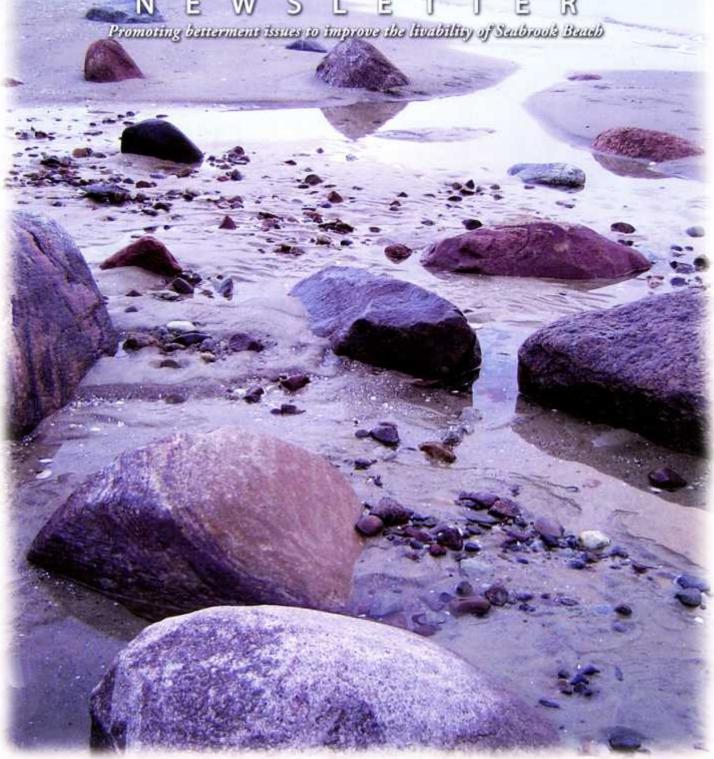
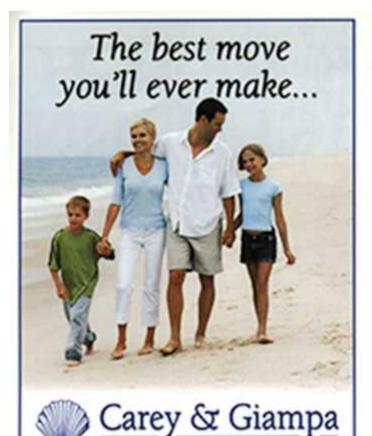


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Seabrook Beach Village District ANNUAL MEETING

April 25, 2006
Warren West Building
(Precinct Building)
7:00 PM
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 Emergency Board Meeting
 1

 Candidates
 3

 Warrant Articles
 4

 NH Tokens
 9

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SBCA Emergency Board Meeting...

At an emergency SBCA board meeting on January 30, the financial needs of the organization were addressed. The SBCA charter calls for promoting the livability and beautification of Seabrook Beach. In order to carry out that mandate, it was determined that the funds on hand will not support another season.

Our greatest expense is the group's publication — its newsletter published four times a year. It was hoped that increased ad revenue would support the newsletter, but even though we have a number of faithful contributors, the income is not sufficient, and we're operating in the red.

What's the answer? There are a number of possible solutions: raise dues, solicit significant gifts/contributions, eliminate the newsletter entirely.

Let's start with raising dues. Even doubling our dues won't make a significant dent in the problem. Unfortunately, only approximately a third of beach property owners choose to pay dues to the organization. It's a sad commentary that all of the efforts of the SBCA are taken for granted: promoting the livability and beautification of Seabrook Beach — something that directly impacts your property values — isn't considered important enough to support.

Gifts and solicitations have to be sought, and that requires manpower and time, two things that are in short supply. Many of our volunteers have been with us since the SBCA was founded eight years ago, and quite frankly, they're getting burned out.

