

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

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

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

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

All joined in with the salute to the flag.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Christian made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing: 2025 Budget on November 12, 2024 and Town Board Meeting on October 10th, 2024. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: Rebecca Del Gaizo

Ms. Del Gaizo gave the report for the month of October. \$6,984.26 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$3,712.00, Rental fees for \$1,575.00, Dog License fees for \$398.00, and \$1,299.26 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 9 new reservations. Our share of \$4,709.07 in DEC sales was \$252.93. 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: Michael Bayly

Mr. Bayly gave his report for the month of October. Work included: mowing ball fields; patching; pulling dumpsters; picking up leaves; brush pick up; starting to prepare trucks for winter weather; mowing road sides; paved Carrolls Grove Road using shared services and 28 tons of black top; cutting out driveways and putting gravel back along the driveways once completed; Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. 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 monthly report for October 2024. Mr. Bradley reported the August bill collection was completed and \$245,653.25 was re-levied to the January tax bill. New valves and water main were installed below the Vanderheyden Dam Spillway. The remaining water main work will be completed in the spring. The first phase of the Lead and Copper service line inventory is complete. This is an ongoing project that will continue until all unknown service lines are identified and any lead or galvanized services are removed. Currently there are 143 lead or unknown services in town. Mr. Bradley has also been working to complete the Municipal Stormwater Program Updates. There is an interactive map on the town website for anyone interested. Finally, Mr. Bradley reported they are behind on inspections of the 2 million gallon water tank. He recently inspected the outside of the tank and said it is in need of painting. He said this will most likely require a specialized contractor to perform the work because of the lead based primer paint used in the 1970's. An internal inspection will be conducted in the near

future. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Balistreri and seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Code Enforcement:

Michael McDonald presented the monthly report. The report showed \$13,815.40 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 19 building permits were issued or renewed, 117 building/property inspections were performed, and active permits totaled 350. The department had 2 code call outs with inspections, 4 code complaints, 3 code complaint inspections, 25 follow up complaint inspections and 0 fire inspections, and 1 additional vacant/abandoned property was identified. There are 7 Planning Board projects open or approved and 5 with the Zoning Board. 13 FOIL requests were received as well as other zoning inquiries. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. 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 October. He attended and participated in meetings with staff and outside counsel for various matters at the town office, or by conference call, or remote meeting on October 15, 16, 23, 30, November 4, 6, 13; Attended and participated in a Public Hearing on November 7th, 2024 regarding the 2025 Preliminary Budget adoption process; Prepared the required Public Hearing Notice; Prepared resolutions and other documents pertaining to tonight's regular meeting; Attended the Public Hearings earlier this evening pertaining to successor fire protection agreements with Brunswick Co. No. 1 and Mountain View Volunteer Fire Company for fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027; Prepared the Public Hearing Notices for each of the mentioned Public Hearings; Prepared the new successor fire protection agreement with each fire company; Worked with outside council on several matters of litigation pending against the town; Worked with the building department regarding some pending and perspective code enforcement matters and code interpretation issues; Working with the Supervisor's office on personnel matters; Working with various departments on responding to outstanding Freedom of Information Law requests; Working with the Supervisor's office on some purchasing issues; Working with the building department defending an appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals from the Building Department's determination; Working with the Assessor's office on issues pertaining to farm operations and farm building exemptions; Working with the Supervisor's office putting together a resolution to amend the 2024 Annual Budget in connection with the water main replacement project at the Vanderheyden Dam; Working with the Assessor's office on a personnel issue; Made arrangements for the appointment by the Town Board of successors special council in connection with ongoing proceedings pertaining to the Brunswick Acres Planned Development District; Working with the Supervisor's office putting together a bid for grinding and disposal of brush and leaves accumulated by the Town at two locations within the town; Performed legal research, provided legal opinions, reviewed or prepared legal documents as requested by town officials and employees. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick explained her absence at the monthly meetings is due to serious family illness and she has been cautious being around people, so as to not make her family more sick. She has been researching the Troy Riding Club. She said there have been a couple of different locations of the Troy Riding Club over the years, but it originated on Brunswick Road in the 1920's, which is also when it was incorporated. In May 1920, a 4 acre estate belonging to John Winn on Brunswick Road was purchased and the home was converted into a clubhouse. Ms. Broderick

