

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
JUNE 9, 2022, 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: Town Attorney, Thomas Cioffi and Town Clerk, William 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:

Kathy Betzinger, 1 Valley View Drive, referred to an event held on May 31st at the Brunswick Community Center, where Elise Stefanik held a meet and greet function. She stated that two years ago, she had contacted the Town Clerk requesting use of the center for a political function and was denied. Town Clerk Lewis noted that this type of function had traditionally not been allowed except for a few instances where opposing parties both were in attendance. Ms. Betzinger added that the Community Center is a public facility and it needs to be clear whether this type of function is allowed or not, and should be applied equally across the board. She felt this was politically motivated by the town. Also being denied entrance to the function was completely uncalled for.

Connie Vooys, 2 Short Essex Street, spoke in agreement with Ms. Betzinger that use of the facility should be allowed for all parties or none at all.

Jennifer Mann, 91 Hill Road, wished that everyone on both sides of the aisle would treat each other civilly. She stated she had gone to attend the function, not protest, and was starting to enter when a member of the organizing staff very rudely told her she could not come in. This had been advertised as an open event but the staffers closed it off. While she acknowledged that to her dismay, one of the protesters became a bit out of hand vocally, there was no reason to exclude everyone. Ms. Stefanik is a polarizing politician, so it is fair to expect some protesting.

Supervisor Herrington spoke for a while concerning that evening. He stated that he was responsible for allowing the meet and greet. He had been contacted by the County Republican Committee, and they paid the rental fee. After agreeing, he also contacted Brunswick Democratic Committee Chair, Jennifer Mann, to offer the use of the facility if she desired and if so to check with the Town Clerk's Office for availability. He thought this would be good for Brunswick as a whole, not expecting it to become such a contentious event. He agreed that it had been handled poorly by the event organizers but on the same note was a little taken aback by the protesting.

Betty Fucci, 36 Killock Avenue, asked for an update on any work planned for the drainage issue at her home. Contractors working at the neighboring house had cleaned it up some. Supervisor Herrington told her there was still a plan for a catch basin to be installed.

Paula and Joseph Venise (?), 49 Brick Church Road, stated their neighbors, the Beudoin family, have been harassing them with constant unfounded complaints to the Building Department. She feels it is almost becoming a police issue and wanted to go on record about the situation.

Janero Daniels, 360 Brunswick Road, voiced his support for the Resolution in support of a petition asking for a speed reduction on this road. Also he lives near the area where people access the stream across the road. They are parking on Brunswick Road as well as Shyne Road and crossing the street which is very dangerous considering the traffic and speed.

Erin Pihlaja, 2 Village Drive, also supports the speed limit petition and Resolution. This is a quality of life issue for those residing along this stretch of highway.

Maureen Evers, 379 Brunswick Road, was also in support of a speed limit reduction. She has asked for information from the State on accidents in the area via a FOIL request. Also, speaking for Maureen Madden, 385 Brunswick Road, who could not attend the meeting, she inquired as to the next steps going forward on this matter after tonight's Resolution in support was (hopefully) adopted.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2022 Special Meeting, Two (2) May 12, 2022 Public Hearings, the May 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting, the May 26, 2022 Public Hearing and the May 26, 2022 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: William Lewis

Mr. Lewis gave his report for the month of May. \$32,533.02 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$4,410.00, Community Center fees for \$2,100.00, Beach Pavilion fees for \$100.00, Dog License fees for \$237.00, Summer Camp registration fees for \$24,500 and \$1,184.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 14 new reservations and the Beach Pavilion had 1. Registration deadline for Summer Camp has passed, and there are 135 children enrolled. We would like to be able to accept more, however job applications for Camp Counselor positions are way down. The requirements for the number of counselors to campers' ratio has to be met, and at this point we are at the limit. Next, Mr. Lewis informed everyone that there were a few changes in poll locations for the Primary Election on June 28th. Residents in districts #5 and #6, who normally vote at the Sycaway Firehouse will vote at the Eagle Mills Firehouse on Route 2. Residents of districts #7 and #10, who normally vote at the Brunswick Community Center will vote at Brunswick Town Hall. The Board of Elections has sent notices and this should only be for this primary. As usual, early voting will be available from Saturday June 18th through Sunday June 26th at Town Hall. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Superintendent: Terry Scriven

