

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan
Second: Ravi
Unanimous

To adjourn the meeting
at 1:06PM.

Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor.

Approved and endorsed:

Srinivasan "Ravi" Ravikumar,
Clerk

Date: _____

TOWN OF SEABROOK

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MAY 16, 2022

Present: Aboul B. Khan
Theresa A. Kyle
Srinivasan "Ravi" Ravikumar
William M. Manzi, III

10:30AM

Mr. Khan opened the meeting at 10:30AM.

MONTHLY MEETING - POLICE CHIEF

Chief Brett Walker was present for his monthly report (see attached). He is looking to hire the 5th dispatcher that was approved beginning December 2021. Chief Walker said they have 2 applications for the open patrol shifts. That is not many as in previous years they would receive 50 or so applications but the process is moving along.

Ravi asked about equipment and it being at the end of its life cycle and if it was put into the C.I.P. Chief Walker said it was not as he had hoped this would last until 2025. Mr. Manzi said when the C.I.P. is presented they will see it and can change it to accommodate the needs.

Mrs. Kyle commented that even if it is in the C.I.P. it doesn't mean there is money in the budget. Mr. Manzi agreed and said the board takes the items in the C.I.P. for the upcoming year and develops the warrant articles from it.

Mr. Khan asked about the traffic light at Railroad Avenue. Chief Walker reached out and the state will be monitoring it remotely and will provide feedback to him. Mr. Khan said the main concern is the time when school gets out.

Ravi asked if the computer systems are up to date at the police department. Chief Walker said he is not IT, but he is aware there are some systems that need upgrading but without updating all the operating systems it would not work, so for them he feels they are up to date.

Ravi commented that he feels we should look for better ways to communicate so everyone knows all the services the town has to offer.

MEETING - STRATEGIC PLANNING GRANT - \$50K

Curtis Slayton was present and explained what the money would be used for. This is a total grant, so no match is required.

MOTION: Ravi

To accept and authorize

Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Unanimous

the water & sewer
superintendent to sign
required documentation.

POLICE RADIO PROJECT

Mr. Manzi said this project is just about complete and he has the fire chief here to discuss a request of funding from the communication fund. The project was to replace apparatus on the cell tower at Sam's Club. The fire replaced their apparatus at a height that deals with a fee to the town. Lowering the apparatus would have adverse consequences particularly to the beach but not just the beach. The fee is \$1250/month with a 3% yearly escalator. They are requesting to take this from the communication fund and next year the board could reassign it to the fire budget or leave it in the communication fund.

Chief Edwards explained why the equipment was placed where it is at. They looked into getting on the tower where Hampton's equipment is located but it is an expensive project.

Mr. Khan asked if this tower is taxed. Mr. Manzi explained that it is a property improvement which does increase taxes however he would defer the complete answer to the assessor.

Ravi asked why does the signal work for police at 140-feet but not for fire. Chief Walker said they have spotty areas, but the new equipment will help that. If he could move it to 170 feet he would. Chief Edwards explained that fire is used to a higher baseline so its not that it won't work it just won't work as well. Chief Edwards said he also feels its due to the police running a digital system and fire runs an analog system. He explained what happened when Portsmouth tried going to an all-digital system. There was discussion on how the radio signal works.

It will cost \$8750 for the remainder of the year and Mr. Manzi will come back for 2023. Mrs. Kyle would like to look at another option such as having their own tower which could also increase revenue for the town. Mr. Manzi said if the assessor is doing a revenue analysis then it would probably increase the tax but would defer the full question to the assessor.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan
Second: Theresa A. Kyle
Unanimous

To approve the \$8750
from the communication
fund for remainder of
2022.

Mr. Manzi was present for this report that is done annually for the board (see attached). He explained how they arrive at the total tax levy less the amount of revenues. The board does have the option of applying fund balance.

Over the course of 8 years the total tax levy has gone up less than 2%. In 2021 we had over \$4 million in warrant articles and the budget increased by \$2 million. The board approved using \$4 million of fund balance to offset the tax rate which basically covered the cost of the warrant articles.

Mr. Manzi said public safety (police and fire) make up 89% of the budget so all other departments are in the 11%. He broke down the tax rate as to how it is made up. There was discussion on where tax money comes from.

In 2014 Next Era made up 42% of taxes. In 2021 they were at 20.84%. Residential in 2014 was at 39% whereas in 2021 they are now over 51%.

