

SEABROOK BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Promoting betterment issues to
improve the livability of Seabrook Beach

Vol. 7 Issue 1 February 2004

A Wintery
Seabrook Scene

Picture



REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2004

MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS!

What's on the Ballot?

In mid January, the Seabrook Board of Selectmen approved 38 warrant articles totaling an estimated \$4 million.

Selectmen are applying almost a half million dollars to the articles from the town's undesignated fund balance for an estimated \$3.5 million to be raised by taxes should all of the articles be approved by voters in March. The net effect on the tax rate, according to figures released in December by Town Manager Fred Welch, is an estimated \$1.82 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The largest article this year is a \$2.6 million bond for arsenic removal from town well water. A bond requires a three-fifths majority to pass. Seabrook does not meet new, stricter federal

guidelines, going into effect in 2005, on the acceptable amount of arsenic in water, Welch said. The arsenic removal method would also take much of the iron and manganese out of town water, agents which are causing discoloration of clothes and other problems. Welch said he would recommend a 10-year bond for the \$2.6 million article, so residents would not be hit with another large tax increase in one year.

At least five warrant articles will cost taxpayers nothing if approved, being funded out of the town's unexpended fund balance, a state-mandated surplus account. Included are: \$86,700 for three police cruisers to replace three cruisers that are costing the town \$20,000 a year to maintain; \$50,000 to pave Cross Beach Road; \$22,138 for an animal control vehicle already being leased by the Police Department; \$54,750 for breathing apparatus for the Fire Department; and \$130,000 to replace the town's underground gasoline and diesel fuel systems.

Other large expense items:

\$109,000 for highway upgrades and maintenance, with the money to come from a Transportation Improvement Fund, which currently holds \$150,000. The money is raised through a \$3 fee at the time of vehicle registration.

\$480,000 for the removal of the ash

pile at the transfer station, with \$40,000 to be funded by taxpayers.

The State Department of Environmental Services orders the removal.

\$100,000 for legal costs involved in the assessment and value of negotiating a new assessment agreement with Seabrook Station. The idea, said Welch, is to establish a five-year value of the nuclear power plant. During the term of the agreement, the plant will not contest the assessment through the courts.

It eliminates the possibility of going to court every year, Welch said.

\$96,787 in human services appropriations.

\$68,500 for a 2004 loader and backhoe for the transfer station.

\$88,000 for a 2004 dump/plow truck for the DPW to replace an 11-year old truck.

\$26,000 for a three-quarter-ton utility plow truck for the DPW.

\$41,000 for a four-wheel drive rack/dump truck for the DPW to replace the 1993 truck.

\$130,000 for a new recycling truck.

\$76,000 for a sidewalk tractor and summer mower.

\$48,600 to purchase books and other

materials for the Seabrook Public Library.

Selectmen also approved:

Adopting an increase from \$100 to \$200 in the veterans' tax credit and the veteran's tax for service-connected disability.

\$4800 to the Council on Aging for transportation.

\$5000 for the Conservation Fund. The article was defeated at Town Meeting last year. It would fund the survey and other expense of land donated to the town for conservation.

\$10,000 for cemetery monument restoration.

\$13,822 to purchase a speed prevention radar trailer with \$6,000 of the cost to be reimbursed by a state Highway Safety grant.

Excerpted from seacoastonline .com / Susan Morse

Winnacunnet HS Addition:

The Project Cost: \$26,850,000

The cost per town annually:

Hampton - \$765,585

Hampton Falls - \$101,888

Seabrook - \$517,306

Tax Rate Impact:

Hampton / \$0.33 per thousand

Hampton Falls / \$0.31 per thousand
North Hampton / \$0.32 per thousand
Seabrook / \$0.26 per thousand*

*A tax rate of \$0.26 per thousand means a property owner will pay \$23 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. An assessed house in Seabrook of \$400,000 will have a \$92 tax change.

Increasing the number of selectmen from three to five:
Possible reasoning?

1. Demands on a person's time:

With more selectmen to cover the assorted responsibilities, the time required would be reduced.

2. With five on the board, there would be more opportunity for discussion and flexibility.

The major hurdle is finding candidates willing to run. If this makes it to the warrant stage and succeeds in an affirmative vote, it will be the 2005 election that seats the additional two selectmen.



Spotlight on the Police Chief

William Baker, Seabrook's newly appointed police chief, said he understands the criticism some people have made about the numerous positions he's held during his law enforcement career, but he says he hopes to remain in Seabrook for quite a while.

Selectmen passed over an internal candidate, acting chief David Currier - a 23-year veteran of the Seabrook police, in favor of Baker who has no direct ties to Seabrook.

Some have criticized Baker, 48, for changing jobs frequently - in the past 18 years he has had seven positions in law enforcement ranging from police chief in Laconia to a Justice Department post in Haiti. Baker replies that he enjoyed each job he held and likes to think that he left each place better than he found it. Baker says that he understands the anxiety that can come when a new leader is added to a long-standing department. "It's always a traumatic event to replace a longtime chief, and it's traumatic when the replacement is an outsider. My experience is that I'm going into a department with a group of committed professionals who want a fair, rational leader who will give them 150 per cent of his time and attention. That's what I plan to do."

Angeljean Chiramida
From an article in the Lawrence Eagle Tribune 27

Nov.2003

Ed.: Chief Baker was chosen on the recommendation of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, an impartial body that looked at the chief's background and education. Baker comes with a BA in Public Administration and a Juris Doctorate in law.

Seabrook Women's Club

The Seabrook Women's Club will resume meetings in March, weather permitting. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Precinct Building on Rte 1A. next to Seacoast Kayak. The group is a non-profit organization whose aim is to stimulate interest in the betterment of the greater Seabrook community. Last year, two scholarships of \$1000 each were awarded to two deserving Seabrook students, the money targeted for their college educations.

SWC upcoming events for 2004 include:

A wine tasting evening

Installation banquet

Ice cream social

Yard Sale

Antiques/Jewelry Appraisals

For Seabrook residents who'd like to meet new neighbors and other community women, this is an ideal opportunity. Annual dues are \$10.

With questions or suggestions, call:
Connie Carlson @ 474-1244
Janet Lebreque @ 474-5159
E-mail: Seacoastjan@aol.com

Seabrook Police
Non-emergency Number:

474-5200

Any complaints to the Police Dept. should go through this telephone number. Don't hesitate to use it as often as necessary until your concerns have been addressed. The department is required to follow up on all complaints that come in and pass them on to the Selectmen. Post the number by your telephone and use it judiciously.

**Audubon Program New
Takes Off**

Habitat conservation got a boost recently when the Audubon Society of New Hampshire designated some of the seacoast's hottest growth spots as important bird areas, including Great Bay and the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary.

The designation identifies areas most important to migrating and wintering birds and makes it easier to raise

money to save the places where birds like to nest, feed, winter or stop to rest during spring and fall migrations. The point of the program is to identify critical habitat for birds, based on scientific data, numbers of rare or conservation priority species, rare habitats or areas supporting large numbers of migrating birds at a critical point in their natural cycle.

New Hampshire conservation groups welcomed the news.

"I think it's fantastic," said Grace Bottitta, an Exeter-based biologist with Ducks Unlimited, a nonprofit international wetlands conservation group. "Both the Great Bay and the Hampton-Seabrook Estuaries are great habitats for black ducks, migrating shorebirds and salt marsh sparrows."

The new Audubon program was launched almost a year ago with the state Fish and Game Department and the University of New Hampshire's Cooperative Extension. Part of a stepped-up international effort to identify places most important to birds, and help save them, it has spread to about 47 states since the mid '90s.

New Hampshire's seven important land areas include Lake Umbagog in northern New Hampshire, home to loons and osprey; the Pondicherry Refuge in Jefferson and Whitefield, a large wetlands complex with

undisturbed forest that is home to waterfowl; and the Isles of Shoals.

White and Seavey Islands in Rye are home to large colonies of nesting terns, with 2,500 pairs of common terns counted this past summer. The Isles' federally endangered roseate tern population - 80 nesting pairs counted during the 2003 nesting season - is the sixth largest roseate tern colony in the Northeast. Federally endangered means a creature is on a national list, a 'red flag' that triggers funding, awareness, and makes it illegal for people to kill the birds or animals or damage their habitat.

