

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK**  
**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**July 11, 2024, 7:00 P.M.**  
**TOWN HALL**

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

**Board Member Absent:** Councilman Balistreri

**Also Present:** Attorney, Andrew Gilchrist, and Town Clerk, Rebecca Del Gaizo.

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 Town Board Meeting on June 13, 2024. Motion was seconded by Councilman Cipperly. Unanimously approved.

**REPORTS:**

*Town Clerk:* Rebecca Del Gaizo

Ms. Del Gaizo gave the report for the month of June. \$13,643.14 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$3,779.00, Community Center fees for \$1,500.00, Dog License fees for \$362.00, Summer Youth Program registration fees for \$7,750.00 and \$1,313.00 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 8 new reservations and the Pavilion had 1 new reservation. Our share of \$2,707.51 in DEC sales was \$100.49. 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. Ms. Del Gaizo announced the Town Beach opened on July 1<sup>st</sup> and is open every day from 10 A.M.-8 P.M., with the exception of August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> when it will be closed for water treatment. She also mentioned the summer concerts are every Tuesday evening at 6:30 P.M. Cancellations will be posted on the town website and on Facebook.

*Highway Superintendent:* Michael Bayly

Mr. Bayly was unable to attend the meeting. A written report was not available at the time of the meeting. Should one become available, it will be filed in the Town Clerk's office.

*Water & Sewer:* Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley gave his monthly report for June 2024. Meter readings were completed for the August billing period. The department is reviewing high and missing readings as well as installing new meters. He has been assisting the Building Department in reviewing several proposed subdivision applications. Mr. Bradley has also worked with the Laberge Group to review bids received for the Vanderheyden Dam water main replacement project. He has also hired a service firm to help locate water leaks using a specially trained dog. The dog is trained to sniff out chlorine and will focus on a few areas that are difficult to determine if leaks exist. 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.

Code Enforcement: Charles Golden

Mr. Golden gave his report for the month of June. The report showed \$13,226.35 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 13 building permits were issued or renewed, 33 building/property inspections were performed, and active permits totaled 319. The department had 2 code call outs with inspections, 11 code complaints, 17 code complaint inspections, 8 follow up complaint inspections and 0 fire inspections, and 0 additional vacant/abandoned property was identified. There are 8 Planning Board projects open or approved and 3 with the Zoning Board. 8 FOIL requests were received as well as 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 was unable to attend the meeting.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick was unable to attend the meeting. The monthly report was not available at the time of the meeting. Should it become available, it will be on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of June. Revenues totaled \$3,934.80 and expenses \$2,491.17. 34.14 tons of materials were recycled and landfilled. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Cipperly. 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 June. Last month there were 3,598 physical checkouts, 2,693 walk in visitors, 3,738 digital checkouts, 127 Wi-Fi users (17/day average), assisted with 63 technical usages and 241 reference questions were addressed. 1,180 people participated in various programs, and 17 passports were processed. 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.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 52 OF 2024**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT NONREFUNDABLE SKETCH PLAN FEE PURSUANT TO §160-99.A(1)(d) OF THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK ZONING LAW** 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 Absent; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 2024**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF SNOW BLOWER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT FOR TOWN OF BRUNSWICK HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Christian and seconded by Supervisor Herrington, 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 Absent; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Carol De Lucia, Diana Lane, sent a card thanking Bill Bradley and the Water Department for going above and beyond trying to solve a water pressure problem.

Patti Sbrega sent an email thanking the town board, the town clerk's office, and Mike Bayly for assisting with her FOIL requests and implementing positive changes at the Recycling Center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Brunswick Acres has submitted a PDD extension request. This project was previously approved by the Town Board and the subdivision was also approved by the Planning Board subject to conditions. However, the owner has not completed the conditions before the Planning Board's approval expired. Due to the timing, the PDD also expired under the since revised zoning law.

Council Andrew Brick, representing Brunswick Road, LLC, and project sponsor for the Brunswick Acres PDD, along with Charles Casale and Anthony Casale, principles of the project sponsor were present. They are requesting a 1 year extension to the Brunswick Acres PDD. The reason for the delay is due to some aspects of the project taking longer than expected, such as negotiating an easement from the energy company, which was not able to happen. They ended up having to purchase the property instead. It took longer than expected for Rensselaer County Department of Health to get approvals for the septic systems and are hoping it is finalized soon. They already have a public hearing scheduled for July 18, 2024 with the Planning Board and anticipate the approval again at said meeting. The project has not changed. It will still consist of 24 lots of single-family, owner occupied homes on 44 acres off of Brunswick Road. They anticipate breaking ground within the next 12 months, subject to all approvals. Supervisor Herrington said the board will review the information and will add this project to the August meeting.