Ravi commented that unless they want to really cut services they are going to see increases in the tax rate. The overall town budget only makes up 45% of the tax rate and the schools make up 49%.

Ravi said before he was a selectman he did not fully appreciate what the town manager does with negotiating with Next Era and how they play hard ball. Mr. Manzi said they do use a professional appraiser but the board has taken a hard position to make Next Era pay their fair share. Mr. Khan said Next Era watches everything the town does including this meeting today.

Mr. Manzi said in 2020 residential was still under 50% of the tax base but in 2021 it shifted and put residential over 52%.

The water and sewer report show that there was \$2 million direct to taxpayers but we have been able to shift that to the users. This results in water being self-sustained but not sewer however it has decreased the tax burden. Mrs. Kyle mentioned the land that was donated to the town that has 2 wells that will be utilized by the town.

The challenges they are faced with are the assessment of Next Era, how to deal with the Next Era shift, close the water and sewer subsidy, cut services, modify how services are delivered and prepare to shift the tax burden to residential. There was discussion on the board direction for the upcoming budget and warrant articles.

Pauline Griffith of Pembroke Street asked how do they get more money from The Brook. Angela Silva said they are still under construction and when they are done they are thinking of hiring a professional to assess the property. She can assess the value on the real estate but not sure on the casino aspect. There was discussion on the water and sewer subsidy.

ABATEMENT

Virginia Brown - 40 Railroad Avenue - \$31.86

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign the
Second: Ravi abatement.
Unanimous

1 ELDERLY EXEMPTION

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign the
Second: Ravi elderly exemption.
Unanimous

WATER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Ronald & Elaise Pomerleau - 283 South Main Street - \$100
Linda McElheney - 522 Manchester Street - \$50
Joseph Franciosa - 78 Viola Circle - \$1300
Cote & Foster Cont. - 21 Groveland Street - \$100
Jessica Richards - 17 Janvrin Drive - \$100

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign all
Second: Ravi water applications.
Unanimous

Ravi said just so everyone knows the town approves exemptions and spends close to \$1 million per year. Mrs. Kyle said that is under state law and they have adopted the state law.

FIREWORKS SALES LICENSE - FANTASY FIREWORKS INC.

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign the
Second: Ravi fireworks sales license.
Unanimous

SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS

Stanley Saracy - 127 South Main Street - \$800
Joseph Franciosa - 78 Viola Circle - \$800
Cote & Foster Cont. - 21 Groveland Street - \$100
Cote & Foster Cont. - 155 Atlantic Avenue - \$50
Jessica Richards - 17 Janvrin Drive - \$50

MOTION: Theresa A. Kyle To approve and sign all
Second: Ravi sewer applications.
Unanimous

APPOINTMENT

Rachel Turcotte - Winnacunnet Budget Committee

MOTION: Ravi To approve and sign the
Second: Aboul B. Khan appointment.
Unanimous

INSERTS INTO TAX BILLS

Ravi asked for this item and said a lot of good things happen in the town and felt it would be useful to put this information in with the tax bills.

Mrs. Kyle said she doesn't agree with him on this. It would mean additional personnel and postage to complete the task. Mr. Manzi said after speaking with the tax collector she would not recommend anything in with the 2nd bill as they already have notices that go out with this bill.

Mr. Khan said they could add an item to the agenda so they can announce useful information to the public and it would be a standing item.

Ravi attended the RPC and reviewed the transportation report that he will share with the board. They are looking for ways to improve the transportation with S.W.O.T. that he will also share. Mr. Khan asked that he share it in a public meeting for transparency.

Mr. Khan and Mrs. Kyle attended The Brook for the new slots. The board attended the opening of Dunkins. The board had a special meeting last week to sign the first half of the tax warrant.

The legal opinion has come back for the moby mats on the boardwalks, and it poses a slight liability to the town. Ravi said he did read that if someone is hurt it would be a lawsuit to the town and the installers. It would be better if they were to be installed by professionals.

Bill Howley said liability can be anywhere. He said they could have DPW install the mats in an hour and its not that much money. The money is already there to maintain, and it is much easier to maintain than the existing boardwalks.

Ellen McSwiggin asked if the liability would be lessened if they had signs that said use at your own risk.