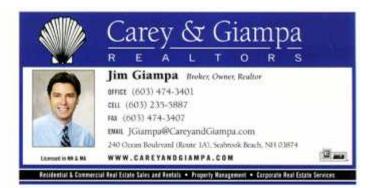
How do YOU feel about the newsletter? When we changed our format to a more sophisticated version, it meant a sharp increase in cost for graphic counseling, printing and mailing. Are these increases worth it, or do you think we need to rein in and get back to the original photocopied version on regular paper stock?

How about some feedback from our readers; we need your opinions expressed so that we can make the best decisions about our future.

You can call any of our Board members, or you can email us: SeBeCA@comcast.net

We'll be waiting to bear from you...





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Town Meeting

By Susan Morse smorse@seacoastonline.com

SEABROOK - If Seabrook voters reject the operating budget again this year, the town will be working with \$660,000 less than the amount recommended by selectmen and the Budget Committee.

The Seabrook Board of Selectmen set a default budget of \$15,524,818 on Monday. It is \$663,911 less than the proposed \$16.18 million operating budget.

The default budget is last year's budget with contractual and other obligated costs added in.

Warrant articles add another \$1.8 million, for a bottom line budget of \$18 million. If passed, officials expect an increase in the tax rate of \$1.67 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Much of the increase is due to contracts and rising fuel and energy costs. Four new contracts for police, fire, supervisory and other town employees amount to \$711,611 in 2006. These cannot be removed from the budget by voters.

Voters rejected the \$14.7 million operating budget last year, putting a \$14.4 million default budget into effect. This year's proposed operating budget, compared to last year's default figure, represents a 12 percent increase.

Taxpayers may change the proposed budget and warrant articles Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the deliberative session of Town Meeting. It starts at 7pm at the Seabrook Community Center on Lafayette Road,

The second and final vote of Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 7am to 7pm at the community center.



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Seabrook Budget

DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 7, 2006

I. 2005 Operating Budget Re-Cap

Appropriation: \$14,364,295.00 (a default budget)

Expenditures \$14,132,998.57

Surplus Balance \$ 231,296.43 (1.6%)

II. 2006 Proposed Operating Budget

\$16,188,729.00 (12.7% increase over 2005)

III. 2006 Default Budget

\$15,524,818.00 (8% increase over 2005)

IV. Estimated Impact of Operating Budget and Warrant Articles On Town Portion of 2006 Tax Rate

\$ 1.67 / per \$1,000 of Valuation

V. History of Town Portion of Tax Rate

2004 \$ 5.54 / per \$1,000 of Valuation

2005 \$ 6.41 / per \$1.000 of Valuation (15.7% increase)

2006 \$ 8.08 / estimate per \$1,000 Valuation

(26% increase from 2005 -

46% increase over two years)

Seabrook Candidates

■ SELECTMAN- (One Vacancy)

Brendan F Kelly - 17 Ayer Circle Robert S Moore - 9 Moore's Lane

Merrilee A Preston - 16 Deer Crossing

Vincent A Sljaka - 226 South Main St

Vincent A Sijaka - 226 South Main St

Donald J Walker - 160 Portsmouth Ave

TAX COLLECTOR

Lillian L Knowles - 2 Knowles Way

■ LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Eric N Small - 156 Walton Road Elizabeth A Thibedeau - 11 Pickens Ave

SUPERVISOR OF CHECKLIST

Gary K Fowler - 12 Washington St

- MODERATOR
- CONSTABLE

Emmanuel J Deharo - 27 Boa Lane

PLANNING BOARD- 3 YR

Peter J Evans - 44 Border Winds Ave Susan E Foote - 226 South Main St

- PLANNING BOARD 2YR
- BUDGET COMMITTEE
- TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

Candidates for Town of Seabrook Board of Selectmen

An effort was made to contact all five candidates for this issue. The following two resumes were received.

Brendan F. Kelly

Since coming to Seabrook, I have faithfully attended all the meetings of importance and have become disturbed with the direction in which we seem to be headed. When we bought our home 6 years ago, the taxes were \$910; the following year they were \$1700. Last year, they were \$3200, and the outlook for next year is \$4000. If this trend continues, my bill in 2011 will be \$12,000 and I can't afford that. I'm a veteran of the US Army, having served in Germany at the time the Berlin wall went up. After my military service, I worked in ship repair and construction. I attended Bentley College, studying accounting and commercial law. Before moving to Seabrook, I owned a condo in Amesbury where I served on the board of management, the last two years as President.

