

Suburban

As the tide retreats

Bared by the retreating tide, a rock at Higgins Beach juts from the rippled, untrampled sand like a miniature island. Thousands of tiny organisms

depend on such tidal creations for survival, commuting from the deep, moist sand at low tide to the briefly dampened surface when the waves return.

Big turnout seen at tax plan hearing

By LORRAINE ALLEN
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — A full house is expected for a Town Council public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the junior high school on the Scarborough Taxpayers Association's proposed Proposition 13 style referendum questions.

The council received the two petitions for referendum from the Taxpayers Association (STA) several weeks ago.

The first would amend the Town Charter by limiting municipal expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 1979, to June 31, 1980, to last year's expenditures of \$6,080,738. The second proposed amendment would make all or any part of the annual budget adopted by the council subject to overrule by petition from the town's citizens.

The petitions were received shortly after council adoption last June of an annual budget for 1979-80 authorizing expenditures of \$6,614,221.

If the proposed amendments to the charter are successful during referendum voting here in the near future, Scarborough citizens will have to live with an additional cut of \$533,483 in the budget, a budget Town Manager Carl L. Betterly has often referred to as already being "bare bones."

William Stroud, an STA member, says the

association has hired an outside expert at its expense to put together a whole new budget proposal for Wednesday's public hearing.

Word is that the person is the same one who came up with the City of Saco's tax limitation referendum, which rolled the tax levy back to \$3 million — about \$600,000 less than the town raised the previous year. Saco voters supported the limitation by a 2-1 margin twice.

When asked if there would be any information available before Wednesday's hearing, association President Mrs. Corrine "Peachy" Libby said she doubted it.

Revaluation of property has played a critical role in tax limitation issues in Saco and now in Augusta and Scarborough.

In Scarborough, the STA started collecting signatures on a petition even before the results of the revaluation were formally announced in June. The total value of real estate increased here from \$122,315,000 to \$228,188,100.

Earlier this month the council set the new tax rate at \$15.70 per \$1,000 of valuation, which reflects the new valuation. The current tax rate is \$27.10 per \$1,000 of valuation.

Some residents here are upset that their property valuation has doubled or in some cases tripled under the revaluation.

Suburban

Scarborough vote critical to industrial park plans

By LORRAINE ALLEN
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — A long sought industrial park off Libby Road could be jeopardized if Tuesday's referendum to limit spending is successful, town officials claim.

The Greater Portland Building Fund has earmarked \$1.22 million for acquisition of 322 acres in Scarborough and Windham for regional industrial parks.

Town officials are concerned that the town would be unable to raise the necessary funds for the park if voters approve a spending limit.

The Scarborough park is proposed on the old airport land, owned by the town, and adjacent land owned by Dr. Lloyd B. Windham and Robert L. Adam of Portland.

Robert E. Cleaves, Portland Building Fund manager, said yesterday that the fund is prepared to pay "in the neighborhood of \$450,000 to acquire the Scarborough land for the park."

The Town Council earlier this month referred a sales option agreement between the GPBF and town to the ordinance committee and Town Attorney F. Paul Frinsko.

Part of the agreement calls for the town to invest local funds for construction roads, sewers, water lines and other facilities in the park.

Town engineer and planner Charles J. Anderson said that the site would be divided into 33 parcels, sized for buildings of 12,000 to 100,000 square feet.

Anderson said the projected tax base to the town could be in the range of \$16

to \$40 million, plus inventory.

"That type of investment (for the utilities in the park) is money fairly well spent for the return it would yield," Anderson said.

Construction in the park would start with a speculative building constructed by the GPBF. Other buildings would be constructed to suit tenants.

Cleaves would like to see the Scarborough and Windham parks operational by 1981. He added, however, that he would just as soon bring in the Scarborough Park in 1980.

"We would like to be able to move just as fast as the town can move," Cleaves added.

GPBF has parks in South Portland, Riverside Industrial Park in Portland, Five Star Industrial Park in Westbrook and the Gorham Industrial Park.