**WARRANTS:**

Warrants No. 240657 through 240769, No. 62124001 through 62124009, and No. 70524001 through 70524006 were presented. Motion to approve the warrants was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. Individual fund expenses were as follows:

|                           |    |            |
|---------------------------|----|------------|
| General                   | \$ | 117,740.93 |
| Highway                   | \$ | 283,147.12 |
| Water                     | \$ | 12,154.20  |
| Sewer                     | \$ | 398.06     |
| Special Sewer District #6 | \$ | 382.68     |

**VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:**

**Kim Jensen**, Roberts Drive, reported about the first community meeting held last night regarding Hoosick Road traffic and development. Around 60 people attended the meeting. She wanted to acknowledge Councilman Mark Cipperly, Sue Steel and Katie Spain-McLaren, Troy City Council, and Victor, who attended on behalf of Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello. The group presented data from traffic studies that have been conducted since 2000, the town's 2013 comprehensive plan, and the projects currently in discussion or process to be developed in the near future. The meeting was to inform residents of the history of the issues and to generate specific asks from residents to enhance the quality of life. A couple common concerns included that town leaders are not hearing residents, the sense of increasing frustrations, perceived lack of

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action, and lack of communication from the town regarding progress. The group is requesting the town provide regular progress updates related to the recommendations for Route 7 via a standing meeting agenda item and in a section of the town newsletter giving a summary of the work that's being done. They would also like to see an update to the comprehensive plan, which is over 10 years old. Supervisor Herrington said he will take everything into consideration.

**Christie Fronhofer**, Oneida Ave, said a lot of people have mentioned the shopping cart issue. The Town of Glenville passed a shopping cart law to reduce the amount of shopping carts found around town. The law says stores have 24 hours upon notification to retrieve the shopping carts or are fined for each cart per day they are not collected. The town noticed stores become more pro-active since the law passed. Lastly, Ms. Fronhofer asked for an update on speed bumps in the Sycaway neighborhood. Supervisor Herrington said a few areas have been marked with spray paint to indicate where the speed humps will be installed. They have to install signs before installing the speed humps. He said they plan to install a few and see how it goes before possibly installing more speed humps.

**Jennifer Mann**, Hill Road, has been talking with Sharon Zankel about the history of the town's comprehensive plan. Ms. Zankel helped write the questionnaire for residents to take. The comprehensive plan process takes about 2 years to complete. Ms. Mann said it would be beneficial to begin the process now.

**Chuck Golden**, talked about National Grid's Outdoor Lighting LED Conversion Program. Brunswick has 501 luminaries for road ways and 3 decorative luminaries currently. The LED conversion cost is based on net book value (NBV) for the luminaries to be removed. The total cost of conversion is estimated at \$24,495.01. The estimated energy-efficiency incentive is \$28,635.00, thus making the conversion essentially free. If the town is interested in pursuing this project, a decision should be made within the next 90 days.

**Jenny and Michael O'Connor**, Riccardi Lane, came to support the library and the incredible programs they do to support the community. If there are programs they are not interested in, they said they simply won't attend. Sara (Hopkins) was great at helping and supporting Mr. O'Connor author his books. His 3<sup>rd</sup> book is entirely about Troy and Brunswick. Ms. O'Connor also mentioned the driving conditions on McChesney Avenue Extension. She states drivers do not stop at the stop sign at McChesney Avenue and McChesney Ave Extension. She stated it is becoming more dangerous and with apartments, the ambulances, and Walmart. People coming through the area has increased to avoid Hoosick.

Supervisor Herrington said a resident's son pulled out of Highland Creek and had a bad accident due to brush blocking the view. The county said it would take about 10 days until they could get to brush cutting the area, so Supervisor Herrington sent the Highway Department over there to clean it up for safety reasons.

**Arden Bull**, White Church Road, said he has come respectfully to address the town and the town's people. He said about 2 weeks ago he noticed the library has planned to have 2 future meetings for those that want a name change. He said a name change should be at a lawyer's office with an attorney, not at the library. Mr. Bull said, according to the public notice, the library's 2024 budget of \$263,000 is taxpayer money. Of the budget, \$184,000 is for general compensation of staff and \$152,000 comes from the Town of Brunswick. Mr. Bull asked where the money is being spent. He asked Supervisor Herrington to defund the library if the town does not get accountability for their budget received from the town.

Supervisor Herrington said the town does financially support the library and over the years the library has been a tremendous asset to the town of Brunswick. He said it serves a vital function of the community. Accountability is handled through the library board. The library director gives the monthly report to the town to demonstrate accountability.

**Jennifer Mann**, Hill Road, thank you for supporting the library. As a homeschooling mom, she said she saves over \$30,000 a year getting books there. It is in their mission statement to serve every member of their community.

**Sara Hopkins**, wanted to clarify that no Brunswick tax dollars have supported this program. It is being run by two law firms in Albany. The library provides lots of programs to lots of residents. Community residents requested this program. Similarly, to when they provide programs about Medicare, 4H, nutrition, health care, etc. There are different types of programs for different kinds of people. This particular program is only for adults and is an informational program only. She said everyone is welcome at the library. The only thing not welcome is hate speech.

Councilman Cipperly said when the lights are on, taxpayer's money is being spent. Ms. Hopkins said the library would be open anyway.

**Glenn Rufenacht**, Muriel drive, said while growing up, a library had a specific purpose, to provide books, music, and references. Now, the library is growing in function and has become more like a community center, not a library. Some programs like yoga, stitching, crafts, have nothing to do with the library. He said it's nice we have a library, but let's not make everything for everyone.

**Jean Robert**, Muriel Drive, said she would like the library to be the library; a community center to be a community center. She believes small niche programs are just a way for the woke community to get into Brunswick and takes over your jobs. You have democrats running the library. She also said to defund the library.

**Alex Duggan**, Colehammer Avenue, President of Board of Trustees for Brunswick Community Library, and registered republican, read the mission statement of the library. Ms. Duggan invited the previous speakers to the monthly meetings to talk about the library functions. She said the library is here to serve every single resident. One of the best parts of her role is watching the mission statement come alive through the collections and programs Sara curates. She went on to say one of the most fortunate parts of her role at the library is working with such smart and thoughtful people. The library appreciates the partnership with our town and hopes the town will also work with us to protect our staff. The town's statement on Facebook was not supportive and did not shut down the negativity. Ms. Duggan said at this point they don't know the best way to move forward. She suggested maybe the library board and town board could get together to discuss the issues at hand. The Brunswick Community Library is chartered as an association library, meaning they govern their own activities, operating as the will of the people. The library receives money from state, county, school district, and town. If the people want to defund the library, then the library and town council need to discuss it. The library is part of the Upper Hudson Library System (UHLS), consisting of 36 libraries total. A lot of our operating policies come from the library by-laws and UHLS by-laws. If the town wanted to defund the library and the library were to step away from UHLS, we would lose access to about 99% of all library collections, services, and content. The Brunswick Community Library has received awards and

recognition for their programs on a shoestring budget. She thanked the town for their budgetary support and to Sara for everything she has done.

Supervisor Herrington said his phone was ringing from maybe 15 people, called him upset. He said he tried to inform them it's not a town board program, but rather it's a library board approved program. He directed the callers to reach out to the library with their concerns.

**Pam Finch**, McChesney Avenue Extension, said she was sitting home watching the meeting and wanted to come in to support the library. She said her family moved out here very young with no money. She said being a single mother the library was godsend. She said if she doesn't like a program at the library, she doesn't go. The library has enriched her and her children's lives. The library is a safe space. She has made friends there too. She said she felt she had to make the trip here because even though there are things that go on at the library that she does not like, the important thing is the library has a critical place in this community. If the town is going to look at this community, then you need to look at it as a community.

**Richard Ellis**, Riding Club Road, asked if these people would feel the same if they rented the community center and had the same program? Both are part of the town; both are functions of the town. How can people bring this complaint to a meeting?

**Christie Fronhofer**, Oneida Avenue, said the town library is the absolute heart of our community. No place is more welcoming. She said they will bend over backwards to do anything for everyone. From passports and gardening, there is something for everyone. Ms. Fronhofer said she didn't feel she needed to go to the senior scam event because she didn't need it, so she didn't go, but she was thankful for the program. The town should be looking into funding the library to expand it. She said thank you to the library for everything.

**Connie Vooy**, Short Essex Street, said she can't wait for speed humps to be installed in the Sycaway neighborhood. She also said she can't tell us how many programs she has done in the library. From yoga, defensive driving classes, physical therapy classes, educational programs, and knitting. She said those programs are important especially for those of us that live alone. It is important for comradery.

**Mary Beth Bruno**, Lumex Run, said as a taxpayer I am 100% supportive of the library to serve whatever group they serve. She said it's unfortunate we still have hate in the community. We need to express love. She said she is here to talk about traffic. We had important meeting last night. She asked if Mark Cipperly will be reporting to the board what happens at the meetings. Ms. Bruno said a density map was reviewed and based on that, 12,000 people live in Brunswick and 10,000 people are directly impacted by Hoosick Road. She also said there's an apartment complex coming to Betts Road containing an additional 200 units. Supervisor Herrington said there was a project approved a long time ago but the conditions can't be met today.

**Elisa Schneider**, Pinewoods Avenue, wanted to comment on an observation she made during the meeting. She said when Arden was speaking, there were no interruptions at all. When Kim or others were speaking, there were interruptions.

Supervisor Herrington made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation, seconded by Councilman Christian.

The board entered into executive session at 8:38 p.m.

Supervisor Herrington made a motion to exit executive session and immediately resume regular session, seconded by Councilman Sullivan. No action was taken during executive session.

Regular session resumed at 9:10 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Cipperly made the motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilman Christian. Unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo  
Town Clerk