I feel we have a dreary future ahead of us if we don't get everyone on the same page; that is my primary goal in running for selectman and if elected I hope to represent all the people of Seabrook.

Vincent (Vinnie) Sljaka

The recipient of several advanced degrees, I am a retired management consultant with experience in municipal government, medical practice management and business management for companies ranging from those listed in Fortune 500 to local 'Mom and Pop' establishments.

Recognizing that tax revenues represent a substantial portion of nearly everyone's budget, I feel they must be handled appropriately, not trivially and with the ad-hoc approach of the current administration.

I intend to seek additional funding through alternative sources such as federal grants and tax-free donations, and, where appropriate, increased fees, whose acquisitions would offset the true cost of the activities to which they pertain.

A 20-year Seabrook resident, I am married to a member of one of Seabrook's oldest families.

SEABROOK BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT PROPOSED BUDGET 2006

CATEGORY	2005	2006 PROPOSED
Electricity	\$2,000	\$3,000
Natural Gas	\$2,500	\$4,000
Water/Sewer	\$120	\$240
Telephone	\$900	\$900
Adv/Printing	\$2,500	\$2,500
Legal Fees	\$35,000	\$25,000
Board of Adjustment	\$3,000	\$2,000
Building Inspector Salary	\$18,500	\$19,500
Bldg. Inspector Vehicle	\$1,200	\$1,200
Bldg. Inspector Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500
Insurance	\$1,000	\$1,000
Bldg. Repair/Maintenance	\$5,000	\$5,000
Dues	\$800	\$800
Cleaning & Supplies	\$750	\$750
Office Supplies	\$1,400	\$1,450
Clerical Help	\$3,500	\$3,500
Bookkeeping	\$1,500	\$1,000
Land Purchase	\$12,000	\$5,000
Miscellaneous	\$500	\$500
TOTAL	\$93,670	\$78,840





2006 Warrant Articles

As a Seabrook Selectman who hails from the Beach Precinct, Karen Knight has offered her assessment of the warrant articles.

There has been a significant increase in spending throughout the Town. Each article mentioned will have the tax impact per thousand if passed.

Article 16: I cannot in good faith and honesty support the Town Budget since the overspending is way out of control. The Town has plenty of money in the default budget to suffice and there is always more that \$500,000.00 returned to the town each year. The water/sewer department turned backed \$300,000.00 this year.

Article 20: Replace the 1993 dump/plow truck which is in dire need of replacement; repairs are getting costly and this is matter of public sanitation. I wholeheartedly support this article. (no impact on the tax rate).

Article 21: 1994 replacement vehicle in desperate shape. No impact on the tax rate.

Article 31: Pertains to the Beach Mgr. Program and is a worthwhile investment to help protect our beautiful beach. Tax impact 0.0022

Article 22: Replacement of the Backhoe loader. No impact on the tax rate.

Articles 34 & 40: The Fire and Police contracts should also be supported for public service. It takes many hours of negotiations and it's a little give, a little take. We believe we've reached fair and COLA adjustments and appreciate both Unions for not being demanding in lieu of the new tax rate. Tax impact: Fire /0.1146; Tax impact: Police/ 0.0503

I took what I believe are the most critical needs of the Town, both in equipment and services without incurring a large tax impact. The Warrant Articles are posted at the town Web site for review. They will also be in your Town Reports due out shortly.

Karen Knight Town of Seabrook Selectman

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Increased Fees Top List of Town Warrants

By Susan Morse

SEABROOK - Increased fees and ordinances make up many of the estimated 50 warrant articles going before voters on March 14. The special warrant articles are being reviewed by the Budget Committee this week, with a public hearing on the entire budget scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m., at Seabrook Community Center.

