clerk@comcast.net)>

**Cc:** Chris Anderson <[actreasurer19@gmail.com](mailto:actreasurer19@gmail.com)>; Kelly Munger <[addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:addisoncountyclerk@gmail.com)>; Patricia Ross <[patricia.ross@vermont.gov](mailto:patricia.ross@vermont.gov)>; McLean, Jacqueline <[jacqueline.mclean@vermont.gov](mailto:jacqueline.mclean@vermont.gov)>

**Subject:** County Tax Assessment 2020-2021

Hello,

Attached, please find the County Tax Assessment for 2020-2021 based on the County Budget adopted on January 17, 2020. The tax calculation for each Town is based on the 2019 Equalization Study at a tax rate of 0.0047754. Invoices for each Town's assessment will be sent around July 1, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Chris Anderson  
Assistant County Clerk