believes the home is still there, on the corner of Brunswick Road and Sage Hill Road. 25 more acres were purchased by September, and by June 1925, they had a formal grand opening of the Troy Riding Club. The Troy Riding Club was well known throughout the east coast for their horse expositions. In 1930 Governor Roosevelt attended the horse shows during the week. Over the years, a dog show and a county fair were added to the excitement. At one point, in 1933, there were 247 horses that came to the club for the weekend and during the 3 day event, 25,000 people attended. A new grandstand and stadium, including 53 new box seats, were added in 1934 to accommodate spectators. By this time, the event had grown in popularity that it became a 4-day event and there were 136 horse stalls. The Elks Club would host a field day with up to 15,000 people in attendance. Unfortunately, by the 1940's people were not as interested so there was no longer a horse show there. Ms. Broderick reported that last week she attended a historian meeting in Schaghticoke. She also assisted John O'Connor, from the Detroit Country Club, who is working on a centennial book. She conducted some research for him regarding the Troy Riding Club property. Ms. Broderick said she had also been preparing for the annual walk through of the Forest Park Cemetery. They had approximately 300 people in attendance. She also mentioned the Brunswick Historical Society holiday open house is set for December 6th, 2024 at 6:30pm, which will include a visit from Santa. Councilman Sullivan made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of October. Revenues totaled \$4,429.33 and expenses \$3,586.40. 36.55 tons of materials were recycled and landfilled. A copy of the report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office. Motion to accept the monthly report was made by Councilman Cipperly and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved.

Community Library: Sara Hopkins and Jennifer Shatz, VP of Brunswick Community Library

Ms. Hopkins gave the report for the month of October. Last month there were 3,503 physical checkouts, 2,220 walk in visitors, 2,256 digital checkouts, 186 Wi-Fi users (21/day average), assisted with 78 technical usages and 226 reference questions were addressed. 597 people participated in various programs, and 8 passports were processed. The report noted Newsbank stats are still not available due to ongoing tech issues but users can still use the service. Ms. Hopkins mentioned a few upcoming programs, including an Ornament Party on December 3rd. Ms. Shatz presented feedback postcards written from library patrons expressing why they love the library and/or the library director. Some of the comments included, "The library feels like home, in the best way.", "I love the library because it brings the community together." Councilman Sullivan made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

Charles Golden, former Code Enforcement Officer, gave an update to the National Grid LED Streetlight Conversion Program he had been working on prior to his departure. He said National Grid accepted Resolution 68-24 as a letter of commitment. At this point, since 3 additional street lights were located, we are waiting on a new NBV (asset value) and will have 90 days to pay this invoice once the updated amount has been determined. At that point, National Grid will put this project into the planning stages. Ultimately, this should lower the electricity bill for streetlights in town by half.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 69 OF 2024

RESOLUTION FINALLY ADOPTING 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AS 2025 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

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. 70 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH THE BRUNSWICK FIRE COMPANY NO. 1, INC.

The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Cipperly 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 Abstain; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 71 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNTAIN VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.

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 Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 72 OF 2024

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AND APPOINTING SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE TOWN BOARD IN CONNECTION WITH ONGOING PROCEEDINGS PERTAINING TO THE BRUNSWICK ACRES PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 73 OF 2024

RESOLUTION FIXING AND ESTABLISHING SALARY OF TOWN EMPLOYEE

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. 74 OF 2024

RESOLUTION DIRECTING RELEVY OF UNPAID VACANT BUILDING REGISTRATION FEES

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. 75 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND FIXING SALARY OF TEMPORARY TOWN EMPLOYEE

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. 76 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND FIXING COMPENSATION OF TOWN EMPLOYEE

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. 77 OF 2024

RESOLUTION REJECTING ALL BIDS – PURCHASE OF USED VACUUM STREET SWEEPER

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. 78 OF 2024

RESOLUTION AMENDING ADOPTED 2024 ANNUAL BUDGET (WATER FUND)

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. 79 OF 2024

RESOLUTION APPROVING, AND AUTHORIZING SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE, 2024 MUNICIPAL SHELTER SERVICES AGREEMENT

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:

Chris and Lisa Dehnert, Carrolls Grove Road, sent a letter thanking Supervisor Herrington for an outstanding job paving Carrolls Grove Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 241129 through 241228, No. 102524001 through 102524009, and No. 110824001 through 110824006 were presented. Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilman

Christian and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved. Individual fund expenses were as follows:

General	\$	115,845.77
Highway	\$	245,486.66
Water	\$	13,469.07
Sewer	\$	431.04
Special Sewer District #6	\$	435.87