Among those articles considered by selectmen are:

- An increase in waste disposal fees, with no exact fees set. The ordinance will allow the board to set new fees for the
 disposal of construction debris and other solid waste at the transfer station. The fees have not increased in more than
 20 years. The warrant has been approved by selectmen in a 2-1 vote, with Selectman Cora Stockbridge opposed.
- An increase in annual business licensing fees from \$5 to \$100, with Stockbridge opposed in the 2-1 vote. The fee was
 originally proposed to increase to \$300. Wal-Mart has no license and has paid no fee, said resident Phil Stockbridge,
 the husband of the selectman. The penalty for not getting a license is \$25. If not paid, the business is subject to
 being closed.
- A surfing ordinance to allow surfing on part of the beach was approved 2-1, with Stockbridge opposed
- Increasing the annual licensing fees for pawnbroker shops from \$50 to \$100 passed.
- Allowing dogs on beach during the summer will be considered today. Dogs are banned on Seabrook Beach from Memorial Day weekend to Sept. 15.

The new ordinance would allow dogs between 5 and 8 p.m. But board members said dogs are on the beach a nyway, and people don't pick up after them. Stockbridge said people are still on the beach between 5 and 8 p.m. in the summer, and kids might step in the mess dogs leave behind. Chairwoman Karen Knight suggested

changing the ordinance to allow dogs on the beach after

dusk. It received no second.

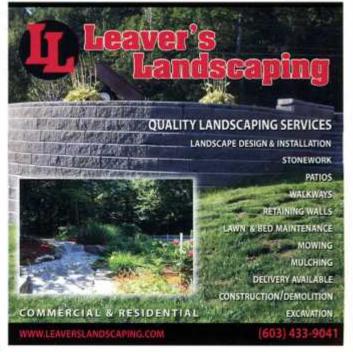
 Selectmen approved increases in income for elderly, disabled and veteran tax exemptions.

Show your support... become a member today!

W W W . S E A B R O O K B E A C H C I V I C A S S O C . O R G







2005 Seabrook Beach Civic Association Members

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Elizabeth Madoian

John Maguire

Report: Morale, Managerial and Operational Problems in Police Department By Angeljean Chiaramida

SEABROOK — Morale at the Police Department is "dismal" and the department is filled with "cynicism, skepticism and distrust," says a preliminary study commissioned by the town.

The author recommends a more in-depth study be conducted to remedy the morale, managerial and operational shortcomings he found in his 70-hour review, which was released yesterday at a selectmen's meeting.

Called last night about the report, Thomas Shamshak of Shamshak Investigative Services said he focused on the process within the department, not on individuals.

The report is critical of what Shamshak called an outdated, unproductive department format. In morale, leadership, supervision, investigative management, policing style and methodology, Seabrook's department is falls short of accepted standards.

But he stressed the department "has all the tools it needs" to be a more effective, progressive law enforcement agency.

From computer software to personnel, Shamshak said, the resources and capabilities to make the needed changes are there, but the people within the department "need a mentor to show them how."

"They have all the tools in the toolbox," Shamshak said. "They just don't know how to use them."

Shamshak is hoping the community supports the report and the changes it recommends. The last page of Shamshak's five-page report includes a list of the 12 issues he feels need to be investigated in depth.

All facets of the department are discussed and must be scrutinized, he wrote, in a manner similar to the 1993 study by the Police Executive Research Forum of Washington, D.C. He suggests the organization be called back to conduct an update of its 1993 work, and said the group would welcome the call.

Morale

"The department is plagued by the existence of two nearly evenly divided factions," Shamshak wrote in his report. "... One faction consists of the current police chief, David Currier, and his loyalists. The other faction is made up of the remainder of the department. Each faction is disdainful of the other."

Shamshak wrote the rift is wide. Members of each faction openly made caustic remarks at each other while he was present.

According to the report, in the recent past, the situation escalated to an alleged assault when a verbal exchange between two officers ended with one pulling a knife on another. The subsequent investigation produced a report that called the incident a joke. Shamshak said joke or not, such behavior has no place in a police station.

