Wednesday, November 5, 2014

SCARBOROUGH — Voters ousted incumbent Town Councilors Richard Sullivan and James Benedict on Nov. 4.

They elected former Councilor Shawn Babine with 4,340 votes, Peter Hayes with 4,280 and incumbent Councilor Katherine St. Clair with 4,026. Sullivan and Benedict received 3,678 and 1,630 votes, respectively. Entrepreneur William Somers received 3,158 votes and former Scarborough Economic Development Corp. board member Roger Beeley garnered 2,230 votes in the seven-candidate field. Babine, a banker, served on the School Board from 2000-2002 and then won three consecutive Town Council terms before serving on the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee. He said his top priority is the town's finances, specifically its debt, tax base and business growth. Another goal, he said, is to rectify an "imbalance" between the school and municipal budgets. Hayes, a self-employed health-care consultant, has lived in Scarborough since 1999. He said real estate taxes are too high, and he would like to see line-item budget authority for the council, particularly with regard to the school budget.

"I am thrilled to be given an opportunity to be a part of the Scarborough Town Council," Hayes said. "I hope I can contribute to creating a culture of transparency, integrity, and trust, where residents of Scarborough feel their voices are heard and appreciated and the council actions represent the majority view of the voters."

St. Clair joined the council in 2012, after encouragement from her terminally ill son, Kyle. She took over a two-year term from former Councilor Karen D'Andrea. St. Clair said she wants to improve transparency and communication with residents, possibly through town social media accounts. She also wants to improve the relationship between the council and the School Board. Benedict has served on the council for the past three years.

"I would like to say thank you to my supporters," he said. "I enjoyed my three years in office and will be back to work in the town in the future."

Sullivan has served on the council for the past seven years, and was its chairman this year. Although he said the council had a "rough year," Sullivan said he was proud of the hard work and amiable environment to which all councilors contributed.

"I would like to thank the Scarborough residents for their support over my seven years on the council and I look forward to serving my community again in the future," Sullivan said. "It was truly an honor serving the greatest town in Maine."