

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK  
PUBLIC HEARING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 6:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL**

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

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

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a Public Hearing to accept public comment on the 2024 Preliminary Budget.

At Supervisor Herrington's request, the Deputy Town Clerk read the complete Notice of Public Hearing into record. The Notice had been posted on the Town website, the Town Hall bulletin board and published in The Eastwick Press.

Becky Legacy, Accountant, and Pat Poletto, Assistant to the Supervisor, reviewed the 2024 Preliminary Budget and once again there will be no tax increase. Mr. Poletto stated the total spending for the proposed 2024 budget is \$10,317,307. The only place reserve funds need to be utilized is in the Highway funds to supplement the CHIPs funds. The 2023 CHIPs funding was \$492,633. We expect to receive at least that amount or more for 2024. The exact amount of state aid for 2024 will be determined by the state budget which is not approved until April of 2024.

All staff are receiving raises. Recently a Highway Department union contract was negotiated and is due to be voted on. After talking with Councilman Cipperly regarding the dog control fund, the budget was adjusted to \$7,500. So far this year dog control spending is around \$2,600 through October, last year dog control spending was around \$6,800. The cost varies depending on services required.

We are beginning to receive money from the solar PILOT programs and therefore have increased the revenue side to \$14,000 more in PILOT payments. \$20,000 in personnel for the Superintendent of Highway line was returned from the tentative budget. Pioneer bank is now matching New York Liquid Asset Fund (NYLAF), so interest income is strong again. There is an increase to the Highway CHIPS money from this year and \$200,000 more is proposed to be added. Also in the highway budget, increases are proposed for general repairs, machinery as well as personnel services and their benefits which takes into account the proposals in the new union contract. Similarly, an increase in personnel services in the Water Department is proposed since they are also in the union. Library funding has been increased to \$152,000. The Town continues to support senior groups for trips, lunches, etc. There are 3 senior groups that each receive a \$3,500 annual stipend. The estimate of monies remitted to the State Comptroller for retirement has increased. Therefore, the state retirement budget line will be increased. Councilman Cipperly asked if the solar farm PILOT programs are based on maximum output capacity or actual output. Mr. Poletto responded it is based on maximum output capability as agreed upon. Brunswick is paid based on a payment schedule and will increase each year. The Town approves the local fire department budgets, entering into an agreement for services and the Town acts as a pass through, collecting each district's taxes and passing them on to the individual fire departments.

**VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:**

Alix Duggan, 70 Colehamer Ave, President of the Board of Trustees of Brunswick Community Library addressed the board. She had sent a letter thanking all of those involved in the budget process. She wished to express her deepest thanks to the Board for considering their budget request. The library is about to start their annual “ask” in hopes of obtaining more donations to help subsidize their Town budget. The library wants to grow, in population and needs. Your trust in the library shows that this is a great partnership. Thank you again. Supervisor Herrington stated that in the last budget workshop meeting it shows the Town was interested in accepting the library’s proposed budget. This was also recorded in the minutes. The library took that to mean the Town had approved the budget. However, he did want to remind everyone that the budget has not been approved yet.

Jayne Tarbox, Receiver of Taxes, brought her salary to the board’s attention. She stated she has been the Receiver of Taxes for over 20 years and noted that in the 2024 budget proposal her salary is unchanged from 2023. She also stated that over the years her salary has not increased in line with other elected officials. Supervisor Herrington asked a few questions about her working schedule and said he would look into the matter.

Tom McGrath, 1702 NY 7, stated his opinion that several office staff positions, and the Highway Department personnel as a whole, are not being compensated fairly. Supervisor Herrington and Becky Legacy briefed him on the new union contract the staff will be voting on and previous large salary increases.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. The public hearing closed at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo  
Deputy Town Clerk