

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2021

Present: Ella M. Brown
Aboul B. Khan
Theresa A. Kyle
William M. Manzi, III

10:30AM

Mrs. Brown opened the meeting at 10:36AM.

MONTHLY MEETING - FIRE CHIEF

Chief Edwards was present and briefly went through his report (see attached). Chief Edwards reminded everyone that Old Home Days is this weekend with fireworks. They are working on getting the new engine that was approved at town meeting. He said they have had more injuries this year than any other, but he is working on getting the employees back to work. Covid has been kept to a minimum. Touch-a-truck will be back in the fall around October.

There was discussion on the injuries in the fire department. They need to look at increasing manpower to keep up with the increase in calls for service. Interviews are taking place for the open firefighter position and the dispatcher position closes on Monday, August 23.

PREVIOUS MINUTES - APRIL 5 PUBLIC, APRIL 19 PUBLIC, MAY 3 PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC AND MAY 17 PUBLIC

MOTION:	Ella M. Brown	To adopt the minutes of
Second:	Theresa A. Kyle	4/5 public, 4/19 public
Unanimous		5/3 public & non-public
		and 5/17 public.

MS-1 EXTENSION FORM

MOTION:	Ella M. Brown-	To approve and sign the
Second:	Theresa A. Kyle	MS-1 Extension Form.
Unanimous		

FINANCIAL REPORT DISCUSSION

Mr. Manzi discussed his financial reports submitted to the board including the capital spending over a 9-year period. Tax dollars come from Next Era, residential, commercial and other utilities. Tax dollars go to town spending, local schools, county and state school spending make up the tax rate for the town.

The total spending fewer local revenues is what the total tax levy is comprised of. The total tax levy since 2019 has increased 1% and since 2014 it has increased 1.5%. The town portion in 2020 stayed constant and the town raised less money in taxation then they did in 2019.

In 2020, the school portion exceeded 50% of the tax rate. Next Era contributed a little over 29% of the tax dollars raised. With Next Era paying less the money needs to be made up from somewhere which is the residential tax money.

The water and sewer rate subsidy was \$2 million so the board made some changes to allow for those departments to bring in the revenue and offset the expenditures. Both departments still have capital needs, and those needs are still funded by the taxpayer.

In 2021, the voters approved just under \$4 million in warrant articles. These get incorporated into the budget in order to raise the appropriation with the tax rate. This is a lot for one year, but it needs to be funded this year. The fund balance has been a major component in subsidizing the tax rate and for critical capital projects. It currently is about \$6 million, and the board has utilized about \$7 million over the past few years.

Mr. Khan thanked the town manager for his work on this report and said it is a complete and comprehensive report. Mr. Khan asked about the rooms and meals tax. Mr. Manzi said there are a few that are lumped together and explained how they are utilized in the tax rate as local revenue. It is considered an offset as to what needs to be raised for tax dollars.

Mr. Khan said in the earlier years 2014-16 the budget for the town and the school stayed consistent but around 2016-17 the school budget increased significantly. He said the taxpayers need to understand that the town budget did not increase but they need to really look at the departments such as fire and police. The employees are getting injured due to more calls for service but no additional manpower. Mr. Khan said they are in negotiations with the power plant, but they cannot discuss too much. He feels they should pay their fare share of the tax bill as the residents do.

Mr. Khan would like to have a work session to discuss how they are going to move forward with the budget so as not to harm the taxpayer. There was a revaluation this year and most residents

received a letter as to how much the value has increased. This is something the board also needs to consider when going into the budget season. Mrs. Brown agreed and said they need to really look at everything and if a warrant article is not a necessity then they need to make some consideration.

Mrs. Kyle said they need to have a good mix of commercial property along with residential for the tax base. She agrees the power plant should pay more but there is more that they look at for the power plant when they go into taxation. The town is not the total decider on the value of the power plant. Mrs. Kyle said the report the town manager prepared was done very well and was pleased with his report. The majority of the tax money goes to the school. She said it takes a lot to run a town and they have excellent departments.

Mr. Khan said they serve a lot of residents especially in the summer months. Services are provided for many items such as cigarettes, beer, and fireworks but Seabrook does not see anything from the state on these services.

Mr. Khan said the town manager's office did a tremendous job during the pandemic. Mr. Manzi said the departments relied heavily on the deputy town manager including setting policies as this is new for everyone. Mr. Manzi explained the reimbursement for the covid expenses that Kelly McDonald, Joe Titone and Chief Edwards compiled. The second funding has not come in as of yet, but they are also waiting on reimbursement from FEMA. They have made a filing for over a million dollars. The federal government is giving a second round of about \$880K and they have already received \$440K and will receive another \$440K. There are some guidelines for this additional \$440K by the treasury but they have to abide by them, and the water and sewer departments will definitely be eligible for this. He is studying the guidelines and will bring a report to the board.

Mr. Khan asked about the capital improvement policy not being included in the capital spending graph. Mr. Manzi said traditionally the police department has been under funded in capital projects except for last year where they received a bond for the radios. It will be a low number, but he will add it to the graph and resubmit to the board. Mr. Manzi explained the process for getting the radios installed for the police department. Mrs. Brown mentioned the automated system when you call 474-5200 as well as the emergency line. Mr. Manzi said he will look into this and see what is going on.