Letters mailed on sewer plan

By LORRAINE ALLEN
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — A newsletter highlighting the financial estimates and time schedule for the Scarborough Sanitary District's proposed sewer system expansion was sent to about 5,000 citizens of the town this week.

The district's newsletter, the first in an effort to keep the town's residents informed during the various phases of construction of the Prout's Neck wastewater system, will be followed by others, said district Superintendent Alvin G. Keene.

The district recently received Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection grants to proceed with the design phase of the comprehensive pollution abatement program providing additional service to areas requiring public sewers.

The estimated project cost for planning, design and construction of the proposed facilities is \$23.5 million.

The newsletter says district trustees are striving to minimize total project cost and to obtain maximum federal and state funding.

The EPA and DEP will fund 90 percent of all eligible cost items (treatment plant, ocean outfall, pumping stations and interceptor sewers) while the district must finance all non-eligible costs (house to house collection system) plus the remaining 10 percent of eligible costs through user charges.

The newsletter points out that the district has received approval of a \$1.4 million grant from the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) and a 40 year, five percent loan for up to \$9.1 million to finance the local share of project costs.

The trustees have also applied for an additional 10 percent share of all eligible cost items from the DEP and are reviewing design stages to reduce costs where possible.

The projected annual residential user fee will be \$200 to \$250. The trustees said that is a conservative estimate based on the number of users who will be connected to the proposed system at the completion of construction and with no additional aid from any source.

The design phase is expected to be completed next spring, receipt of the construction grant to be in the summer, construction to start next fall and facilities to be completed in mid-1982.

Charter change seen contrary to laws

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By LORRAINE ALLEN
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — Town Attorney F. Paul Frinsko yesterday afternoon at a special session informed town councilors that in his opinion the charter change called for in the Scarborough Taxpayers Association's petition "isn't consistent with the laws of the state."

Responding to a question by Councilor Donald Clark, Frinsko said that he didn't think the petition could possibly meet the constitutionality test of "one man, one vote."

"But I could be wrong," he added. "Our firm won't issue a legal opinion on the proposal as it isn't consistent with the constitution and general laws of Maine." The town charter calls for such a legal opinion on all petitions.

"It may be that you (Town Council) might find another attorney . . . who would give his legal opinion" on the matter, said Frinsko.

After discussing the situation for nearly one and one-half hours, the council voted unanimously to table action on the petition until its Nov. 5 meeting to give association members an opportunity to prepare and submit a final report for consideration by the council. This report is to be given to

Town Manager Carl L. Betterley and Frinsko no later than Oct. 30.

The STA petition, as written, calls for the creation of seven voting districts in town. Voters within a district would nominate and elect their own representative to the council. Currently, the seven councilors are elected at large and the town has no districts.

The petition calls for the town to be divided into seven districts in a manner as equal as possible with some conformance to the town's legislative districts. The division is to be made so that two councilors will be elected from North and West Scarborough.

The session yesterday had been scheduled to receive a final report from Frinsko on the petition and also set a date for the referendum election.

State law requires that the town attorney review the proposed charter amendment and submit a final report to the town clerk within seven days of the public hearing, which was held last Tuesday.

Since it was the STA petition being discussed, the council expected that members of the association would be present. Frinsko explained, however, that earlier in the afternoon he had received a telephone call from the association's attorney,

Steven Murray, inviting him "to come to a 4 p.m. meeting at his office with his clients (STA members)."

Frinsko said that he informed Murray of the 4 p.m. special meeting in Scarborough to discuss the petition.

