

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 11, 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 7:05 p.m.

All joined in with the salute to the flag.

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Van Fronhofer, 72 Oneida Avenue, addressed the Board with his concerns about the increasing, and more importantly speeding traffic in his neighborhood. He related an incident where, while walking with his family and dogs on Genesee Street, a speeding vehicle took offense at his signaling them to slow down, stopped and yelled profanities, went through the stop sign and turned around at the intersection, drove back at them forcing them off the road, came back the other way again, throwing a full bottle of water which hit him. He did get a photo of the vehicle and there was some follow up by the Sheriff's Department. This type of disrespect of the people and neighborhood by drivers cutting through is making the area unsafe. He brought up the possibility of widening the streets or installing sidewalks. Supervisor Herrington noted that would have quite an impact on frontage for many homes in the area and assured Mr. Fronhofer this was an issue being thoroughly looked into.

Chris Silk, 10 Blue Heron Lane, also had a traffic related issue. People are also avoiding Hoosick Road by cutting over Grange Road onto North Lake Avenue heading west towards Troy, and of course speeding. She noted the lack of speed limit signs along the east end of the road, in contrast to the number heading east out of Troy, and asked if more could be installed. She was also concerned that people were parking on North Lake Ave. by the town beach entrance. The road is narrow and this is dangerous. Supervisor Herrington answered that North Lake Ave. is a county road, and we could check with them about more signs, and that the town will look into the parking situation.

Connie Vooy's, 2 Short Essex Street (Sycaway area), added her concern about the speeding traffics. She and others should be able to walk in this nice neighborhood, but it has become increasingly dangerous. She mentioned the possibility of speed bumps.

Judy Austin-Rancort, Carrolls Grove Road, is concerned with the traffic heading west on Hoosick Rd. backing up from the stoplight at Route 142, at times past the Harley Davidson shop. She knows there is a study of traffic on Hoosick Rd. planned, and this area/intersection should be included. Supervisor Herrington had a ZOOM meeting with NYS DOT just yesterday, and the scope of the study was discussed and should go out to bid very soon. He also mentioned that he had been in contact with CDTA questioning why they are not using Price Chopper's parking lot bus stop and instead are using Hoosick Rd. across from Pioneer Bank. This is also backing up traffic and is a safety concern with people crossing Hoosick Rd. to the stop.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Christian made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 9th Board Meeting, July 14th Board Meeting and the August 1st Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: William Lewis

Mr. Lewis gave his report for the month of July. \$9,023.84 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$5,547.00, Community Center fees for \$900.00, Beach Pavilion fees for \$300.00, Dog License fees for \$546.00 and \$1,730.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 6 new reservations and the Beach Pavilion 3. Summer Camp is over and the Town Beach will close for the season on August 31st. Hunting licenses went on sale August 1st and business is picking up. There are no changes in normal poll locations for the second round of the Primary Elections on August 23rd. Residents should vote at their normal poll locations that day. As usual, early voting will be at Town Hall, running from Saturday August 13th through Sunday August 21st. Also, registered Democrats will potentially be handed two ballots this primary. One, for the temporary vacancy in the 19th Congressional District and one for the newly defined 21st district. Voters registered with the Republican, Conservative or Working Families parties, will only be voting for the temporary vacancy of the 19th District. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Superintendent: Mike Bayly

Mr. Bayly gave the report for the month of July. Work included: cut brush along, cut back driveways, shim and pave Pleasant View Ave., Lansing Rd. and The Crossways; patched and ditched other roads; monthly pick up of leaves and brush; mowed ballfields, park, cemeteries and community center; replaced several culverts; installed catch basin and piping. He mentioned shared services, with the County helping with paving and the Town helping them with hauling. They also aided Grafton with a skid steer loader. This type of cooperation is really helping everyone involved. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian 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 was not able to attend the meeting. His written report for the month of July has been submitted and is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Code Enforcement: Charles Golden

