

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2023, 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:

None.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Christian made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10th and December 8th Town Board Meetings, the December 29th end of the year Special meeting and the January 3rd Organizational Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: William Lewis

Mr. Lewis gave his report for the month of December. \$4,943.23 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$3,254.00, Community Center fees for \$1,200.00, Dog License fees for \$201.00 and \$556.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 8 new reservations and bookings are well into April of this year. Sales of fishing licenses have been brisk and a few stragglers still stop by for hunting licenses. Our share of \$1,211.00 in sales was \$50.00. 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: Mike Bayly

Mr. Bayly gave his report for the month of December. Work included: picking up Christmas trees; mowing, brush cutting and cleaning roadsides; road patching; ditch and culvert cleaning; installing military banners; assisting Water Department with water main break; trucking sand for snow; snow plowing; daily ice patrol; shop work and truck maintenance. 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.

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley gave his report for the month of December. All required water testing for the month was completed. Troy has raised its water rate by 11%, and with the cost of materials the town purchases rising 20%-40% over the last two years, we will also have to raise our rate by 11% from \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons to \$5.55. This will start with the August bill not this February's. Radio read water meter are continuing to be installed. 750 are in which is about 25%. During installations occasional illegal taps have been found and remedied. At supervisor Herrington's inquiry, Mr. Bradley noted that within the town law, there is a provision for penalties being applied for illegal water taps, however at this time it is hard to enforce. He agreed that going forward there should be a way to periodically inspect services. The recent requirement to inspect all services in town for lead piping within two years will help. Also, possibly on new

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developments we could require the installation of an outside meter pit, which would show if water was being diverted within that development. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Cipperly and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. 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 December. The report showed \$4,148.50 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 14 building permits were issued or renewed, 116 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 323. The department had 4 code call outs with inspections, 6 code complaints, 5 code complaint inspections, 3 follow up complaint inspections and 25 fire inspection. No additional vacant/abandoned properties were identified. There are 3 Planning Board projects open or approved and 3 with the Zoning Board. 5 FOIL requests were received as well as zoning inquiries. The year-end revenue total for Planning, Zoning, FOIL requests and vacant property registration fees was \$134,036.13. There were 4 commercial construction projects in each of 2021 and 2022. Surprisingly, residential starts were up from 5 in 2021 to 15 in 2022 even with the economy as it is. 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 December. He had attended and participated in the year end meeting December 29, 2022 and the organizational meeting January 3, 2023, preparing resolutions for both; prepared the notice for and participated in the Public Hearing held earlier this evening on introductory Local Law No. 8 regarding repeal of the moratorium on two family and multi-family residence construction; Attended and participated in meetings with staff and outside counsel on various matters on December 19th, 20th, 21st and January 4th, 5th, 9th and 11th; Resolutions for the 2021 Year End Special Meeting on December 30th, the 2022 Organizational worked with the Highway Superintendent on a personnel matter; worked with the Building Department on a personnel matter; worked with the Supervisors Office regarding purchasing; worked with the Building Department on several outstanding code violations and complaints; participated in internal discussions regarding large scale solar installations and matters to be pursued during the moratorium on these installations; prepared and reviewed various legal documents, and performed legal research and advisement as requested by town officials and employees; Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick gave her report for the month of December. She has started researching Ensign Grove which was located on Town Office road where Misty Hills Stables were. This used to be a gathering place for church meetings, Sunday school picnics clam steams in the early 1900's. The original house is still standing, abandoned in the woods. She is continuing work on the historian's page for the Town website. As Town Historian, she now has access to the NYS Library database and newspaper which she has been using for research. 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.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of December. Revenues for the month were \$3,333.31. Expenses were \$2,052.11. 20.52 tons of materials were recycled and 14.43 tons landfilled for the month. For the year 2022, refuse landfilled totaled 202.20 tons and recyclables 228.21 tons. 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.