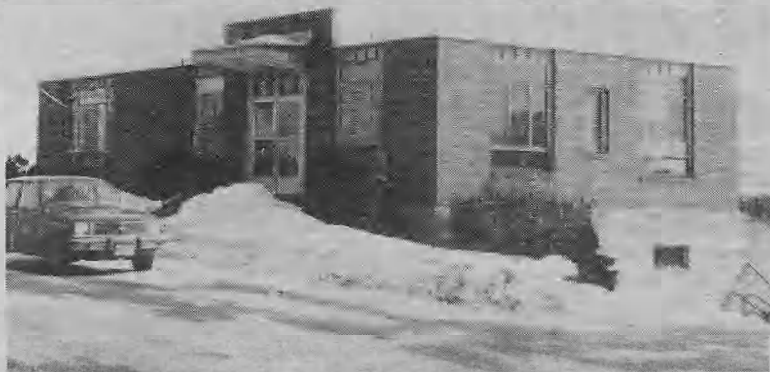
Frinsko said that Murray told him that he had no prior opportunity to discuss or review the STA petition. The association had only consulted him some time ago regarding the procedure to get a charter change, he said.

During the special meeting Frinsko excused himself twice to take telephone calls from Murray.

Upon returning to the meeting following the second call, Frinsko said that the association petition committee had directed Murray to work with himself and any representative of the council to prepare a final draft proposal of the charter change.

This is when the council took the action to table action on the matter until its Nov. 5 meeting to give the petitioners an opportunity to prepare a final draft report for review by the council.

The council felt that it is the petitioners responsibility to change the wording of the proposed referendum petition to make certain that it meets the statutes of the state.



OLD STATE POLICE BARRACKS

Rec Committee Asks Council To Buy Barracks

By LORRAINE ALLEN

The Scarborough Recreation Advisory Committee has asked the Town Council to look into acquiring the old State Police Barracks and adjoining property on Rte. 1 at Dunstan Corner for recreational use.

In a letter to the council, Committee Chairwoman Jackie Tselikis said that "because of the industrial buildup along Rte. 1, there are very few natural areas left for townspeople and visitors alike to enjoy."

Mrs. Tselikis said that the land "is a beautiful natural resource abutting the marsh and would provide an opportune spot for a scenic vista, rest spot, or picnic area." She noted "that as the town becomes more and more populated, more industrialized, and with the advent of sewers, there will be fewer green spaces to enjoy."

Mrs. Tselikis said that a study of recreational needs in Scarborough, done by the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau for Outdoor Recreation in 1976, stated that the town had little additional acreage that could be

used for outdoor recreation. Also, a United Way study indicated that the town has a deficiency of parks and natural open space.

In a Planning Board survey of community attitudes, 75 per cent of the respondents felt that the town should acquire more land for open space and recreation, said Mrs. Tselikis.

She said it's her understanding that the state acquired the 10-acre parcel of land and built the barracks for about \$30,000 in the early 1950s.

The State Police moved into new barracks in the late '60s, and the old building was turned over to the Department of Transportation.

The building has been occupied in recent years by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, but the department plans to move, the council has been informed.

The Planning Board recently was asked by the Transportation Department to consider rezoning the property from Resident-Farm and Resident-4 zone to Business-2 to make it more marketable.

NET to erect tower at Scarborough

By **LORRAINE ALLEN**
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — The New England Telephone Co. plans to erect a radio transmitting tower and three microwave discs on land off Broadturn Road in West Scarborough.

John P. McCatherin, a telephone company public relations official, said that plans call for a 150-foot tower with three microwave discs attached to it. A 16 by 24-foot

equipment storage building is also proposed for the property.

Building Inspector Paul J. Lempicki said that before any building can take place the company must first obtain approval from the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals. The company has been scheduled to go before the two boards next month.

McCatherin said that the tower and discs will serve as a relay link between Manchester, N. H., and Portland. When completed in mid-1981, the tower will add

2,600 additional communication circuits or channels to the system.

McCatherin said that the company has arranged for a long-term lease of a two-acre site owned by the Southwestern Riding Club. The club, several years ago, constructed an oval track for exercising horses on the property.

A survey crew from New Hampshire has been working in the area for a past couple of weeks establishing property boundary lines.

STA foes air local at budget hearing

By LORRAINE ALLEN
Correspondent

SCARBOROUGH — The third and final informational meeting on the controversial spending limitation referendums held last night at the high school clearly belonged to the people against the proposal.

