

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Supervisor Herrington, Councilman Sullivan, and Councilman Casale.

Board Members Absent: Councilman Christian and Councilman Balistreri.

Also Present: Town Attorney, Thomas Cioffi and Town Clerk, William J. Lewis.

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
All joined in with the salute to the flag.

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Roger Savoy, 110 Mountainview Avenue, had concerns about an issue he had with a property maintenance violation he received. The code Enforcement Department had sent the notice after receiving an anonymous complaint. He responded to the complaint and after a visit to his property it was determined there were no public safety concerns and therefore no violations. While he acknowledged his landscaping may not be what is considered “traditional” to some, he was strongly opposed to the fact that someone could register a complaint anonymously. There was some discussion between the board members and Code Enforcement Officer Golden as to future handling of these situations. Jean Hill, 242 Sharpe Road, addressed the Board concerning the proposed Sharpe Road development. She asked that limitations, restrictions, provisions and/or conditions be applied before approval. She was concerned with: the close proximity to her property, well, the aquifer that supplies her well and the closeness of the properties with each other, each with individual septic systems; potential contamination from runoff of the aquifer and the habitat area across Sharpe Road, which provides habitat for animals and plant species; contends that R-25 lot sizes are too small not to be serviced by a municipal sewer; the project would devalue her property; the water district extension would not include her property and if it affected her well she would have to personally pay to connect at great expense; that she and the contractor had made a verbal agreement to include her in the water extension but it was not on the plans. Chuck Prefore, 108 Sharpe Road, also spoke about the Sharpe Road development saying it would sacrifice the natural beauty of the area; wildlife would be displaced; traffic would increase dramatically with potentially at least two cars per household and school busses; runoff could contain toxins from homeowners weed control or septic discharge. Frank Brenenstuhl, 27 Dusenberry Lane, had attended the Planning Board meetings regarding the Sharpe Road development and had a few concerns that the additional runoff crossing Sharpe Road could be contaminated, so would it be monitored, which he believes it should be, and who would pay for monitoring? Hopefully not the Town. He also had questions about the proposed commercial solar panel installation off Dusenberry Lane. When asked about the purpose of the fencing around the site, apparently a project representative mentioned the possibility of oil leakage from the DC to AC converter, which he felt needed to be clarified. On that question Mr. Golden of Code Enforcement offered that even if there were leakage, the oils used for insulating nowadays did not contain harmful chemicals which are federally banned. His other questions were if in the Town Zoning Law there were any criteria addressing the allowable size,

emergency disconnect provisions or quality of materials for these solar projects. Town Attorney Cioffi offered that without the regulations immediately at hand he couldn't say, but would be willing to take time after the meeting to meet with him and look them over. Jim Tkacik, 387 Brunswick Road, had two major issues/criticisms of the transparency of the Town's business and availability of records pertaining to it. First, as he has noted before, the Town Board Meeting Minutes were not being posted in a timely manner as opposed to the Planning and Zoning Board minutes which are. Secondly, Resolutions which are being presented for a vote are not available to the public in advance, and that only the titles are read at the meetings and printed in the minutes; that quite often the titles do not even mention what project or other business is being voted on which may be addressing an issue of major concern to residents; that in order to see the contents of the Resolutions, a trip to the Town Office is required, which many people just do not have the time to do; and that they should be available in advance of the meetings on-line, including an agenda. There was some discussion of how the Resolution process worked and noted that at times they are not completed until the day before or the day of the meetings and whether there could be a set advance time period for their completion. The Board Members agreed to take this under advisement. Zack Metzger, 3842 NY 2 (Brunswick Road), for the record, echoed the concerns of Mr. Tkacik asking for more transparency. Rick Cote, 252 Sharpe Road, also had concerns regarding the Sharpe Road project. It is not evident on the plot plans the slope of the land and that it is all hardpan; the wetland across road would be ruined by runoff; the project destroys wildlife habitat both at site and across Sharpe Road; the project is too dense; several parcels proposed are in North Greenbush where the minimum lot size is 1½ acres and Brunswick should follow that for consistency; the Board has the authority to and should revise the zoning in this area; the stated purpose of the Zoning Law code is to be consistent with the comprehensive Plan of the Town which this project is not.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to accept the Minutes of the previous meetings, seconded by Councilman Casale. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: William J. Lewis

Mr. Lewis gave his report for the month of July. \$7,645.28 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Recycling fees accounted for \$5,065.00, Community Center rental fees for \$450.00, Pavilion rental fees for \$150.00, Dog Licensing fees \$647.00, Summer Camp Registration fees \$800.00 and \$532.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Superintendent: Brandon Hill

Mr. Hill was not able to attend the meeting. A written report will be filed in the Town Clerk's Office when available.