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Tom Malone, Hewitt Drive, is requesting the board to consider adopting Hewitt Road. He said originally the property was owned by 1 person, who over the years had homes built for relatives on the property. Over time, they have all moved out and all of the neighbors are essentially strangers now. He said the issue he has is that being a NYS Trooper, his schedule tends to vary and he is unable to uphold his responsibilities of clearing Hewitt Road for the neighbors to pass through. He said he does not want the responsibility of kids being late to school since he was unable to get the road cleared after a storm. He said Hewitt Road is .05 mile long and the neighbors' deeds state they have right of access to the roadway. Attorney Cioffi briefly mentioned if he had considered dedicating the road to the town and that normally the town would not take over a non-paved road, but that ultimately it is a board decision. Supervisor Herrington said he wants to look into the Planning Board notes regarding the shared driveways and get more information on Mr. Malone's deed.

Jim Tkacik, Brunswick Road, commented, in the spring there was a posting for a supervisor position in the building department and asked if that is still being pursued. Attorney Cioffi and Supervisor Herrington said only 1 application was received and they are still considering it. Mr. Tkacik also commented, in the spring it was reported the town's website will be overhauled and improved and asked if it is still being worked on. He said the search function does not provide satisfactory results. There was conversation with Becky Legacy, admin to the website, and it was determined the total of the website refurbishment cost \$8,000 and that it is still being worked on. Mr. Tkacik said the town clerk presented an alternative website for around \$2,000 last year. Ms. Del Gaizo said she was advised a new website would require going through the RFP (Request for Proposals) process.

Jason Del Gaizo, Otsego Ave, asked if the refurbished site was part of a RFP process. He also asked if there had been a recent security assessment done. Attorney Cioffi said normally something similar would go through the RFP process but the decision was made to try to expedite the upgrades. Mr. Del Gaizo said his concerns include if the cost is commensurate with the new website, if there are any security concerns, and if there is a contract with the IT company.

Mary Ellen Adams, Cooper Avenue, said she has heard Mr. Tkacik's comments about the website for a while and suggested if the town went through the RFP process, the same IT company could apply and be awarded the contract. Ms. Adams then read from a letter from NYS Department of Transportation that suggested any benefit from traffic light synchronization prior to the development of 737 Hoosick Road would be lost once developed. She commented how the new speed humps in the Sycaway neighborhood seem to be successful and then asked for additional speed humps to be considered on the other side of Hoosick Road in the Sycaway area. Ms. Adams asked the board, if finances were not an issue, if they would begin the process of updating the comprehensive plan, to which Councilman Sullivan said it is not a priority and has not been budgeted for in 2025. She said there are issues today that were not there when the current comprehensive plan was created, such as solar. She said the nature of Brunswick has

changed since 2013. She said Hoosick Road needs to be managed. Councilman Sullivan said it takes 6-8 months for the traffic lights to be synchronized. She then asked if the local fire departments are trained to handle fires at solar farms, including those that use lithium. Councilman Sullivan replied the Planning Board refers projects to the fire departments for review.

Kim Jensen, Roberts Drive, wanted to follow up on comments from Mr. Bonesteel at the last meeting related to upcoming funding grant opportunities and if the town has prepared any proposals related to any of the traffic studies from the last 20 years. Supervisor Herrington said since the suggestion for roundabouts would cost millions and millions of dollars, he directed Mr. Bonesteel to pursue money to improve the Market 32 traffic light intersection using land available near the Taco Bell. Ms. Jensen said the proposal requires local government funding and asked if there was any idea how much that project could cost. Supervisor Herrington said there was no mention of cost at this time, but the town is in good financial shape, to which Councilman Sullivan said he is not in favor of putting any money towards the state road. Ms. Jensen asked if any of the other traffic mitigation suggestions from the Hoosick Road traffic study results have any plans of implementation, such as connecting roads and extending sidewalks down Hoosick Road. Supervisor Herrington said they are considering adding speed humps on the other side of the Sycaway area, but not until the work from National Grid is done, since they are tearing up the roads for gas lines. Ms. Jensen then said the updated website experience hasn't been great, noting links that do not work and not finding the budget on the site. She suggested finding out if there is a contract with the IT company and for what services. She said the new site is not mobile optimized and is dated. She suggested the town put the website on its list of priorities. Ms. Jensen and Mr. Herrington agreed everyone wants better for Brunswick.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Cipperly made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo
Town Clerk