Ravi said the town portion went up 1.5%. Mr. Manzi explained the overall budget went up 1.5% annually over the course of the years. He said they have not looked at the number of people that have been serviced during those years. Mr. Manzi said as soon as they have the census numbers, he is going to have a discussion with the board.

ABATEMENTS

Joseph Cuccarello - 162 South Main Street - \$31.20
Mark Allen & Claire Rebidue - 69A Foggs Lane - \$139.55

Mr. Slayton explained that in order to not get billed for a meter charge it must be out for a full quarter. The South Main Street one was out but did not check the box in the billing system, so the customer was billed in error. The meter installed for 69B Foggs Lane was inadvertently swapped so one unit is due a refund while the other unit will be billed the difference.

MOTION: Ella M. Brown To sign and approve both
Second: Theresa A. Kyle abatements.
Unanimous

ABATEMENTS DENIED

65 Alison Drive
262 Portsmouth Avenue

Mr. Slayton explained the homeowners left the hoses going and requesting an abatement. He has a hard time approving these requests, but it is ultimately up to the board.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To deny the 65 Alison
Second: Ella M. Brown Drive request for an
Unanimous abatement.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To deny the 262
Second: Ella M. Brown Portsmouth Avenue
Abstain: Theresa A. Kyle request for an
abatement.

TAX ABATEMENT INTEREST

Maria Brown - 16 Worthley Avenue - \$1.08

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign the
Second: Aboul B. Khan tax abatement interest.
Ella Brown recused herself due to this being a family member.

WATER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Stoneybrook Mobile Home Park - 17 Brown Avenue - \$50
Cote & Foster Cont. - 145 Franklin Street - \$50
Robert Phelan - 339 Atlantic Avenue - \$100

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign all
Second: Ella M. Brown water applications.
Unanimous

SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Cote & Foster Cont. - 145 Franklin Street - \$50
Robert Phelan - 339 Atlantic Avenue - \$50

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign all
Second: Ella M. Brown sewer applications.
Unanimous

SURPLUS - RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve the request
Second: Ella M. Brown for recreation.
Unanimous

SURPLUS - WATER DEPARTMENT

MOTION: Ella M. Brown To approve the request
Second: Theresa A. Kyle for water.
Unanimous

AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE

RMH, NH, LLC. The Brook - 319 New Zealand Road

Mr. Khan said because this is a new license, he would like the owner present to answer questions.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To table for further
Second: Ella M. Brown information.
Unanimous

TOWN OF SEABROOK SAFETY PLAN

This plan has been updated due to the DOL coming in after 18 years of not being in. The safety committee has been re-established and we are looking at all safety concerns of all building and the issues will be corrected. The board will need to approve and then it will be submitted to the safety committee for approval. Mr. Khan said the town manager's office did another tremendous job working on this document.

MOTION: Ella M. Brown To adopt the safety

Second: Theresa A. Kyle plan.
Unanimous

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The board attended the elderly housing cook-out and had a delicious meal. The board attended the night out with the police department and thanked BJ's for hosting and providing all the food and grills to cook. The children enjoyed it and it was a great event! Mr. Khan said the Beach Civic Association meeting is tonight and the board will be attending at 6PM.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To go into non-public
Second: Ella M. Brown session under RSA 91-A:3
Unanimous II (e) negotiations.

Roll call:
Mrs. Brown - yes
Mr. Khan - yes
Mrs. Kyle - yes

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adjourn the meeting.
Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Unanimous

Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor.

Approved and endorsed:

Theresa A. Kyle, Clerk

Date: _____

TOWN OF SEABROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN

AGENDA

August 16, 2021

Open Meeting at 10:30 A.M.

TURN CELL PHONES TO VIBRATE OR OFF PLEASE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETINGS

- 1.) Monthly Meeting-Fire Chief

NEW BUSINESS

- 1.) Question of approving previous minutes of April 5 public, April 19 public, May 3 public & non-public and May 17 public.
- 2.) Question of approving MS-1 Extension form.
- 3.) Question of discussion on financial reports from the town manager.
- 4.) Question of approving abatements for Joseph Cuccarello -162 South Main Street - 31.20 and Mark Allen & Clarie Rebidue-69A Foggs Lane - \$139.55.
- 5.) Question of approving request to deny abatement for 65 Alison Drive and 262 Portsmouth Avenue.
- 6.) Question of approving tax abatement on interest for Maria Brown -16 Worthley Avenue - \$1.08.
- 7.) Question of approving water service applications for Stoneybrook Mobile Home Park -17 Brown Avenue, Cote & Foster Cont. -145 Franklin Street, Robert Phelan-339 Atlantic Avenue and Philip Franciosa-3A&3B Almena Way.
- 8.) Question of approving sewer service applications for Cote & Foster Cont. -145 Franklin Street, Robert Phelan-339 Atlantic Avenue and Philip Franciosa-3A&3B Almena Way.
- 9.) Question of approving request to surplus for the recreation department.
- 10.) Question of approving request to surplus for the water department.
- 11.) Question of approving amusement device license for RMH, NH, LLC. The Brook - 319 New Zealand Road.
- 12.) Question of adopting Town of Seabrook Safety Plan

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board of Selectmen on any boards and/or committee meetings they have attended

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION