

TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 14, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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

Absent: Supervisor Herrington.

Also Present: Town Attorney, Thomas Cioffi and Town Clerk Rebecca Del Gaizo.

Councilman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

All joined in with the salute to the flag.

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Patti Sbrega, Oak Tree Lane, presented to the board her concerns and findings after conducting her own audit of the 2023 recycling center revenues and expenditures. She proposes moving away from cash processes, including purchasing blue/purple bags, to purchasing a punch card only at the clerk's office.

Jennifer Mann, Hill Road, asked for status regarding updating the town website.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting on February 8, 2024, and Regular Town Board Meeting from May 11, 2023. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: Rebecca Del Gaizo

Ms. Del Gaizo gave the report for the month of February. \$7,527.84 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$3,655, Community Center fees for \$2,375.00, Dog License fees for \$305.00 and \$937.50 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 13 new reservations and 1 Pavilion reservation. Our share of \$297.63 in DEC sales was \$17.37. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Ms. Del Gaizo announced a Town Yard Sale event scheduled for June 1st with June 8th as a rain date and will be held at the Community Center. Participants must register at the Town Clerk's office. She is attending the March 21st Community Job Fair at Tamarac High School to promote summer employment at the Town Beach.

Highway Superintendent: Mike Bayly

Mr. Bayly gave his report for the month of February. Lawn repairs; patching; recycle pulls; spot salting; Christmas tree pick up; cleaning trucks; shop work; built retaining wall at the beach; cutting brush at Forest Park Cemetery; shared services with Rensselaer County; 2 plowing storms, ditching work. 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.

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley gave his report for the month of February. The Water Department has repaired several service lines and several hydrants. There has been a strong focus on addressing high water bill complaints and locating service line curb stops. They have located over 1/3 of the 2,900 service locations as part of the Lead and Copper Service Line Survey. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Balistreri 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 February. The report showed \$34,469 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 8 building permits were issued or renewed, 45 building/property inspections were performed, and active permits totaled 305. The department had 2 code call out with inspections, 8 code complaints, 10 code complaint inspections, 5 follow up complaint inspections and 7 fire inspections, 4 additional vacant/abandoned properties were identified. There are 5 Planning Board projects open or approved and 3 with the Zoning Board. 5 FOIL requests were received as well as zoning inquiries. 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 February. He attended and participated in meetings with staff and outside counsel on various matters at Town Hall and by conference calls or video meetings on February 12th, 14th, 15th, 26th, 28th, March 6th, and 7th, 11th, 12th, and 14th; Prepared resolutions and other documents related to tonight's meeting, continued to work with outside council on two pending CPLR Article 78 proceedings in connection with FOIL; worked with outside counsel in connection with an appeal process from a determination by the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding issues of a stop work order, and denial of a building permit by the Building Department; worked with the Building Department on pending and prospective enforcement matters; worked with supervisor's office on personnel matters; worked with representatives of Pure Sky Energy, the developers of Tamarac Solar, putting together a decommissioning agreement; worked with Bill Bradley regarding the proposal to amend the water transportation agreement between Brunswick and the Town of Poestenkill; worked with various departments responding to FOIL requests; assisted the Superintendent of Highways regarding a personnel issue; participated in discussions regarding the status of the Brunswick Acres PDD; participated in an exchange of correspondence with NYMIRS, our insurance carrier, their claims and coverage council regarding issues pertaining to insurance coverage on some recently commenced litigation; worked with the supervisor's office regarding a successor fire protection contract with the Volunteer Fire Company of Center Brunswick in the Center Brunswick Fire Protection District; performed legal research, provided legal opinions, prepared legal documents as requested by town officials and employees. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick researched old Town records. The Town of Brunswick was incorporated on March 7th, 1807. The first meeting was at the home of Nathan Bets, who was an innkeeper. Flores Banker was elected Supervisor and he served from 1807-1809. The first board meeting minutes indicate numerous issues with fences and pigs. They passed a resolution requiring fences be 4'6" tall. 5 fence viewers were appointed and were paid 75 cents/day to go around town to check the fences were acceptable to town standards. Another resolution from that meeting is that hogs shall be well ringed and yoked between April 1st and November 1st and that any person has the right to take up any hog running at large, and sell the same at auction and convert the money to his own use. Nevertheless, that the owner of the hogs running at large be accountable for damages done by the same whether the fence be lawful or not. Over the years, meetings were held at various places, such as the hotel of Charles Moses, which used to be the old Eagle Mills

Town of Brunswick

Regular Town Board Meeting March 14, 2024

Store. The Town Clerk's office was in the VanZandt building in Eagle Mills. The Town Board also appointed a Commissioner of Highways. In 1807, they appointed three and it was their responsibility to make sure that the town roads were all taken care of and the commissioner chose the overseers to help. At the first meeting, they appointed 17 men, 1 for each district. The roads were described by where they started and ended. Each man who owned the land in town was required to be assessed for highway labor for each year. The yearly meeting of the Commissioner of Highways would sometimes go on for three days who were expected to work on the roads. In the beginning, there were maybe 200 taxable residents living in town. In 1902, there was probably close to 400 men living in town. Brunswick started off with 17 road districts in 1807 and ended up with 65 in 1902. In 1906 a motion was made that 100 notices having the following inscription be printed and posted through the town, "Notice, automobiles must be within the limits of the law of this town under penalty of arrest. Automobiles must slow down to one mile in 6 minutes with an arrow pointing in the direction indicated, by order of the Town Board." 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.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of February. Revenues totaled \$3,655.00 and expenses \$2,564.42. 33.87 tons of materials were recycled and landfilled. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. A copy of the report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Community Library: Sara Hopkins

Ms. Hopkins gave her report for the month of February. Last month there were 3,891 physical checkouts, 2,330 walk in visitors, 3,899 digital checkouts, 120 Wi-Fi users (19/day average), assisted with 100 technical usages and 250 reference questions were addressed. 869 people participated in various programs, and 14 passports were processed. Ms. Hopkins announced upcoming events including: Book Rolodex Craft Class on 3/19, Herb Club- Kimchi How To on 3/20, and Eclipse Viewing Program with free glasses on 4/8, followed by ELKS Fundraiser Dinner for the Library that same evening. There is also a Memoir Writing Class with Christine Zacher on 4/13. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan 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. 32 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW OF THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Balistreri 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 33 of 2024

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ROAD STREAM CROSSING SURVEY EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION PROJECT PROVIDED BY TROUT UNLIMITED, CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND RENSSELAER COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Cipperly 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 34 of 2024 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN OF BRUNSWICK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY TO SELL E-ZPASS TAGS 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 35 of 2024 RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE WATER AND SEWER MAINTENANCE ROLL FOR THE PERIOD OF 07/01/2023 THROUGH 12/31/2023 - FEBRARY BILLING 2024, WATER, SEWER and SEWER 6 ROLL The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Cipperly, 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 36 of 2024 RESOLUTION DECLARING ITEMS TO BE SURPLUS PROPERTY 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 37 of 2024 RESOLUTION ADOPTING TOWN OF BRUNSWICK LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2024 The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Cipperly 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 Absent. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 240203 through 240346, No. 21624001 through No. 21624009, No.30124001 through 30124006, and No. 31524001 through 31524006 were presented. Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilman Balistreri and seconded by Councilman Sullivan.

Unanimously approved. Individual fund expenses were as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|------------|
| General | \$ | 146,891.93 |
| Highway | \$ | 55,218.17 |
| Water | \$ | 37,406.22 |
| Sewer | \$ | 1,408.45 |
| Special Sewer District #6 | \$ | 782.44 |

FURTHER VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Marybeth Bruno, Lumex Road, inquired about where the board stands on the Citizens Advisory Board idea where residents would represent the Town in trying to work with DOT and other organizations related to Hoosick Road traffic issues. Councilman Christian told her the board is not interested in formally recognizing the committee. She also asked about the status of the proposed Chick-Fil-A. She was advised it is still in the Planning Board phase.

Mary Ellen Adams, Cooper Ave, said the board needs training on how to handle job postings since a recent position was not posted publicly. She also mentioned the Citizen’s Advisory Board and how it would be residents representing the area based on knowledge and experience. Councilman Christian again stated the board is not interested in an “official” committee. She said the town should adopt a moratorium that prevents further development and instead uses current vacant spaces.

Jim Tkacik, Brunswick Rd, asked who voted against the Citizen’s Advisory Board and when was that decision made. He also asked if the engineer’s report is finished. Mr. Cioffi advised it is ready but not available to the public yet. He told Mr. Tkacik he could FOIL request to see the report.

William Bradley, Bald Mountain Rd, said solar is a financial instrument that is not something to benefit the entire town. He said once a solar farm is established on our beautiful land, it has to stay there for at least 50 years. He said the solar farm will deteriorate over time and often LLC’s walk away from these situations. He said Brunswick is at a junction of major power lines. He is not sure if solar farms are good for the town.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Sullivan made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo
Town Clerk