Scarborough Taxpayer Association members did little to defend their proposal, which if successful in referendum balloting Oct. 2 would force the municipal and school budget to be held at last year's spending level of \$6,080,738. That means a reduction of \$349,631 from municipal services and \$183,852 from schools from the proposed budget.

Town Council Finance Chairman Donald Clark outlined the reductions proposed in municipal services. These would include the elimination of 14 full-time employees, including the fire chief, town planner-engineer and code enforcement officer; four of the 16 full-time police officers, four of 20 Public Works employees, a position at Town Hall and possibly the assessor.

Services and programs that would have to go or be cut back include rubbish removal, the recreation program, street lighting by 10 percent, cleanup of beaches, beach patrol, the use of salt during the winter. The Public Library would be forced to operate solely on federal revenue sharing funds.

On the school side, proposed spending reductions of \$183,832 to meet the referendum that may be imposed were explained by Ms. Jacquelyn Perry, Board of Education chairman.

Included would be a cutback in salary for the administration, foregoing the filling of positions of director of curriculum and curriculum coordinator, closing kindergarten classes, eliminating the purchase of new books for the high school and junior high school libraries, and the position of a librarian and cutting back on purchasing new equipment.

Programs such as music, art, physical education on the elementary level that were mentioned by some parents for elimination instead of kindergarten classes are being considered by the board.

The Town Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. tonight in the junior high school

auditorium to hold a first reading on its proposal and the Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Curriculum Center to complete its proposed reductions.

Citizens Against the Referenda member Edward Connolly said that with the STA proposal "we are talking about a \$2 per thousand reduction in the tax rate, or \$100 per year on a house valued at \$50,000 or \$200 on a \$100,000 home." He didn't feel the savings would be worth it if there would be no way to replace personnel or services.

Connolly suggested that "all citizens

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Edward Connolly

get together on Oct. 2 and vote no and put this thing to bed."

High School junior Terri Martin drew big applause from the crowd when she gave her reasons for keeping sports in the school system.

"It keeps some students in school and off the street and out of trouble; it teaches one to make snap decisions and to live with the results; it gives people physical competition as well as the intellectual competition gained through school; it is motivation for students to do well academically and finally it is just plain fun."

John "Red" Lee, a chief initiator of the STA referendums, said that John Fish, the association's consultant; STA president Mrs. Corrine "Peachy" Libby, and his wife had spent Monday and Tuesday at Town Hall going over the town books for July and August.

Said Lee, "It appears to them" that based upon revenue actually expended that there is \$462,711 available over

and above present costs of services and jobs. This would result in a surplus by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, he said.

Lee suggested that the council forego plans to purchase an additional \$84,000 in equipment and vehicles for the Public Works and Police departments (items already contracted for) and along with the \$462,711 surplus the \$533,000 budget reduction could be met.

"How do we know these figures are facts?" asked Mark Clark. Lee declined to answer questions.

School Supt. Carl A. Burnham stated in response that the STA apparently had based its estimate in part on the summer months when the payroll is about \$90,000 every two weeks and not on the winter months when the payroll is \$110,000 every two weeks, resulting in "another little error of \$420,000 on the part of the STA."

Town Manager Carl L. Betterley challenged the STA to show him where they came up with the \$462,711 surplus figure.

Bruce Bell and other citizens expressed deep concern over what the second part of the STA referendum could do to the town should it be successful on Oct. 2.

This referendum question if approved would allow any part or all of a budget adopted by the Town Council to be overruled by petition from not less than the 10 percent of the registered voters in town.

Since there is no time limit placed on this referendum it would mean utter chaos to the town, opponents claim, because any of the budget could be overruled at any time during the year. This could force similar public hearings and budget controversies every year, said Peter Costello, Citizens Against the Referenda co-chairman. Or "every month," added Council chairman John Griffin.

The STA plans to hold a meeting next Wednesday evening at the junior high school. Speakers will be City Councilor Donald MacWilliams of Portland; Gorham Councilor Lincoln "Ted" Fish and Robert Cassette of Saco.

About 200 citizens, including administration, town employees and personnel attended last night's informational meeting.

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