Community Library: Sara Hopkins

Ms. Hopkins gave her report for the month of December. Last month there were 3,092 physical checkouts, 1,547 walk in visitors, 2,700 digital checkouts, 163 Wi-Fi users (21/day average), assisted with 123 technical usages and 327 reference questions were addressed. 359 people participated in various programs, and 13 passports were processed. They will be holding a Kids Clothing Swap on Monday January 24th and Tuesday the 25th. Clothing donations can be dropped off Tuesday January 17th through Saturday the 21st. 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 Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 23 RESOLUTION ADOPTING TOWN OF BRUNSWICK LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2023. 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.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Nicholas Bragin, 191 White Church Road, wrote thanking the Highway department for their help during his medical emergency. An ambulance had been called, made it up the icy drive but was unable to turn around. Backing down was a problem so an EMT at the scene called the town asking for a truck to salt/sand the drive. They came and took care of it and he made it to the hospital safely.

Barb and Ed Casey, 540 Lansing Road, wrote a note to the Highway Department thanking them for the great job removing a downed tree from the road.

Mike Hipwell, 8 Dixon Drive sent a Facebook message thanking the Highway Department for cleaning the culvert and the surrounding area on his road.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Cipperly has been working on the trail system between Keyes Lane and the Highland Creek development, and advised that the new signs have been erected and the maps will be added soon. He acknowledged the help from Bill Bradly and Jesse Hoffman and other residents support in developing the system.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 230001 through 230088 and No. 10623001 through 10623006 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	\$	220,027.28
Highway	\$	161,245.10
Water	\$	38,555.82
Sewer	\$	1,646.15
Special Sewer	\$	1,059.27

FURTHER VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Jim Tkacik, 387 Brunswick Road, asked if there was any clarification of the policies for use of the Brunswick Community Center for political events. He referred to a recent political function which had been allowed, and the apparent refusal of another in the past. Supervisor Herrington said he had not been aware of the previous refusal, however in this most recent case he had approved the function, and reached out to the chairperson of the opposite party to make them aware that it would be available to them if they so choose. He also noted there were no written policies on political functions to his knowledge. Mr. Tkacik pointed out that means there is no reason to deny or be back and forth on this issue. It needs to be part of a written policy, to allow or not. The board members discussed this some and Attorney Cioffi advised that the board could make a policy rule, but it should be thoroughly discussed before drafting. For instance, what constitutes a political function? Is an informational event by a representative political? This will be looked into. Mr. Tkacik also wanted to thank the Highway Department and Councilman Christian for addressing the problems on Shyne Road. Installation of the Jersey barriers on the west end has stopped the ATVs from running up and down the power line. Paving the road and clearing the drains and ditch have helped stop the previous flooding issues.

Louis Hutter, 228 White Church Road, said the speed limit signs on Route 2 between Sycaway and Eagle Mills were different east to west. It is possible this was a remnant of the steel bridge work done when the state had construction limits, and the signs may not have been removed. The state will have to deal with this. He noted there has been a light out on the Eagle Mills bridge for a long time now. According to Mr. Bayly, Highway Department, replied they had replaced the bulb however there is another issue, possibly the sensor. There is a call in to an electrical company for assistance. Mr. Hutter like most does not like the Hoosick Road traffic problem and as far as traffic rerouting through the Sycaway neighborhood behind Hannaford, Duncan Lane should be a dead end. Councilman Christian did not believe shutting down a public road would be legal. Next, in his opinion, Mr. Hutter feels the State DOT did a poor job of paving Route 2, especially in Eagle Mills where he states the catch basins/grates are uneven as are the transitions from road to driveways. He feels that if the town brought this to their attention it may help. Lastly he wanted to compliment the Highway Superintendent and crew for their great job with snow removal.

Rebecca Del Gaizo, Deputy Town Clerk, 22 Otsego Avenue, wanted the board to know that the recent upgrades/repairs to signage in her neighborhood has helped ease/slow the traffic. There is still the problem of large trucks/tractor trailers coming through from Sycaway Creamery, They are not Hannaford trucks. Regarding traffic, she said there has been a study and the first committee meeting is scheduled for January 25th. Supervisor Herrington added that there will be

representatives from the Sycaway neighborhoods participating. There is a new vendor supplying the Town of Brunswick garbage bags. They are shipped in rolls of ten, but any quantity may still be purchased. There have also been discussions about possibility of using a sticker system for residents to access the recycling center, similar to or in tandem with the ones now used for the Town Beach. Proof of residency and vehicle registrations are required for these. Supervisor Herrington added that one concern is with brush drop off. It is a major expense to have it all ground each year, and passes would prevent dumping by non-residents or contractors.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Sullivan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Lewis
Town Clerk