Mary of Pembroke Street asked the opinion of each selectman from the walk they took. Mrs. Kyle feels they should go by the deeds and should fix the boardwalks. The town manager is committed to fixing a couple each year, but the voters have turned down the funding for this. Ravi said there are some serious repairs needed but will need a lot of money to correct. Mr. Manzi said they have been trying to fix the walkways. The board felt it needed more but the voters did not approve, and they did not approve the budget which also had money in it for the beach and pier. Ravi said he would like to move forward and have the DPW install them.

Carole Howley asked if this needed a further vote. She said they are at a huge liability now. The only problem she sees as an issue is the mats need to be stretched and anchored down.

The beach precinct purchased the mats with installation by the DPW to mitigate the liability as presented by town counsel should be the motion.

Sheila Fleming asked who would be liable if her husband who is disabled were to fall and get injured with the boardwalks that exist today. She feels it is the same thing.

Mr. Manzi commented that the board does not need to give approval for the beach precinct to make the purchase.

MOTION:	Ravi	To allow placement of
Second:	Theresa A. Kyle	the moby mats with
Opposed:	Aboul B. Khan	installation by the
		DPW at Nashua Street,
		Hudson Street and
		Tilton Street.

Mr. Khan said should it be to maintain them as that is the key. If it contains this Ravi would add that the DPW maintain all existing walkways. Mr. Khan said he also asked for a representative from in town be on the safety committee and that did not happen, so he is not in favor of this as it is all too confusing.

Mr. Khan commented that Ravi is not respectful of the chairman as he takes over all the time.

TOWN OF SEABROOK BOARD OF SELECTMEN

AGENDA

May 16, 2022

Open Meeting at 10:30 A.M.

TURN CELL PHONES TO VIBRATE OR OFF PLEASE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETING

- 1.) Monthly Meeting – Police Chief
- 2.) Meeting – Town Manager – Financial Report
- 3.) Meeting – Water & Sewer Superintendent – Acceptance of 2022-2024 DES Strategic Planning Grant

NEW BUSINESS

- 1.) Question of approving communication fund expense.
- 2.) Question of approving abatement for Virginia Brown – 40 Railroad Avenue - \$31.86.
- 3.) Question of approving 1 elderly exemption.
- 4.) Question of approving water service applications for Ronald & Elaise Pomerleau – 283 South Main Street, Linda McElheney – 522 Manchester Street, Joseph Franciosa – 78 Viola Circle, Cote & Foster Cont. – 21 Groveland Street and Jessica Richards – 17 Janvrin Drive.
- 5.) Question of approving sewer service applications for Stanley Saracy – 127 South Main Street, Joseph Franciosa – 78 Viola Circle, Cote & Foster Cont. – 21 Groveland Street & 155 Atlantic Avenue and Jessica Richards – 17 Janvrin Drive.
- 6.) Question of approving fireworks license for Fantasy Fireworks Inc.
- 7.) Question of approving appointment for Rachel Turcotte to Winnacunnet Budget Committee as Seabrook Representative.
- 8.) Question of adding inserts into the tax bills.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Seabrook Police Department



7 Liberty Lane, P.O. Box 456

Seabrook, NH 03874

Phone: (603) 474-5200

Fax: (603) 474-7242

Brett J. Walker

Chief of Police

Kevin M. Gelineau

Deputy Chief of Police

May 13, 2022

Commercial Business Stats Requested

The below statistics are cumulative and for the following business locations. The data shows the number of incidents for the commercial areas listed as well as the total for the town and the percentage of those incidents that are related to the listed commercial locations. These stats are not likely to be completely accurate as a result of inconsistencies in data entry.

240 Lafayette Rd (Home Depot)

380 Lafayette Rd. (Southgate Plaza)

570 Lafayette Rd. (Seabrook Crossings)

270 Lafayette Rd (Seacoast Shopping Center)

417 Lafayette Rd (Lowes)

700 Lafayette Rd. (Seabrook Commons)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021 Total</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2022 YTD</u>	<u>2022 YTD Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Accidents	142	460	30.9%	40	145	27.6%
Thefts	114	293	38.9%	55	101	54.5%
Disturbances	129	358	36.0%	63	121	52.1%
Animal calls	68	425	16.0%	6	107	5.6%
Suspicious People/MV's	120	997	12.0%	27	286	9.4%
Abandoned 911	12	102	11.8%	3	27	11.1%
Alarms*	705	986	71.5%	226	313	72.2%
Firelane/Parking	515	804	64.1%	113	193	59.0%

*Of the alarm calls in 2021 all were unfounded. Of the alarm calls in 2022, only one has been a justified alarm (burglary of a business).

