Pottstown’s tax base is declining. In just one year, the total assessed value of Pottstown properties has dropped more than $4.5 million.

We are $10 million below where we were in 1998, the last time the county reassessed. Because the Pottstown School Board did not raise taxes this year, local revenues for schools dropped almost $400,000 from last year.

There is every reason to believe assessments will continue to decrease. These photos show the asking price for homes currently on the market, and their value based on their current assessment. It demonstrates why many homeowners, new and existing, seek reductions in their assessments.

Pottstown has the highest number of assessment appeals of all county municipalities. We cannot afford to raise taxes in this environment. Both the school district and the borough must find ways to cut costs.

Commentary by Tom Hylton

High assessments reflect falling values

172 N. Hanover Street
Selling price: $257,250
Value based on assessment: $344,538

31 King Street
Selling price: $89,500
Value based on assessment: $140,295

525 Beech Street
Selling price: $18,000
Value based on assessment: $88,878

1531 Wilson Street
Selling price: $134,900
Value based on assessment: $215,561