Mr. Ed O'Donnell, Deputy Highway Superintendent, gave the report for the month of May. Work included: swept roads; ditched and cut shoulders on roads; patched and graveled roads; picked up brush; rolled soccer fields ; mowed ballfields; installed military banners; built new dock for beach; hauled cardboard; shared services with Rensselaer County and Grafton.. Mr. O'Donnell also noted that there were four new employees hired for the department. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley gave his report for the month of May. All required water tests for the month were completed. Ongoing projects: Sharpe Road subdivision water lines are all installed and work will be starting on the roads; Hannaford water connections to Hoosick Road are complete and grass has started growing on the retention ponds; Aldi's has finished compacting, will be bringing in soil/fill and expect to begin the concrete pad next week. The department has surveyed ~4000 feet of sewer mains, continuing the required separation project and are working on a plan to prevent

infiltration into the lines. It was necessary to replace a sewer pump at the Highland Creek pump station. Mr. Bradley feels it failed prematurely, however it was beyond the 3 year warranty. The CVE Solar project has been approved and site work will begin next week. Water meter reading will begin next week using our new radio read software. He once again reminded everyone about the rate changes for water and sewer: Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Cipperly and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. 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 May. The report showed \$7,732.85 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 30 building permits were issued or renewed, 93 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 398. The department had 2 code call outs with inspection, 11 code complaints, 10 code complaint inspections, 4 follow up complaint inspections and 1 fire inspection. No additional vacant/abandoned properties were identified. There are 12 Planning Board projects open or approved and 9 with the Zoning Board. Asked about the recent fire at Walmart, Mr. Golden said the fire was set in the dog beds. Fireman responding had to bring in a 2½ hose to knock it down. The store fire suppression system failed, as the exterior valve to shut off the sprinklers fell apart and the key to the pump house supplying the water could not be located, requiring the door to be forced open in order to shut it off. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. 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 May. On May 26th he attended and participated in a Public Hearing concerning an unsafe structure (fence) and a Special Meeting called to consider any further action on the unsafe structure issue as well as to entertain preliminary actions concerning the introduction of a Local Law amending the Town of Brunswick Zoning Law; prepared the Introductory Local Law, which was introduced; prepared the resolution declaring the Town Board as lead agency for SEQRA, directing referrals and scheduling a Public Hearing in regards to the Introductory Local Law, which was adopted. He also prepared Resolutions for this evening's meeting; worked with the Building Department concerning code violations and complaints; worked with the Supervisors Office on personnel and purchasing matters; assisted the Building Department and other departments with FOIL requests; performed legal research and advised town officials and employees on legal matters and documents as requested. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Sharon Zankel

Mrs. Zankel gave her report for the month of May. The Times Union "Best of the Capital Region" survey was published, and the Plum Blossom earned first place for single location Chinese Restaurant and Duncan's Dairy Bar earned fifth place in the single location diner category. She is working on her project for the upcoming American 250 celebration, set for 2026. She has been heavily researching Revolutionary War soldier, Benjamin Brewster, who once resided on Bald Mountain in Brunswick and appears on the tax rolls of Rensselaerwyck before the Town of Brunswick was created. Though information is scant, she has unearthed several military service records, parental and family history, and historic maps showing his decedents may have owned and operated a 200 acre farm in Brunswick through much of the 19th century. She responded to several local history inquiries: ownership, maintenance and use of the #6 one room schoolhouse on Brick Church Road; information on the former Eddy home located

east of the Brunswick Library; an inquiry about the significance of the property early owned by The Morrison family, now Laughing Earth Farm; an inquiry on how the Brunswick Historical Society acquired the Garfield School. The Town owns the building and permits its use by the BHS. She was also asked by the director of the Louis Miller Museum in Hoosick Falls, at the request of a visitor, for information regarding the Tomhannock reservoir and the hamlet flooded for its creation. Lastly, she announced that with “mixed emotions” she is retiring as Town Historian after 28 years of service. Starting as a “part time” job she often used vacation time from her full time employment to attend conferences and or be available for to participate in projects with schoolchildren. While she has no family in the area, she considers many residents as such. She also acknowledged her husband Lewis’s steadfast support and assistance with projects, workshops historical reenactments, as well as his continued involvement with the Brunswick Community Library. She is proud to have represented the town all these years and remains ready contribute ideas and her energies whenever appropriate. Motion to accept the reports was made by Councilman Cipperly and seconded by Councilman Christian. Copies of the written reports are on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of May. Revenues for the month were \$4,939.32. Expenses were \$1,892.16. 20.37 tons of materials were recycled and 20.59 tons landfilled for the month. The cardboard baler that was down has been repaired. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

Community Library: Sara Hopkins

Ms. Hopkins gave her report for the month of May. Last month there were 3,517 physical checkouts, 9 pickup appointments, 2,110 walk in visitors, 2,388 digital checkouts, 167 unique Wi-Fi users (26/day average) and 114 technical usage and assistance. 538 people participated in various programs/events and 12 passports were processed. Though not officially a May event, the Garden Day event held at the library last weekend (June 4th) was a great success.

