

Dear Town of Berne Residents,


At the Town Board meeting on 11/8/23, residents requested that a letter be written explaining the tax increase and how it will be reflected in your upcoming tax bill. Additionally, the Altamont Enterprise recently reported a 752% increase in taxes from 2023 to 2024 in the Town of Berne without giving all necessary background information as to why, which created fear and uncertainty for residents. We understand why this is concerning and believe this letter will help to alleviate those concerns. The Town Board provided tax relief to the residents in 2022 and 2023 related to the pandemic. The tax rate is being reinstated to 4.6%. The tax rate was 4.6% in 2016. The Town of Berne tax rates from 2007 to 2024 are listed below for comparison.

2007- 4.707%	2011- 4.743%	2015- 4.743%	2019- 4.319%	2023- 0.540% (Pandemic)
2008- 4.667%	2012- 4.813%	2016- 4.659%	2020- 4.167%	2024- 4.609%
2009- 4.667%	2013- 4.820%	2017- 4.501%	2021- 3.614%	
2010- 4.646%	2014- 4.796%	2018- 4.320%	2022- 0.493% (Pandemic)	

Please note, your full tax bill is used for Town of Berne, Albany County, Berne Fire District and Helderberg Ambulance District.

As you view your tax bill, it shows Full Market Value and Assessed Value. You are only taxed on your Assessed Value. Your 2024 property taxes for the Town of Berne are totaled using the following equation- Assessed Value divided by 1000, then multiply by the tax rate of 4.6%. Your property taxes are distributed between 2 lines on the tax bill: Line Highway 2, 3, and 4 and Line Highway 1. These are the only 2 lines the Town Board controls during budgeting.

We will use tax figures from Deputy Supervisor Anita Clayton's for an example to show actual dollar amounts. Tax bills from 2016, 2022, and 2023.

Collection: Town & County 2016							
Fiscal Year Start: 1/1/2016		Fiscal Year End: 12/31/2016		Warrant Date: 12/31/2015			
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Total Tax Due (minus penalties & interest) \$0.00							
Entered	Posted	Total	Tax Amount	Penalty	Surcharge	Via	Type
1/23/2016	1/23/2016	\$1,536.40	\$1,536.40	\$0.00	\$0.00		Full Payment
Tax Bill #	SWIS	Tax Map #		Status			
000311	012000	104.-2-22.200		Payment Posted			
Address		Municipality		School			
1312 Cass Hill Rd		Town of Berne		Berne-Knox-Westrlo			
Owners	Property Information		Assessment Information				
	Roll Section:	1	Full Market Value:	187344.00			
	Property Class:	Rural res	Total Assessed Value:	119900.00			
	Lot Size:	10.00	Uniform %:	64.00			
Description	Tax Levy	Percent Change	Taxable Value	Rate	Tax Amount		
County Purposes	979535	-2.2000	119900.000	5.92710900	\$710.66		
Town & Highway 2,3,4	681460	3.6000	119900.000	4.08195000	\$489.43		
Highway 1 Tax	94668	-30.3000	119900.000	0.56706200	\$67.99		
Helderberg amb dist	55000	0.0000	119900.000	0.31079900	\$37.26		
Berne fire district	341013	2.7000	119900.000	1.92710800	\$231.06		
Total Taxes:					\$1,536.40		

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Total Tax Due (minus penalties & interest) \$0.00

Entered	Posted	Total	Tax Amount	Penalty	Surcharge	Via	Type
1/27/2022	1/27/2022	\$1,184.38	\$1,184.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mail	Full Payment

Tax Bill #	SWIS	Tax Map #	Status
000299	012000	104.-2-22.200	Payment Posted
Address		Municipality	School
1312 Cass Hill Rd		Town of Berne	Berne-Knox-Westrlo

Owners	Property Information	Assessment Information
[REDACTED]	Roll Section: 1	Full Market Value: 229444.00
	Property Class: Rural res	Total Assessed Value: 123900.00
	Lot Size: 10.00	Uniform %: 54.00

Description	Tax Levy	Percent Change	Taxable Value	Rate	Tax Amount
County Purposes	1095964	-0.1000	123900.000	6.47274000	\$801.97
Highway 1	84347	-34.3000	123900.000	0.49321900	\$61.11
Helderberg amb dist	83967	36.5000	123900.000	0.46591100	\$57.73
Berne fire district	383366	3.5000	123900.000	2.12725200	\$263.57
Total Taxes:					\$1,184.38

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Total Tax Due (minus penalties & interest) \$0.00

Entered	Posted	Total	Tax Amount	Penalty	Surcharge	Via	Type
1/30/2023	1/30/2023	\$1,165.58	\$1,165.58	\$0.00	\$0.00		Full Payment

Tax Bill #	SWIS	Tax Map #	Status
000304	012000	104.-2-22.200	Payment Posted
Address		Municipality	School
1312 Cass Hill Rd		Town of Berne	Berne-Knox-Westerlo

Owners	Property Information	Assessment Information
[REDACTED]	Roll Section: 1	Full Market Value: 247800.00
	Property Class: Rural res	Total Assessed Value: 123900.00
	Lot Size: 10.00	Uniform %: 50.00

Description	Tax Levy	Percent Change	Taxable Value	Rate	Tax Amount
County Purposes	1090665	-0.5000	123900.000	6.40746900	\$793.89
Town & Highway 2,3,4	6457	100.0000	123900.000	0.03756000	\$4.65
Highway 1	86330	2.4000	123900.000	0.50217900	\$62.22
Helderberg amb dist	60000	-2.4000	123900.000	0.33127300	\$41.04
Berne fire district	385585	4.1000	123900.000	2.12895400	\$263.78
Total Taxes:					\$1,165.58

Anita Clayton paid \$557.42 in 2016, \$61.11 in 2022, and \$66.87 in 2023. Her estimated taxes will be similar as 2016 or less in 2024. Please consider that Albany County, Berne Fire District, Helderberg Ambulance District and BKW School District tax rates have all increased for 2024. If you have questions, please reach out to Supervisor Palow for answers. We discourage solely relying on sources that do not provide all full information, such as The Altamont Enterprise. Supervisor Palow and the Berne Town Board want to work with ALL residents, to make the Town a better place.

Sincerely,

Berne Town Board