

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
MAY 13, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL**

Board Members Present: Supervisor Herrington, Councilman Christian, Councilman Sullivan, Councilman Balistreri and Councilman Cipperly.

Board Members Absent: None

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

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
All joined in with the salute to the flag.

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

None.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:*

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 8, 2021 regular meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

The following reports for the month of April were submitted by department heads in lieu of personally appearing to present orally. Copies were included in each Board Member's packet and are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Superintendent: Terry Scriven

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley - Mr. Bradley was on vacation and a report was not available.

Attending the meeting:

Town Clerk: William Lewis

Mr. Lewis gave his report for the month of April. \$7,380.32 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Recycling fees accounted for \$5,180.00, Community Center fees \$450.00, Pavilion fees \$400.00, Dog License fees \$375.00 and \$975.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 3 new reservations and the Beach Pavilion 4. Summer Camp Applications are available as well as the new 2 year beach passes (stickers). Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Code Enforcement: Charles Golden

Mr. Golden gave his report for the month of April. The report showed \$10,017.76 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 34 building permits were issued or renewed, 47 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 349. The department had 1 code call out with inspection, 11 code complaints, 9 code complaint inspections, 4 follow up complaint inspections and 11 fire inspection. One additional vacant/abandoned property was identified. There are 10 Planning Board projects open or approved and 8 with the Zoning Board. Motion to accept the report was made by supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Christian. 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 month of April. His work included: Attended and participated in two mediation sessions regarding contract negotiations impasse with the CSEA; Prepared the Resolutions for this meeting; Assisted the Assessor on an inquiry from an attorney;; Attended and participated in internal meetings concerning the impasse in the collective bargaining negotiations with the CSEA; Attended and participated in three meetings with the Building Department concerning various code enforcement issues; Participated in internal meetings concerning pending projects before various boards; Worked with the Building Department on an attorney's request for a final determination on a zoning issue; Performed legal research in response to a variety of legal questions posed by officials and employees. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Sharon Zankel

Mrs. Zankel gave her report for the month of April. She was very happy to finally attend a meeting after so long! From last July through this March she has been going through boxes of files/projects representing 27 years as Town Historian. She will be continuing this in order to organize all her records for future referencing as a part of Brunswick's History. In an update on the Coronavirus, she noted that between May 6th and May 12th, of the school districts serving Brunswick, only Averill Park had positive tests with three students and one staff member affected. According to the vaccine tracker, 69,694 Rensselaer County residents had been fully vaccinated and 62% aged 18+ have received at least one dose. On May 26th at 6:30 p.m. The Troy Public Library will be hosting a Zoom presentation by P. Thomas Carroll, former Executive Director of the Mohawk Hudson Industrial Gateway, on the subject of Troy's many Tiffany windows. It is believed that Troy has the most Tiffany windows in the world. Reaching into her bag, she brought out a sample of an invasive plant that Norm Miller had alerted her about years ago. It has heart shaped leaf, small white flower on top and is known as Garlic Mustard. It is now throughout the community and if you see it, try to get rid of it! It propagates by seed not the roots, so catching it early is important. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Community Library: Sara Hopkins

Ms. Hopkins give her report for the month of April. The library has opened to 50% capacity. Last month there were 2,259 physical checkouts, 422 pickup appointments, 191 walk in appointments and 1,968 digital checkouts. 125 people participated in various events. The Book Club will be meeting outdoors in May and there will be more outdoor programs starting next month. Two major fundraising events are coming up. Garden Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., along with a chicken barbeque, and on Saturday, July 10th, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., a Civil War Living History event will be held which includes cannon and musket demonstrations. Stewart's Shops Corporation will be selling \$1.00 ice cream cones at these events, with all proceeds being donated to the library. Sara thanked Tom Mahoney and crew for repairing their sidewalk and work on plantings along the walkways. Tom Maloney and Alix Duggan are also working on a quote for the second bathroom project in order to apply for a grant. Program schedules (new and continuing), special events and news items are available at www.brunswicklibrary.org Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 42 Resolution Appointing and Fixing Compensation of Town Employee – Assessment Department. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Christian, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution No. 43 Resolution Proclaiming the Town of Brunswick to be a Purple Heart Community. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Balistreri and seconded by Councilman Christian, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution No. 44 Resolution declaring Item to be Surplus Property. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution No. 45 Resolution to Effect Changes in the February 2021 Water and Sewer Rolls, The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution No. 46 Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Equipment for Town of Brunswick Highway Department, The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Resolution No. 47 Resolution Establishing and Increasing Fees for Participation in the Town of Brunswick Summer Day Camp Program. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Christian, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly, Voting Aye; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Herrington received a Note from Donna & Larry Bonesteel, 9 Harris Avenue, thanking the Town Highway Department for a great job paving the roads behind Duncan's Dairy Bar. They are the best they have been in ages.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carson Weinand, Project Developer with CVE, a solar energy development company based out of New York City, addressed the Board. The company develops community solar farm installations, is eleven years old with headquarters in France, and has been in the United State for four years. It has developed six projects in Massachusetts and has several in upstate New York including Wheatfield, Portland, Queensbury, Cicero and others. The location for this proposed installation is off Belair Lane in Brunswick, north of Route 7. They initially started around fall of 2020 and have lease agreements for use of two properties, a right of way access agreement from another property owner and received a positive review for interconnectivity from National Grid. The project would generate 4 megawatt of AC power /5.5 megawatt of DC and would consist of 12,000 -13,000 panels. It will be able to service upwards of 1,000 local residents. The expected life of the installation is 25-35 years before decommissioning. The larger of the properties involved is zoned R-40 with agricultural overlay, which permits solar farms, The second and access properties are zoned R-40 and R-25 respectively, without agriculture overlay. They will be seeking Site Plan approval, Special Use Permit and zoning revisions to extend the agricultural overlay. The access road will be gravel; one pole will be placed for interconnecting; planting under the panels will be pollinator friendly grasses and foliage. CVE also have a green incentive program which donates \$1.00 per panel to local environmental charities.

Ashly Champion, attorney with the Nixon Peabody law firm, Rochester, NY, spoke on behalf of CVE regarding the procedural issues to change the aforementioned zoning. She reiterated that this use is low impact and not permanent as when decommissioned, which includes complete removal, the land is basically back to its original state, Again they will be seeking to expand the agricultural overlay to cover all the property involved. The project will be In compliance with lot coverage and lot line and setback regulations except for an interior lot line which will not impact the perimeter setbacks. This line is between the two separately owned properties which will remain as such and will not be combined. This does not impact the perimeter lot line setbacks. Lead Agency will need to be determined and SEQRA review completed before zoning changes could. Supervisor Herrington asked about transmission lines and hooking into the grid. Mr. Weinand explained that that there is an existing single phase line running from Hoosick Rd.to the end of Belair Ln., and they will be upgrading it to 3 phase. One pole will be placed at the end of Belair Ln. to connect the line.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 210392 through 2104, No. 41621001 through 41621006, No. 43021001 through 43021009 and No. 51421001 through 51421006 were presented. Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. Individual fund expenses were as follows:

General	\$	96,851.71
Highway	\$	225,629.32
Water	\$	11,140.51
Sewer	\$	623.96
Special Sewer	\$	794.20
Special Fire	\$	4,745.00

FURTHER VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Jim Tkacik, 387 Brunswick Road, welcomed back Town Historian Sharon Zankel, who has not been able to attend meetings since the pandemic began. He also thanked Councilman Balistreri for his assistance with contact information for the NYS DOT department in charge of traffic/road studies. Mr. Tkacik and neighbors along Brunswick Road (Route 2) are continuing their efforts to have the speed limit on the section of Brunswick Road which is 55 mph from Eagle Mills to Brunswick reduced to 45 mph. Next, he asked if it were possible to have Town e-mail addresses for each board member of all boards so they could be contacted more easily. This will be addressed. Lastly, he advised the Board about a recurring problem at the intersection of Shyne Road Route 2. There is access to the National Grid transmission lines that cross Route 2 at the end of Shyne Rd. which ATVs and motorcycles continuously use. There used to be a gate across the access which helped but it is gone. The loosened rock and dirt from off road vehicle activity comes off the hill blocking the drains under Shyne Rd. and ultimately under Route 2. Beside the fact that the Town Highway Department has to clear the drain at the end of Shyne Rd. often, when plugged, the diverted water is sheeting across Shyne Rd. and has started undermining Route 2. While he realizes this is an issue mostly for the State and National Grid he wanted the Board to be aware of the problem.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Christian made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk