

TOWN OF EDGECOMB  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
August 8, 2008

**Attended:** Selectmen Stuart Smith, John Johnson and Jack Sarmanian; town treasurer Claudia Coffin and town accountant Fred Brewer.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

The purpose of the special meeting was to set a mill rate for the town and approve the mailing of tax bills.

Stuart said he had done the numbers and the tax rate should be \$13.80 per thousand, up from last year's rate of \$11.50 per thousand.

Jack and John were both upset at the 17 percent increase and indicated they would like to discuss the why and wherefore of the increase.

Stuart and Claudia refigured the numbers and discovered the school department increase was about 17 percent and also the exemptions were up from \$9.5 million to \$14.6 million, which means the town cannot collect the difference over last year.

Stuart explained the major portion of the exemption increase was for the school, which he had incorrectly figured into the town's valuation last year. That accounted for \$5 million more in exemptions for this year.

Because there were many questions raised by Jack and John, Claudia called town accountant Fred Brewer. He was 'on the road' and said he would be pleased to stop over and work on setting the mill rate.

Fred and Claudia discovered that the numbers did not include leftover amounts and several other line items that needed to be deducted from the base rate that required the raising of taxes.

After much discussion, it was determined the new tax rate would be \$13.20, about a 15 percent increase over last year's rate. The town's total valuation this year is \$205.8 million. Last year the valuation was \$200.7 million. Again, the difference was primarily because of the hike in exemptions.

Stuart moved and Jack seconded the motion to set the tax rate at \$13.20. The vote was unanimous at 3-0.

Stuart said the tax bills would be out within two or three days.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.