

Grand Island raises tax levy for 2020 by 3.5%, stays within tax cap

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Grand Island's 2020 budget raises the tax levy by nearly 3.5%, an increase that remains within the state's property tax cap.

The Town Board on Thursday approved the \$24.5 million budget, which raises spending by 4.86%.

The overall levy, the amount the town collects in property taxes, would rise by 3.47% to \$10.6 million, within the tax cap of 3.54%, said supervising accountant Pam Barton.

General fund, highway department, fire protection district and water district spending all rises next year.

The general fund tax rate would rise by 2.2% to \$1.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The water district tax rate has the sharpest increase, by 34%, to \$2.67 per \$1,000. Barton said this is driven by a one-time increase of \$150,000 to pay for a hydrant replacement project that began this fall.

The budget includes pay raises for some elected officials, including highway superintendent (3.6%), town clerk and town justices (all received 1.5% raises). The supervisor's pay was reduced by 2.8%, to \$70,762, because a new person is filling the role, a standard town practice.