Acknowledging she couldn’t thank everyone who helped out, she did thank Rebecca Del Gaizo, Deputy Town Clerk, for her Town of Brunswick booth, Supervisor Herrington for donating mulch to sell, Councilman Cipperly for plant donations, local farmers who brought animals to the event, Jennifer Mann for the fundraising gardening class she held, the Rensselaer County Sherriff’s Department for their fingerprinting and meet and greet, and all the others who volunteered their time to make it a great event. They are hoping to hold another event this fall. Programs offered: shoulder pain workshop; tech help workshop; college art 101. On May 20th they will host a Community Folk Dance with live music and instruction by Peter, Paul and George. This will include several dance styles with the telling of the history behind them.

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:

Prior to a vote on the following resolution, Brian Holbriiter, licensed land surveyor, displayed a plot plan and explained that Richard and Jacquelyn Witbeck sought to create 3 new building lots from an existing parcel on a dead end road. Supervisor Herrington noted that this would exceed the number allowed by zoning regulations. A waiver had been applied for, been reviewed by the Planning Board, and with a positive recommendation from that board is now referred to the Town Board for final approval as required by town code.

Resolution No. 48 Resolution Granting Variance from Subdivision Law Standard. 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. 49 Resolution Appointing Superintendent of Highways. 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.

Supervisor Herrington introduced Michael Baily as the new Superintendent of Highways.

Resolution No. 50 Resolution Authorizing Execution of Amendment to the 2022 Animal shelter Services Agreement between the Town of Brunswick and Mohawk Hudson Humane Society. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Supervisor Herrington, 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. 51 Resolution in support of Petition Filed by Concerned Citizens of the Town of Requesting that the New York State Department of Transportation Study and Consider a Reduction of the Maximum Speed Limit on a Portion of NY Route 2 in the Town of Brunswick. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Balistreri, 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.

Prior to a vote, Supervisor Herrington read the following Resolution in its entirety.

Resolution No. 52 Resolution Recognizing Former Superintendent of Highways Terry Scriven on the Occasion of His Retirement After More Than 34 Years of Dedicated Service to the People of the Town of Brunswick. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Herrington 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 220480 through 220589, No. 52722001 through 52722010 and No. 61022001 through 61022007 were presented. Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. Individual fund expenses were as follows:

General	\$	142,635.06
Highway	\$	174,854.30
Water	\$	60,952.16
Sewer	\$	919.44
Special Sewer	\$	765.93
Special Fire	\$	10,706.50

FURTHER VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Gail (?), Highland Creek, asked what will be done about the traffic on Hoosick Road once the new businesses open? Supervisor Herrington and Attorney Cioffi informed her that we had received a grant towards a study by NYS DOT for this corridor and hopefully there will be answers/solutions.

Jennifer Mann, 91 Hill Road, supports the Community Center being a nonpartisan space since other private venues such as the Brunswick Elks are available. Also she was concerned about polling locations being changed for the upcoming primaries. Due to construction at Brunswick #1 Firehouse it was inevitable and even though the Board of Elections had sent notices she still was concerned. She also personally thanked Sharon Zankel for all she has done for the Town and will miss her most interesting monthly reports. Meaning no offense to the Town Board, she saw her reports as a bright spot in otherwise somewhat dry proceedings!

Sharon Zankel, Town Historian, noted that the Community Center could or maybe should be used for more community related purposes possibly with volunteer help for overseeing events.

Mary Krysenki, 387 Brunswick Road, sincerely thanked the Town Board members for adopting the Resolution regarding the speed limit reduction on Brunswick Road. It will inevitably save lives. A discussion was had about the steps needed going forward with the NYS DOT.

Alex Duggan, 70 Colehamer Avenue, and library board member, thanked Sara Hopkins, Brunswick Community Library Director, for her vision in turning the library into a community center of its own, offering many programs and services for the community.

Louis Hutter, 228 White Church Road, asked about any progress on the flooding issue along NY Route 351 and White Church Road. Bill Bradly had some correspondence/information from the state which he will forward to Mr. Hutter. In regards to the meet and greet event, he appreciated Supervisor Herrington being upfront about his scheduling it. He was at the meeting and felt both the protesters and the event organizers were both at fault and should apologize to the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Christian made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk