

The PIER

Property Owners Association of Arundel-on-the-Bay

NOVEMBER 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

General Meetings, 2008/09:

Saturday, Nov. 22

Saturday, Jan. 17

All General Meetings are held in Hillsmere Library starting at 10 a.m.

Board Meetings:

Tues. Dec. 9

Thurs. Jan. 15

All Board Meetings are held in Hillsmere Library starting at 7 p.m.

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Proposed FY'09 Budget Reprogramming

Anticipate excitement at our next General Meeting, on Saturday, November 22, as the membership is consulted on the following proposal from your Board of Directors. Board Chairman David Delia explains here (and our President comments on page 2):

An important part of the duties of your officers and board requires us to periodically review our budget to insure that we have all of our fiscal priorities correctly funded. As usual, we need to reallocate some funds from items that were not as demanding on that budget as we had anticipated -- legal fees in this case -- to areas where we always need more than we have, such as roads, landscaping, maintenance, and drainage.

We also need to make some minor adjustments in our budget to accommodate decreases in certain areas such as non-shore erosion control and increases in certain other areas such as snow removal, as well as to fund unanticipated expenditures like development of our web site.

When someone sues US (AotB) we have insurance to cover the legal expense. But when WE sue someone, it costs quite a bit. Noting how such litigation had eaten into available funds in the recent past, we considered it prudent to budget \$50,000 in legal fees for the current FY'09 year. So far, fortunately, we haven't needed to use any of those funds. Certainly this happy condition could change, but longer term experience shows that we seldom needed even the small amounts (c. \$5,000) budgeted for legal services. Hence, the Board believes that we can safely remove all but \$11,500 from the legal fee line in the current year ending on June 30, 2009.

At the November 22 General Meeting, the Board will present its specific recommendations for specific projects to be completed with the reallocated funds. These include most significantly some much needed repairs to our roads as well as payment on the long-term plan you approved some months ago. I recommend that all members attend the meeting and tell us what you think of this proposal for spending your money.

From The PRESIDENT**Dear Residents,**

The officers and board of AOTB met on October 15 to review the current budget. The objective was primarily to determine if funds are being allocated to the services that will be most beneficial to the community at large.

After this review, the board is now proposing that the residents consider a reallocation of funds from *legal fees to road maintenance, drainage, landscaping, snow removal, and web-page design*. Under the reallocation proposal, \$11,500 (from the current line of \$50,000) would remain for provision of legal fees, with \$38,500 being distributed to the areas enumerated above.

The next general meeting (Saturday, November 22) will entertain a detailed presentation of the specific proposals believed to enjoy priority, with cost estimates. The proposal will be brought before the community for a vote.

We hope you will be available to contribute your thoughts as we work to continue to improve the community in a way that will bring benefit to everybody. We ask you to be prepared to offer suggestions for future projects, by assessing the needs in the area immediately adjacent to your own property. This will allow for input from everyone and everyone's input is important.

Thank you,**Harvey F. Young, President.**

And the FY'10 BUDGET Seeks Your Advice

When the days get shorter and the weather gets colder you know we're heading into that magical time of year – the annual AOTB budget planning cycle! At the General Meeting on November 22 we'll also be asking for your input on how you'd like to see your money spent in fiscal year 2010 starting next July 1. The Board will use that information to draft the AOTB Special Community Benefit District Budget (which covers things like road repairs, recreation facilities, administrative expenses, etc.) and the Shore Erosion Control Budget (which is only for erosion prevention and remediation).

The draft budget will be mailed to all members of the Community and presented for approval at the General Meeting on January 17. The approved budgets are then sent to the County, which must receive them by January 31.

So please plan to attend the General Meetings on November 22 and January 17 and be a part of the process!