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Walker
Chief of Police

Town of Seabrook

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Town Manager

CC: Kelly O'Connor

Communication Fund Request

May 12, 2022

As you know we have started, and are near competition, on the Police Radio project funded by Warrant Article 5 of 2020. (\$685,307) This project has unfortunately run into a slight problem. The last leg of the project is the simple swapping out of radio apparatus for police on the Sam's Club Tower. (We currently have apparatus for police at 140-foot on the tower. We would replace that with the new equipment at that same height.)

The tower owner, SBA Communication, has raised the issue of fire apparatus placed at 178 foot in the 2017-time frame as part of the new dispatch center upgrade. SBA is indicating that Fire did not have permission to go above 140. In reviewing this situation I find the following:

1. We are out of contract on all tower placements on this tower.
2. The Fire placement at 178 was known to the tower owner, who indicated through a draft contract, sent to Fire, that there would be a charge for such a placement.
3. Neither side followed up on the draft contract, and the fire apparatus has remained in place, without charge, since the 2017 date.

The Tower owner has proposed two prospective solutions.

1. Have the fire apparatus lowered to 140. If that option is chosen then the tower owner will provide space, free of charge, to both fire and police. We would sign a contract renewal that would solve the issue of being out of contract.
2. Leave the fire apparatus at 178 and sign a contract for both police and fire that would incur a charge of \$1250/month, with a 3% escalator.

The Fire Chief indicates that lowering the fire apparatus will negatively impact Fire communication, especially at the beach.

I have asked the Fire Chief to appear before the Board to discuss. If the Board agrees to leave the fire apparatus at 178 I would propose a 2022 charge to the communication revolving fund of \$8,750 (\$1250/month starting June 1, 2022) The current fund balance is \$272,487. This fund is slated to pay the bond associated with the police radio project. With the 2023 budget the Board could choose to continue to utilize the communication fund or simply place the charge into the Fire Budget.

Seabrook Police Department



7 Liberty Lane, P.O. Box 456
Seabrook, NH 03874
Phone: (603) 474-5200
Fax: (603) 474-7242

Brett J. Walker
Chief of Police

Kevin M. Gelineau
Deputy Chief of Police

May 13, 2022

March (partial)/April/May (partial) Report to Selectmen

- During this period some officers received training as both firearms and Taser instructors, National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), in-service training for K9 Henry, and SERT training. The subscription-based PoliceOne Academy continues to be an excellent way to supplement traditional in-person learning and provide our staff with training in contemporary law enforcement topics. We utilize PoliceOne Academy to complete our mandatory annual training in ethics, bias, and de-escalation as well as a variety of other topics.
- On Wednesday April 6th we participated in the graded exercise for the power plant.
- On Friday April 15th we welcomed new full-time dispatcher Teya Mazalauski to the Seabrook PD family. Teya is new to dispatching but is picking it up quickly. She will continue in-house training as well as other online and in-person training for approximately six months before she will be on her own.
 - The addition of Teya brings us up to four full-time dispatchers. We are continuing the hiring process to fill a fifth full-time dispatch position which was approved by the voters in 2021.
- On Wednesday April 20th I attended the swearing in of Hampton Falls Chief Ryan Veno. Chief Veno was appointed by the Town following the retirement of longtime Chief Robbie Dirsä.
- On Wednesday April 27th I attended an event at The Brook announcing expansions at the facility. Toward the end of the event an elderly male experienced a medical emergency and was tended to by Seabrook Fire Department Deputy Chief Koko Perkins while I requested an ambulance. The male regained consciousness and was able to leave the facility under his own power with Seabrook firefighters.
- On Friday April 29th Detective Mike Titone was honored by the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County as a "Champion for Children" at their annual breakfast. Det. Titone was recognized for work throughout his career but specifically for a 2021 case involving the arrest and conviction of an older male, Scott Dunn, for Simple Assault and Second Degree Assault involving children.
- DEA National Take Back Day was Saturday April 30th. We remind the public that we have a dropbox for prescription medications in our lobby which is available to dispose unwanted or unused prescription medications 24/7/365. If you have "sharps" (needles, lancets, etc) ask to speak with an officer and we will take those items. ***Please do not put sharps in the dropbox.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Walker", followed by a long horizontal flourish. The number "766" is written in small, faint ink to the right of the signature.

Brett Walker
Chief of Police

