

TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2025 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

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

Board Members Absent: Councilman Balistreri

Also Present: Town Attorney, Dave Gruenberg and Town Clerk Rebecca Del Gaizo.

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

All joined in with the salute to the flag.

BUSINESS MEETING:

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular Town Board meeting on February 13th, 2025. Motion was seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS:

Town Clerk: Rebecca Del Gaizo

Ms. Del Gaizo gave the report for the month of February. \$7,768.29 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$4,216.00, Community Center fees for \$740.00, Dog License fees for \$101.00 and \$2,711.09 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 4 new reservations. Our share of \$1,155.30 in DEC sales was \$24.70. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington 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 was unable to attend the meeting, however he submitted the February report. Work included: Patching; Recycle pulls; Shop work; Working on street signs; Cleaning trucks after snow storms; Cutting brush at the beach; Ice patrol; Hauling snow sand; Carpenter work; Ditching; Installing Military Banners; Clearing catch basins for rain; Plowing snow; Clearing sidewalks; Lawn repairs; Shared services with Grafton; Shared services with Rensselaer County. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley gave the report for February. The water bills were mailed out on February 24th, 2025, covering the period of July through December. The Vanderheyden Dam project is progressing. The contractor plans to install a temporary drain to refill the reservoir within the next few weeks. The relocation of the water main is expected to be completed by March 17th, 2025. The water department has installed nearly half of the new radio water meters. Mr. Bradley mentioned that due to current market uncertainty, he is preparing a bid for annual material purchases. Many waterworks manufacturers are being bought out by hedge funds, making it harder to procure supplies. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Code Enforcement: Kevin Mainello

Mr. Mainello presented the report for the month of February. The report showed \$1,400.00 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 9 building permits were issued or renewed, 25 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 359. The department had 4 code call outs with inspections, 1 code complaint, 4 code complaint inspections, 22 follow up complaint inspections and 0 fire inspections. 0 additional vacant/abandoned properties were identified. There are 5 Planning Board projects open or approved and 8 with the Zoning Board. 6 FOIL requests were received as well as zoning inquiries. 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 Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick spoke about John Heron's family. John Heron, who settled in Brunswick in 1870 from Ireland, lived across from the Vanderheyden Reservoir on North Lake Avenue. The 74-acre property, known as the Waterworks Farm, was owned by the City of Troy. In 1879, Mr. Heron became the caretaker of the Oakwood Reservoir. Mr. Heron also worked for the Troy Water Board, making \$200 annually. In 1887, it was discovered that he was receiving unauthorized funds and had leased the Waterworks Farm for personal use. The water commissioners sought his removal, which was complicated by a binding lease agreement. Mr. Heron and his family vacated the property in 1888. Ms. Broderick said she is working on digitizing historical photos, transcribing tax records, and preparing an exhibit on Forest Park Cemetery. The annual meeting for Brunswick Historical Society is scheduled for this Saturday, with Kathy Sheehan as the guest speaker, discussing the spiritualist movement of the Gilded Age. A report was not filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of February. Revenues totaled \$4,568.00 and expenses \$3,745.50. 25.60 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

Carol Rosbozom, library trustee, presented the report for the month of February. Last month there were 3,424 physical checkouts, 2,188 walk in visitors, 3,344 digital checkouts, 163 Wi-Fi users (18/day average), assisted with 99 technical usages and 409 reference questions were addressed. 622 people participated in various programs, and 14 passports were processed. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Chris Krahling and Alex Warshal, Agricultural Stewardship Association (ASA), provided a brief overview of the organization's role in state grants for land conservation. The state grant funding would be used to purchase a conservation easement, ensuring that certain properties remain agricultural land. They requested a letter of support from the Town for the Wagner Farms conservation project.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS, ENDORSING THE AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION'S FARMLAND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FOR A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OF THE WAGNER FARMS-KING'S

GRANT PROJECT. 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 Absent; Councilman Christian, Voting Aye; Councilman Sullivan, Voting Aye; Councilman Balistreri, Voting Absent; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Supervisor Herrington noted nearly 1,000 acres of land in Brunswick will always remain as open or farm lands due to land protection and conservation.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Gruenberg suggested holding a workshop meeting with an expert in ambulance districts to discuss and answer questions surrounding the options for ambulance service in town. The special workshop meeting was set for Wednesday, March 26th, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Brunswick Community Center, 18 Keyes Lane.

WARRANTS:

Warrants No. 250192 through 250294, No.2425001 through 21425006, No. 22825001 through 22825009, and No. 31425001 through 31425006 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	\$	177,374.44
Highway	\$	80,880.69
Water	\$	40,602.37
Sewer	\$	3,402.07
Special Sewer District #6	\$	1,573.01

VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Justin Bounds, Brian Court, asked when the street sweeping would begin and urged the board to prioritize ambulance services, citing that Brunswick is ranked 4th in population among Rensselaer County towns.

Supervisor Herrington said the board is interested in starting an ambulance district, but noted it could cost over \$1 million. He explained that taxes would have to raise by 15%, which would not be politically feasible, so board needs to be strategic.

JP McFarland, Vice President and General Counsel for Mohawk Ambulance Service, discussed data about response times and shared a binder of data to clarify inaccurate information presented at a prior public safety meeting. He emphasized the need for financial support for private EMS services.

Brittney Dwyer, Grafton Rescue Squad, inquired about the data on EMS calls in Brunswick and who was responding to the calls.

Kim Jensen, Roberts Drive, asked why the town moved away from a contract with Mohawk Ambulance. Supervisor Herrington explained it was due to a good informal relationship.

Jack Melsom, Grove Street, expressed disagreement with the data presented by Mohawk Ambulance, stating that RPI and local fire chiefs had generated figures.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Christian made a motion to adjourn the meeting Motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo, Town Clerk