Shamshak said improving morale is paramount. If officers are distracted by internal friction, they don't have the time and focus to be productive for those they serve.

"Both factions recognize the need for significant change," Sharnshak said. "
... That house has to get its act together internally first. To do good work
outside and respect people, they have to respect each other internally. ... They
have a blueprint as to how to get out of the quagmire they're in and a
m ntor to show them how to do it."

Leadership, Management

The management style practiced in Seabrook is old-fashioned, Shamshak

said. The tightly controlled, top-down style adds to the morale problem and needs to be replaced with leadership that recognizes "employees as internal customers."

"Progressive law enforcement agencies of all sizes have successfully replaced the traditional leadership style with leadership principles of Total Quality Management," the report says.

Shamshak said the department's new computer system, and the statistics and information it can provide are not being used fully. The department ends up reacting to crime instead of fighting it in an anticipatory way.

Shamshak was impressed, he said, with the enthusiasm of some of the newer officers on the force who were familiar with the Total Quality Management style of police management. He said officers in the department with military training also realized the benefits of the management system.

Yet, he said, the department has no strategic viewpoint.

Policing Style

Shamshak said an example of how the department behaves reactively can be seen in the way it goes about patrolling the town.

"From what I observed during several ride-alongs in a patrol cruiser, random patrol with a reactive posture is the order of the day," he wrote in the report. "Patrol officers ride around aimlessly throughout the community waiting to be dispatched to a call for service into one of the two delineated patrol sectors."

Such policing doesn't anticipate problems, he said, nor use widely accepted principles of community policing. The town should be divided into smaller neighborhoods, he said, assigning the same officers to work in each one daily.

In that way, he said, officers learn the crime problems for each area. A strategy can then be developed for each neighborhood, implemented and measured to ensure it's effective.

Witch Hunt

Months ago, when selectmen first discussed Shamshak taking on this preliminary survey of the department, Selectmen Karen Knight and Dick McCann approved the \$10,000 study, but Selectman Cora Stockbridge didn't.

Stockbridge called it a "witch hunt," and yesterday she referred to the report as the "witch hunt's report." Stockbridge believes Shamshak and former police Chief Bill Baker are friends, and she expected the report to be slanted against Currier because of it.

Shamshak disregards the comment. It's based, he said, on the fact that years ago he, Baker and three other police professionals were invited to do a study of the Newburyport department. But, he said, though Baker is a "professional acquaintance," Shamshak has never socialized with him.

After spending time with Currier during his review, Shamshak believes the chief recognizes problems within the department.

A police policy expert who has testified on the topic in government arenas, Shamshak also offered a way to debunk Stockbridge's notion.

"What did I do, fabricate the situation I found in Seabrook?" Shamshak said.
"Go to the members of each faction and ask them if this situation exists.
It will validate what's in the report. The problems are percolating there.
Everyone recognizes the department needs improvement."

State Issues New Rules For Public Beaches

By Susan Morse smorse@seacoastonline.com

HAMPTON- The state Department of Environmental Services has issued new rules for public beaches and bathing areas.

The unfunded mandates are expected to affect town rather than state beaches, which already have most of the requirements in place.

One rule is a telephone or radio be available within 200 feet of the water for emergency service. If one isn't provided, a sign must be posted where one can be found.

The beach must also have rescue equipment or have a sign that no emergency equipment is available.

Toilets that can't be tipped over are required, and if they cannot be installed within 200 feet of the water "due to unique topography," they must be placed as close to the water as possible, the DES said.

"A lot of that we already have in place," said Brian Warburton, supervisor of the state Division of Parks and Recreation.

Lifeguards at state beaches have radios, he said.

From Seabrook to Rye, town beaches vary on what is available for these new required services.

Seabrook Beach currently has none of the state requirements. Enacting the new regulations, which are effective immediately, could be costly, Seabrook Town Manager Fred Welch said.

