

# New Shoreham

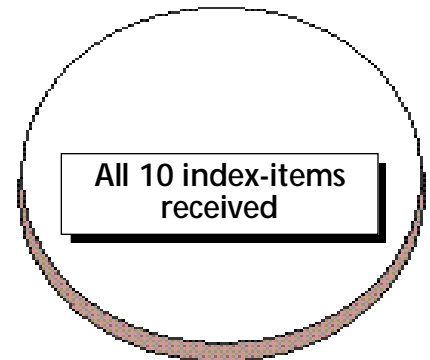
FIRST VISIT:

Nov. 21

“ When I arrived at the police station, I asked for the documents and was told to wait for the police chief, who came immediately. He then led me back to a trailer, where I again asked for the documents. He actually printed out everything I needed, and what he could not pull from the database he photocopied for me at the front of the building. The entire transaction took no more than half an hour. He said that there are not any brutality reports for the town. ”

- School Committee Minutes:
- Readability: Good
  - Thoroughness: Average
  - Layout: Poor
  - Legal Compliance: Full
- City/Town Council Minutes:
- Readability: Good
  - Thoroughness: Good
  - Layout: Good
  - Legal Compliance: Full

## Documents not received

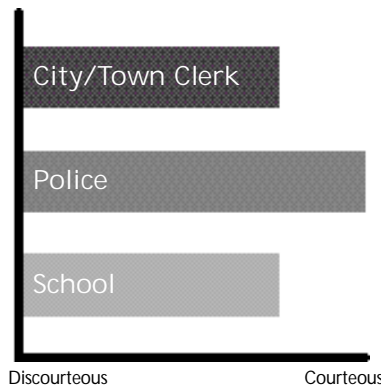


Given the limited ferry schedule after mid-October, New Shoreham was the only jurisdiction in the state where we deviated from the protocol of multiple visits. The value of different-day observations was sacrificed to the logistics of transportation. Fortunately, the cost was insignificant. Although only one visit was made to New Shoreham it was enough to experience the open and welcoming atmosphere in a local government that seems to reflect the surrounding island community

New Shoreham should be commended for being one of the eight towns that complied with all ten of the indexed requests. The Police Department was extremely courteous even more so than the Town Clerk's office or the School Department, a unique situation for the state. The New Shoreham Police are one of only three police departments in the state to be considered "very courteous." The Chief was a model of how to comply with the law and handle the public in a helpful and accommodating manner. The clerks in New Shoreham were also among the least inquisitive in the state, asking for identification in one of the encounters.

One exception to this spirit of compliance and courteousness was the Tax Assessor, who was evasive and uncooperative in response to a request to inspect a list of tax delinquent properties. The researcher was first told that there "weren't any" tax delinquent properties, then she was told that they were published in the newspaper. Eventually, a written request was demanded - and submitted. The response indicated that, "I do not make it a policy to send this list out as it is subject to change up until the day of the sale." This is a example of how city and town employees sometimes create their town policies, subverting the requirements of the Open Records Law without legal justification.

## How We Were Treated



## Comparison: Cities/Towns

