



SEBAGO HAPPENINGS

TOWN OF SEBAGO, MAINE (Approved by the Board of Selectmen)

Volume 2, Issue 1
Winter 2010

SEBAGO'S TOWN BUDGET

By Allen Crabtree, Selectman

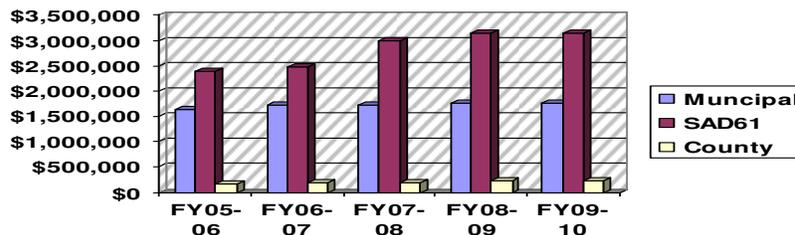
It is town budget time again! Building the budget for taxpayers to vote on at town meeting in June begins in December every year. It is a balancing act to provide essential services, meet the needs of the town, and save for the future, while doing so in the most economical and efficient manner possible in order to hold taxes down.

The total town budget is made up of three major pieces: (1) **fixed expenses** which are the town's share of the SAD 61 education budget (about 2/3 of the total town budget); (2) additional **fixed expenses** which are the town's share of the Cumberland County budget; and (3) a combination of **fixed, essential, and discretionary expenses** plus revenues that is Sebago's operating budget (about 1/3 of the total). Total budget for this fiscal year is \$5,138 million.

The biggest piece of the town budget, about 2/3 of it, goes to pay our share of funding SAD 61 - or \$3.14 million in the current fiscal year. It is a **fixed cost** to the town's budget. The town's share of the Cumberland County operating budget is another **fixed cost**, or about \$233 thousand in the current fiscal year. The town pays the County to defray its costs of services provided, including law enforcement.

That leaves about 1/3 of the town's budget to pay for running the town - or about \$1.76 million for the current fiscal year. This money is used to pay the town's **fixed costs** such as debt services, **essential services** such as plowing the roads, responding to fire and medical emergencies, maintaining town properties, running town government, keeping the town offices open and paying salaries. Also included in the town's budget are **discretionary expenses**, such as saving for future purchases.

This graph shows how these three pieces have grown over the last five years - the town's portion of the budget package has been nearly flat showing almost no growth while the SAD 61 budget has increased by nearly \$3/4 million during the same period.



Local property taxes pay for most of the town operating budget as well as our share of the SAD 61 and the County budgets. In addition to property taxes, about \$1/2 million in revenue comes from other income, such as excise taxes and building permits. The Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee, and the Capital Investment Program Committee strive to keep the town expenditures in line with projected revenues so that taxes don't go up any more than is necessary.

HOURS OF OPERATION

TOWN OFFICE

Tuesday
10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday thru Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION

Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday, Sunday

7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Ask the Tax Collector



By Michele Bukoveckas, Tax Collector

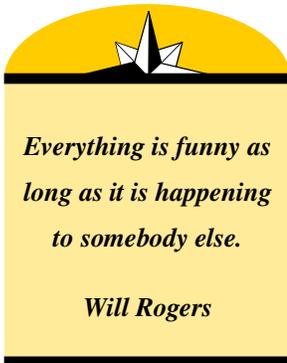
Dear T.C.: Who is responsible for the taxes after I sell my property?

Dear Resident: Tax bills are sent to the owner of record as of April 1st of every year. It is the responsibility of both parties to be sure that taxes were paid or that an agreement is made by the two parties to pro-rate the taxes PRIOR to sale. In the event that the new owner does not pay, a tax lien will go against your name. At foreclosure, the new owner would lose the property, and your credit rating would be affected. As unfair as it seems, this is State Law.

Dear T.C.: Is there anything I can apply for that might reduce my taxes?

Dear Resident: There are several exemptions which you might qualify for. Two of the most popular are the Homestead and the Veterans. For the Homestead, applicants must: have owned their permanent legal residence in Maine for the twelve months prior to April 1, 2009, have their permanent legal residence on April 1st in Sebago and, fill out a form (available in the Clerk's Office) by April 1st of the tax year to qualify for the exemption. For the Veteran's Exemption applicants must: Own a residence in Sebago on April 1st of the tax year in question, be a veteran who is not dishonorably discharged, served during a federally recognized war period in the U.S. Armed Forces, and, must be over 62 years old or are an un-remarried widow of a qualifying veteran. Forms are available in the Clerk's Office and must be filed by April 1st of the tax year. Applicants must also show a copy of their DD214.

If you have any questions you would like answered, please e-mail me directly at clerk@townofsebago.org. I'll either include it in the next issue, or e-mail you directly.



Everything is funny as long as it is happening to somebody else.

Will Rogers

State and Federal Grants

By Lin Greene, Deputy Clerk

The Town of Sebago is eligible for State and Federal Grant funds. We would appreciate your suggestions for Grants that would benefit the Town and its citizens. Please give me a call at the Town Office at 787-2457 with your suggestions.




Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow, it only saps today of its joy.

Leo Buscaglia

Election News

By Michele Bukoveckas, Town Clerk/Registrar of Voters

Nomination papers will be available in the Clerk's Office during regular hours on March 2, 2010 for the following positions: Deadline for filing is Tuesday, April 13, 2010 by 7:00 p.m.

- 2 Selectmen, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor - 3 year term
- 1 Budget Committee Member - 3 year term
- 1 Potter Trustees Committee Member - 7 year term
- 1 Sebago Cemetery Committee Member - 5 year term



The Election is May 25, 2010, we will be voting on several ordinances on that day, so watch the newspapers for public hearing dates on these issues.



Public Works “WINTER” Update

By Dan Nowell, Public Works Director

It has been a great year for the Sebago Public Works Department. We have made many strides in performing necessary repairs and improvements throughout the town. We will continue to move forward with the help of our very knowledgeable, capable, and hard working staff members. The crew works together as a team in getting every job done.

The Public Works Department is responsible for the prompt snow removal and sanding of approximately 35 miles of road and the town owned parking lots. The crew is on-call 24

hours per day throughout the year for emergency services to residents.

Often the question arises as to who is responsible for any damage to mailboxes during snow removal. I would like to clarify that the Town is not responsible for mailboxes being hit by the plow trucks. The reason is that mailboxes are usually placed in the Town or State right-of-ways.

The best way to avoid damage to your mailbox is to place it at a height of 54” high, that will allow the plow wing to go under the mailbox, and also allows for ice build

up on the side of the road. However, this does not mean that the town will be responsible if your mailbox is hit.

During this winter season, to report problems with road conditions, please contact the Town Office during normal business hours (as shown on page one) or after hours at the Standish Dispatch Office at 642-4343.



Erosion Control During Winter Construction

By Kirsten Ness, Water Resources Specialist
Portland Water District



Are erosion control practices required during winter construction? If you answered “yes,” you are absolutely correct. Though the ground is frozen, lakes and streams still need to be protected from erosion of sediments during occasional winter thaw events and spring snow melt. Sediments are harmful to water bodies because they carry nutrients, such as phosphorous, that can lead to algae growth.

Fine sediments also fill spaces between rocks in streams and lakes that are habitat to aquatic insects.

The easiest way to protect lakes and streams from erosion in the winter:

- **Install an erosion control mulch berm, rather than a silt fence**

Erosion control mulch is a heavy mulch that is made of partially composted bark, sand, gravel, stone, and wood fragments. A berm of this type of mulch is much easier to install and maintain than a silt fence, and it func-

tions well as a sediment barrier. Ideal berm size is 18-24 inches in height.

For more detailed information about erosion control during winter construction projects, please visit the Maine DEP website at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docstand/escbmps/>.

If your construction project occurs within 200 ft. of Sebago Lake, please contact me at the Portland Water District for technical assistance. I can be reached at 207-774-5961 ext. 3336 or kness@pwd.org.

“FROM THE DOGHOUSE”

By Bobby Silcott, Animal Control Officer
askthe.ACO@yahoo.com or call 642-4343
(Standish Dispatch)

The State of Maine requires dogs to be licensed at 6 months of age or within 10 days of ownership. When you license your dog you will receive an I.D. tag to attach to their collar. This tag allows me to locate you if your dog is found running loose or in an emergency situation such as being hit

by a vehicle. If I am unable to locate you, your dog will be taken to the Harvest Hills Animal Shelter. In order to retrieve your dog,



you will be required to pay a \$30.00 Impound Fee at the Sebago Town Office before you

dog will be released to you from the shelter where you could possibly be charged an additional daily fee. The registration fee for a spayed/neutered dog is \$6.00 and \$12.00 for an unaltered dog. An additional late fee of \$15.00 will be added to the registration fee starting on February 1, 2010. You can re-register your dog online at www.townofsebago.org and your dog's new I.D. tag will be mailed to your home.



Town of Sebago

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www.TownofSebago.org



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide truthful, up-to-date, and educational information on how the community works, in order to provide the opportunity for making informed decisions while also enriching the lives of our citizens that want to live here, prosper, and raise their families.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Board of Selectmen Meetings

(Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)

- January 5th
- February 2nd
- March 2nd

Planning Board Meetings

(Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.)

- January 12th
- February 9th
- March 9th



Winter Salt/Sand Available for Sebago Residents

(Use of Town Salt/Sand. Order 00-04)

Sebago residents and taxpayers may obtain salt/sand from the designated area in the lean-to building located in front of the Public Works Garage (and next the EMS Bldg.) to use only on their own private property located in the Town of Sebago. Contractors shall not obtain or use any town salt/sand for commercial purposes.

Recreation Dept. Winter Events

The **Outdoor Ice Rink** is ready for use. It is located at the



Ball Field Complex behind the Elementary School. This is open to the public from December through February.