Water & Sewer Report: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley was not able to attend the meeting. A written report will be filed in the Town Clerk's Office when available.

Code Enforcement: Charles Golden

Mr. Golden gave his report for the month of July. The report showed \$6,342.15 was collected for Building Permit and Zoning Variance/Planning Board Fees. 28 building permits were issued or renewed, 97 building inspections were performed and active permits totaled 280. The department had 2 code call outs, 17 code complaints, 14 code complaint inspections and 0 fire inspections. An additional 18 follow up inspections were completed. There are 9 Planning Board projects open or approved and 4 with the Zoning Board. 2 vacant/abandoned properties have been identified with the Assessment Department. He informed the Board that the sidewalk extension from The Summit to R.O.U.S.E has been staked out and will be completed soon. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Casale and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Attorney: Thomas Cioffi

Mr. Cioffi gave his report for the months of June and July, as he was unable to attend the July 11 meeting. Other than routine matters, his work included the following: assisted the Building Department on a Request for Quotes for property maintenance in respect to zombie properties; worked on dog park rules and regulations with the Supervisors Office; researched the posting of stop signs where county and town roads intersect; offered legal opinion on a prospective Highway Department employee contract grievance; offered research for the Building Department on determining what constitutes sound agricultural practices for farming; continued to work with the Town's engineering consultant concerning the outstanding bid solicitation for the Community Center damp proofing project; worked with the Assessor's Department on a tax lawsuit on a residential property; continued to work with a board member on the possible purchase of software to be used by our fire departments. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Casale. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Sharon Zankel

Mrs. Zankel gave her report for the month of July. She responded to two inquiries concerning the Forest Park Cemetery, one asking if grave sites could be purchased – they are not for sale – and one asking to visit the cemetery “out of curiosity”. The weather at the time was terrible and she suggested he take part in the annual fall tour. At the request of several teachers she has been reviewing topics and historic records which may be appropriate for this year's class projects, including the possibility of reintroducing the “one room school” program she developed in 2006. There are many historical events celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, including the moon landing, the Woodstock Festival and the NY Mets World Series win. She also noted it is her 50th year of service in either local or state government, which she has found enjoyable and rewarding. She distributed a flyer and map from the Rensselaer Land Trust/Rensselaer Plateau Alliance announcing their shared initiative to conserve about 80 acres of land on the south side of the Poestenkill Creek, 11 of which are in Brunswick, to develop a natural area and walking trails with access from Cole Lane. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Casale and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of July. Revenues for the month were \$5,465.96 and expenses were \$3,898.53. 22.42 tons of materials were recycled and 20.07 tons landfilled for the month. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Library Report: Sara Hopkins

Ms. Hopkins gave her report for the month of July. For the month there were 4529 circulated items, 1167 digital circulations and the customer count was 3346. They processed 7 passports for earnings of \$245.00. The computers logged 137 sessions. There were 352 participants in children's events and 560 participants in adult events. Program schedules (new and continuing), special events and news items are available at www.brunswicklibrary.org. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Casale. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 61 Supplemental Resolution Approving Assignment and Assumption of Pilot Agreement for Hope Solar Farm. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Casale, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Christian, Voting Absent; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Casale, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Absent; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 190771 through 190892, No. 72619001 through 72619009, and No. 80919001 through 80919006 were presented. Councilman Sullivan made a motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Councilman Casale. Unanimously approved.

Individual fund expenses were as follows:

General	\$	127,488.66
Highway	\$	36,298.86
Water	\$	18,962.15
Sewer	\$	311.72
Special Sewer District	\$	8,482.59
Special Water District #11	\$	32,760.00
Special Fire Districts	\$	3,526.00

FURTHER COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:

Alix Duggan, Brunswick Community Library Board of Trustees Member, addressed the Board. Citing the large percentage increase in the library's patronage, circulation, programs and community involvement as a huge benefit to the Town, she asked the Town to increase its funding to help them move forward. They are developing plans for an expansion and even with the Annual Appeal and grant applications - some awarded, some not – they need the extra funding. She also feels that like the library, the individual Town Departments should be reporting increases or decreases in value of services. Supervisor Herrington voiced his support of the library noting the Town Board has consistently increased its contribution to them over the years. He would like to be able to increase money for everything the Town needs, including our own operations, however a limiting factor is always taxes and the ability of residents to afford them. Ms. Duggan asked to give a presentation on behalf of the library at the next meeting which everyone agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Casale. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk