

Public Comment 12/11/2015

Sitka needs a Income tax, not a increase in property taxes. Sitka needs to tax the people who have the money, and have large annual cash flows. Not tax the homes of retired people who have low cash flows, and have no means to pay the increased real estate taxes, other than by borrowing money, giving up medications, or food. Just because a person owns a home in Sitka, doesn't mean they have money!

Sitka needs a income tax on the people earning the high wages of \$60,000- \$140,000 a year or more. That is where the money is. That is where the tax should be. Tax the higher annual cash flows! Tax the people who can most afford to pay the tax. Not the people who can least afford to pay the tax. Not seniors on fixed income, not the poor or mentally ill who's rent will go up with higher property taxes.

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Several years ago, the assembly exempted personal property taxes on business inventories. I would suggest to raise revenues, the city should reinstate the inventory taxes on businesses. The largest winners of the tax exemption was the fuel companies (Petro Marine). This time around, they should exempt the first \$100,000 of inventory so the small businesses would not be hurt. Secondly, if we need more revenue, reinstate the sales tax for residential rents. I know this will get some blow back, but if we don't want "new" taxes, maybe we should reinstate the previous taxes that were exempted. Thanks for serving on this board.