 by Bob O’Baldwin™

**Assessment Challenges: Pin Your Taxes on Your Donkey Neighbor**

If everyone challenged their assessments and everyone won a 50% reduction, no one’s taxes would go down. Because the school districts always get their **POUND OF FLESH**. If you win an assessment challenge, your neighbor’s taxes go up. And visa versa. The school district has to collect the money from someone.

**Your vote for “ the budget” is a disguised vote for higher taxes.** For 50+ years, the Baldwin School District has raised taxes every year. This year they want $ 2 million more, a 2% tax hike.

The current local total tax assessment (which the voters raise every year is **$ 95 million**. The **$ 1500/ home STAR subsidy** by NY State reduces this to $ 80 milion.

**The proposed SCHOOL BUDGET 2019 is $ 130 million.** Additional NY State Aid is $ 32 million. Of the **$ 130 million, NY State pays $ 47 million** from your NYS income tax & your sales tax.

**In 2008**, our Baldwin School budget was $ 100 million and there were 5300 students. Next year, the budget is $ 130 million for 4500 students.

**More for less.** But **more for the salaries & benefits of our Educators**. Who is the real donkey?