Earlier this month, Seabrook selectmen read the new rules. Chairwoman Karen Knight said the board would teview them at a later date.

Welch said Seabrook Beach has no unique topography to prevent public toilets from being installed. There are none currently near the ocean. The closest public bathrooms are at least four blocks away across Route 1A at Seabcook Harbor.

At the very least, Seabtook selection expect to be installing numerous new signs at all public access ways to the beach by this summer.

Welch had no estimates on cost.

Most of Hampton's stretch of beach belongs to the state which the exception of two: Sun Valley, next to Seabrook Beach: and Plaice Cove, which is located between Hampton's North Beach and the state beach in North Hampton.

Neither Hampton town beach is equipped with public restrooms or telephones.

Hampton Town Manager James Barrington, when contacted about the new rules on Thursday, said it was the first he had heard of them.

"My initial reaction is this is an unfunded state mandate, and if they want us to do those things, they are certainly welcome to send us a check," he said.

Unlike Seabrook, Hampton pays for lifeguards at its two town beaches. State lifeguards, who carry radios, are stationed there and are reimbursed by the town, Warburton said.

Rye also has a mixture of state- and town-owned beaches. The state-operated Wallis Sands and Jenness Beach are both equipped with bathhouses and telephones.

The town beaches include Sawyers Beach near the Rye Beach Club; the Cable Road Extension beach just north of Jenness Beach; and the Wallis Road extension beach, just south of Wallis Sands State Beach.

Sawyers Beach has no facilities; the beaches at the end of the Cable Road and Wallis Road extensions have port-o-potties.

Rye supplies its own lifeguards.

Beach Commissioner Peter Clark could not be reached for comment.

Selectmen's secretary Nancy Weiand said the issue has been forwarded to the board, which has yet to discuss the new regulations.





John Walsh

ATTORNEY / BROKER

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State House Dome: Token Refunds Not money in the Bank:

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2006

DON'T COUNT your money yet.

The latest E-ZPass plan on redeeming obsolete turnpike tokens cuts out cash refunds. Instead, a 14-member task force voted 12-2 last week to put all refunds toward new or existing E-ZPass accounts.

Transportation officials say they have 15 million of the tokens in hand now, and they think another 15 million are unaccounted for. If all of them somehow found their way to Concord, the total cost would be nearly \$1.9 million. Guesstimates are that up to \$250,000 worth might actually be turned in.

DOT will redeem them in \$1 increments. Originally, the plan was to make repayments in lots of 40 tokens, \$5 at a time. The task force felt that would leave people with 35 or 39 tokens stuck with nearly \$5 in tokens and no way to get any of it.

Rep. Dan Hughes was one who voted against the idea of forcing all token redemptions into the E-ZPass plan. Sen. Richard Green was the other "no" vote. "As a state that values personal freedom and liberties, we should not tell people how to spend that money," Hughes said before voting against the plan.

Executive Council members are waiting for an attorney general's opinion on whether they or lawmakers have the authority to order refunds. Meanwhile, the general plan is to give 30 days notice of when a redemption program will start, and let the program end 60 days after the first announcement.

Sen. Chuck Morse continues to worry that the turnpike fund is gradually running out of cash. A recent Moody's Investors Services bond rating letter gave turnpike bonds a negative rating, noting that toll revenues have declined over the past couple of years while the state hasn't had a toll increase since 1989.

He hoped E-ZPass would produce extra revenue when lawmakers cut the discount for tokens from 50 percent to 30 percent for E-ZPass.

After the program was approved, the Executive Council, the governor, and the Legislature started tinkering with Transportation's plans to put the program in place, he said. Now lawmakers are micro-managing the way exact change and E-ZPass lane are configured, he complained.

"When we mickeyed with everything — whether or not to leave tokens in or how long — we screwed it up," Morse said.

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CALLING ALL AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

The newsletter is looking for interesting photos of our beach and its surroundings. If you're a "shutter bug," send us your pictures for possible inclusion in our publication.



Brown's was offering a free car wash with every fried clam order. (January 2006)