

I think taxes are higher than needed because of unnecessary spending.

A few examples of unnecessary spending:

- Grants for open space purchases. Westbrook has purchased open space property because of grants, which taxpayers would not have purchased if a grant was not received. Many people don't appreciate the connection between State taxes and State grants. I am sure that many of the 169 towns in the State make purchases using grants in a similar manner. A report should be issued, or at least easily available, showing the number and amount of grants for open space and the effect on personal taxes.
- The subsidy for Shoreline East trains is very misleading. The subsidy is calculated using the number of "riders" when it should be based on the number of different people using the train. The number of riders is misleading because one person riding the train to and from work for one year, subtracting weekends, holidays and vacation, would be counted as 482 "riders". In 2011 the average daily "riders" were 2,143 and average weekend "riders" were 657 for total of 625,508 riders. The State subsidy for Shoreline East was \$28,233,584 for per rider subsidy of \$45.14. My view is, if I guess on the high side, that there were maybe 4,500 different people riding the train. So for a \$28,233,584 subsidy for 4,500 individual people the subsidy per person is \$6,274. Much different than \$45.14. Is the subsidy per person ever looked at and if so at what cost does it become justified? Is \$6,274 of tax money a logical per person subsidy? I am sure it is higher now; does anyone know what the number really is?
- A similar situation exists for the "Busway" Has anyone done a similar analysis of cost per person not per "rider" for the "Busway"? Could you tell me what the cost per person, not per rider is?
- Why should State employees, when nearing retirement age, be allowed to work extra overtime to bump up their retirement pay? How much does that action cost taxpayers? Does anyone know or care?
- Grants of hundreds of thousands of dollars were provided to Madison, known as a wealthy town, to make a park adjacent to Hammonasset one of the best State Parks in Conn. The park is now used mostly for athletic fields for Madison schools. How was that use of taxpayer money justified, who reviewed and approved those grants and why?

Thanks,

Joel Maynard
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