From an article by Claire Kittredge / Boston Globe

Seabrook Nuclear Plant

The N-Plant won't have a new use until 2046. The site of the Seabrook nuclear power plant will not be available for other uses until decommissioning is complete in 2046, members of the New Hampshire Decommissioning Finance Committee said at a recent public hearing at Seabrook Town Hall. The panel expects the 20-year process of decommissioning will start when the plant's license expires in 2026, at a cost of \$599 million in 2003 dollars. However, FPL Energy, the plant's owner, has indicated it wants to apply for a 20-year license extension, which would push decommissioning back.

Claire Kittredge / Boston Globe



The Board of Selectmen's weekly Meetings are televised each week live on Channel 22. Check for schedules at the Town Hall and in the local newspapers. The tapes of the meetings are repeated four times daily at noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tune in and see how your town government functions.

(Picture)

This past summer, Seabrook beach-goers were treated to the sight of a four-wheeled ATV This past summer, Seabrook manned by the Seabrook Police, patrolling our shore.

The vehicle was a gift to the town from Betty DiGeronimo - a gift given in memory of her late husband. The ATV will be used in the beach precinct during the summer season, and utilized by the town in other areas, as needed, for the remainder of the year. Betty and her gift were featured in our local newspapers, and Betty was the recipient of a plaque of

**appreciation presented by the
Seabrook Police at the August General
Meeting of the SBCA.**

**WARRANT ARTICLES NOTES
BY SUZANNE MANZI**

As a member of the Water Advisory Comm. I would like you to consider your vote on the following articles. #6&7 are money articles and #22 & 23 have no tax impact. Also, the others mentioned below need a yes vote to appropriate funds from the unexpended account, which are recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee. There are 45 articles on the ballot with the money articles impacting the tax rate at approximately \$14.75/thousand if all pass. 2003 rate was \$15.25.

Article 6: Arsenic Removal is EPA mandated to decrease levels in water supply by 12/31/05. A bond issue for \$2.6 million. **Tax impact: \$0.1983/thousand.**

Article 7: Painting maintenance of Water Tower and Standpipe. Previous attempts failed for past 2 years; corrosion is severe and will cost more in future if need to be totally restored. Bond issue for \$436,000. **Tax impact: \$0.0454/thousand.**

Article 8: Town Budget is \$500,000 less this year. If not passed, revert to last year's budget. **Tax impact: Passed \$4.51/k, if not passed \$4.77/k.**

Article 15: Police Cruisers; Maintenance costs are high necessary to replace. Money to be taken from unexpended funds. **Tax impact: \$0.00**

Article 16: Lease purchase of Animal Control Truck. Money from unexpended fund. **Tax impact: \$0.00**

Article 17: Breathing Apparatus for Fire Dept. Old equipment outdated need for safety. Money from unexpended funds. **Tax impact: \$0.00**

Article 18: Road improvement to be funded from \$3 fee with car registrations. **Tax impact: 0**

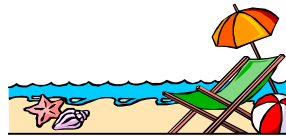
Article 19:Regrading & paving Cross Beach Rd. Money from unexpended fund. **Tax impact: 0**

Article 20: Gas/Diesel Fuel System. Needs replacement to maintain wholesale prices for town. Money from unexpended fund. **Tax impact: \$0.00**

Article 22: Give authority to Selectmen to be agents for Reserve Fund for future water uses or studies. A legal application only. **Tax impact: 0**

Article 23: Correct with amendment the wording for the water article approved last year so that funds already appropriated may be spent and start the State mandate to install water meters.

Tax impact: \$0.00



**SBCA Newsletter Editor
Jacqui Lewis**

**Seabrook Beach Civic Association
P.O. Box 1601
Seabrook, NH 03874**

**E-Mail - SBCA@comcast.net
www.seabrookbeachcivicassoc.org**
