

CHAPTER XII

TAX-EXEMPT USES

This municipality has a substantial amount of tax-exempt property within its jurisdiction by virtue of its being held by Local, State, or Federal Governments, by the School District, or by religious, philanthropic or educational and other institutions not operated for a profit.

Tax-exempt real estate, when it went off the tax rolls, had an assessed valuation in excess of \$23,000,000. Over the years these properties have acquired additional value. The assessed value of real property now subject to taxation approximates \$120,000,000.

When property is taken off the tax rolls because it is used for tax-exempt purposes, the Township and the School District are deprived of revenue, and the burden on taxpayers is increased. Tax exemption does not eliminate the need of Township services for the exempt properties. On the other hand, there are many advantages in having private schools, colleges, hospitals and religious institutions. For example, private schools enroll students who would otherwise go to public school, thus relieving the public of the cost of their education.

The problem of tax-exempt real estate will become more serious. It is the opinion of the Planning Commission that legislation granting tax exemptions might well be reviewed and consideration be given to more restrictive controls.