

Agenda Summary

April 10, 2024

Agenda No B-1

FY'25 Tax Due Dates

Summary: Section 901 of the Stowe Town Charter, states, in part, "Taxes on real property shall be due in four equal installments on dates established annually by the Selectboard, provided the first payment in each fiscal year is not earlier than 30 days after the date tax bills for that fiscal year are mailed to taxpayers..." The Selectboard has historically set the tax due dates on August 15th, November 15th, February 15th and May 15th.

With this being said, enclosed is a memo from the Town Appraiser recommending the first tax due date be pushed back a month to September 16th* due to the reappraisal (See Enclosed Memo). Also, there may be a delay in the State setting the non-homestead tax rate which impacts the Selectboard's ability to set the voter exemption tax rate. In 2020 due to the pandemic the Selectboard moved back one of the quarterly tax due dates by a month.

*Staff is recommending September 16th as the first tax due date because the 15th of September is a Monday.

Town Plan Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- Cash Flow, we will likely have enough cash in General Funds for operating expenses but will borrow from Water & Wastewater Funds, if needed.
- Cash Flow, we will lose interest income with the lower cash levels, which we currently earn at 4.5%. The budget impact is around \$70,000.
- School Payment is due to Stowe Schools 20 days following the first due date. This means that the schools will not receive funds September 5th but October 5th. The School Superintendent has been notified of the potential delay.
- State School Payment not due until December, no impact to the State.
- Community Appropriations are processed for release following the first due date, was August 15th now September 16th.

Recommendation: Move to approve the FY'25 tax due dates as September 16th, November 15th, February 15th, and May 15th.



Board of Listers
P.O. Box 730
Stowe, VT 05672
Tel: (802) 253-6144

Stowe Selectboard
PO Box 730
Stowe, VT 05672

April 2, 2024

Dear Stowe Selectboard,

The Townwide Reappraisal is winding down and will be completed by June 24. In the past, prior to the pandemic, the Stowe population was less than 5000 and the Grand List needed to be lodged by June 4 per statute. The new census figures put the population of Stowe above 5000 and the new Statutory date is June 24 for Stowe to Lodge the Grand List.

The Listers feel that it would be a good idea to Lodge the Grand List on June 24. This will give the Listers office the necessary time to do a thorough review of all valuations for accuracy and fairness. Grievance hearings will start 15 days later, on July 9. It is anticipated that the Listers office will hold grievance hearing for several days.

Tax Bills must be sent out 30 days prior to the due date and this would surely create a time crunch for printing and mailing the tax bills out. It should also be noted that the State of Vermont is requiring tax bills to be sent through their new Software System VTPie which is new for the Town Clerks office. This may take extra time as can be attested by the Listers Office when any new State Software is introduced.

It is my feeling that the due date for the first quarterly installment for FY25 be moved from the August 15, 2024 date to September 16, 2024.

Respectfully,

Tim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Morrissey", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Tim Morrissey
Town Appraiser
Town of Stowe
802-253-6144