Mr. Golden, gave the report for the month of July. The report showed \$7,990.61 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 30 building permits were issued or renewed, 362 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 379. The department had 2 code call outs with follow up inspections, 91 code complaints, 5 code complaint inspections, 1 follow up complaint inspections and 0 fire inspection. One additional vacant/abandoned property was identified. There are 9 Planning Board projects open or approved and 5 with the Zoning Board. 14 meetings were attended. He believes the permit and inspection numbers are a new record! Aldi's has completed their underground plumbing and KFC is ready to open as soon as the new traffic light is operational. He also noted that one possibility for delays at Route 142 was that heavy tractor trailers are starting from a stop, and it takes quite a bit of time for them to get up to speed on that incline, so fewer vehicles can get through on one light cycle. As far as the CDTA bus stop, they stopped using the Price Chopper lot because the county would not allow for the McChesney Ave. stop bar to be moved back from the intersection with Hoosick Rd. which would have allowed the CDTA bus room to turn in without cars waiting on McChesney Ave. impeding it. This was a real issue. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan 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 July. He attended and participated in a Special Meeting August 1st preparing a notice and resolution for same; prepared the resolution for this evenings meeting; participated in internal meetings with staff regarding the pending adoption of the proposed Zoning Law; attended several internal meetings with staff regarding a personnel matter with staff; attended and participated in meetings with staff and outside counsel on various matters July 20th, 25th, 27th, August 1st, 3rd and 8th; worked with the Building Department concerning outstanding alleged code violations and complaints; worked with the Supervisors Office on personnel and purchasing matters; worked with several departments on FOIL requests; performed legal research, provided legal opinions and reviewed or prepared legal documents as requested by town officials and employees. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick gave her report for the month of July. This was her first report as newly appointed Town Historian and she thanked Supervisor Herrington for the opportunity. She is confident that years of involvement with the Brunswick Historical Society, including 12 years as President, gives her the tools to take on this responsibility. She has been reviewing and organizing items in the Town Historians Office. As mentioned last month, Mary Silver will be coming to Forest Park Cemetery with ground penetrating radar, which could possibly reveal some unmarked graves. A woman she once assisted with a research project, Ms. Mary Valek, has offered use of ground penetrating radar for help locating unmarked graves in Forest Park Cemetery. A request was made for any information on the Rae family buried at Forest Park Cemetery. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. 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 July. Revenues for the month were \$5,262.81. Expenses were \$1,079.98. 15.80 tons of materials were recycled and 10.48 tons landfilled for the month. Mr. Engster met with representatives from Rensselaer County to go over the logistics and staging for the upcoming Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday August 27th. Drop offs will be made in the parking lot in front of the bays of the main highway garage, with traffic continuing up towards the salt shed and exiting above the overflow parking at the Town Office onto Route 7. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Balistreri and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. 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 July. They have launched their Summer Reading Program with 160 registered in the first week. Last month there were 4,160 physical checkouts, 6 pickup appointments, 2,541 walk in visitors, 2,836 digital checkouts, 173 Wi-Fi users (23/day average) and 100 technical usage and assistance. 935 people participated in various programs/events and 7 passports were processed. The Summer Reading Program is winding down with 270 people participating with over 4,000 hours of reading. The library's first children's clothing swap is scheduled for the coming Monday and Tuesday. All clothing is free, 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. 59 Resolution Authorizing and Directing Settlement of Litigation: Wal-Mart. The foregoing Resolution was offered by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian. Prior to the roll call vote, board members had a brief discussion regarding these assessment reductions. Legally, reductions may be sought every three years and the big businesses and apartment complexes routinely take advantage of this. The board members discussed whether the town should be taking a harder stance on these suits going forward. It was agreed there are cost/benefit concerns with any litigation, but in the long run this may send a message to these big businesses that the town will not just concede but will aggressively stand its ground. The Resolution was duly put to a roll call vote as follows: Councilman Cipperly; Voting Nay; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan; Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Nay; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Supervisor Herrington noted that the reduction was \$75,000.00 on a 2.7 million dollar assessment leaving the new assessed value at 2.6 million dollars.

LOCAL LAW:

Introductory Local Law No. 5 Councilman Sullivan introduced Local Law No, 5 of the year 2022 entitled “A Local Law Extending a Moratorium on the Filing, Acceptance, Review, or Determination of Any Land Use Application Pertaining to Two-Family Dwellings and Multi-Family Dwellings in the Town of Brunswick.” Continuing work on zoning law amendments concerning this topic are still ongoing necessitating the extension. With unanimous approval, a Public Hearing regarding this introductory law was scheduled for September 8, 2022, at Brunswick Town Hall, commencing at 6:45 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A note was received from Heidel Lansing thanking the Town for the great job paving Lansing Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor Herrington mentioned that the summer camp had gone well even with the difficulty of finding enough employees this year to meet the mandated councilor to camper ratios. 135 children were enrolled this year, He also complemented Tracy Broderick on the flowers she had planted and keeps an eye on at Town Hall. They are beautiful!

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 220709 through 220812, No. 72222001 through 72222010 and No. 80522001 through 80522007 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	\$	89,242.65
Highway	\$	63,996.17
Water	\$	12,211.42
Sewer	\$	351.91
Special Sewer	\$	581.57
Special Water District #11	\$	30,690.00

FURTHER VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Alex Duggin, 70 Colehamer Avenue, representing the Brunswick Community Library Board of Directors, thanked Sara Hopkins for her wonderful leadership, accusing her of being much too modest in her reports. She wanted everyone to be aware of the amazing statistic the library has compiled under Sara's direction. The Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS) released its annual report for last year. Brunswick's per capita support was \$14.00 while the average across the whole UHLS membership was \$61.00 (125% below average). However, the UHLS membership average annual library program attendance across all age groups was 2,562, while Brunswick's was 5,032 (65% above average!). This is better than all the big libraries in the area with multi-million dollar budgets. These numbers truly show the fabulous job Sara has been doing! The board of Directors has nominated Sara for the New York Library Association Director's Award. Winners have yet to be announced. Keep supporting Sara and our library!

At 7:59 pm, Councilman Christian made a motion to enter into executive session under Section 105, Subsection 1-F of the Public Officers Law to discuss the employment history and employment of a particular person. Motion seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. Supervisor Herrington recused himself from this meeting.

At 8:36 pm, Councilman Christian made a motion to return from executive session. Motion seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. No actions or determinations were made during the session.

VOICE RESOLUTION:

Councilman Christian offered the following: Resolution to Approve and Authorize the Deputy Supervisor to Execute a Settlement Agreement with the Particular Person whose Employment History and Employment was the Subject of the Executive Session Held Earlier as Part of this Meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Christian made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk