

TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
PUBLIC HEARING TOWN BUDGET
November 6, 2025 6:00 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, Vinny DamaPoletto.

Supervisor Herrington called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk DamaPoletto read the public notice that was posted on the Town's website, sign board, and in the Troy Record.

Supervisor Herrington then read some facts about the budget. All town employees will be receiving a raise. Minimum wage is going up again for the eighth year in a row, which will impact the 140 summer youths the town employs across the summer camp and beach. The town will keep its high-deductible healthcare plan which helps keep costs under control. The Town Board continues to support the library with an increase in funding. The town continues to pay off its bond on the town hall, the only debt the town has. The town is entering its third year of the Highway Department contract. The Water Department is halfway through upgrading all the meters in town to radio read meters.

Supervisor Herrington then invited the town's Bookkeeper Becky Legacy and Assistant to the Supervisor Pat Poletto to the podium.

Assistant to the Supervisor Poletto started by clarifying the minimum wage in regards to the summer youth employment program. The town gives the youth raises that outpace the increases to the minimum wage to keep them coming back because it is hard to find new employees. He then noted that everyone's insurance is going up, including seniors'. After that, he gave a history of the town's bond, noting that it was so high because it also had to cover costs from the previous administration that spent money meant to close the old landfill on other projects. Next, he gave examples of how the new meters that the Water Department have been installing are helping residents identify leaks in their systems to help stop waste. He then explained that the special Sewer 6 district had to redirect funds to cover a new sewer pump behind the Walmart because the old pump broke this summer. After that, he explained how the town funded the dam project on North Lake Ave without using bonds because the town had been saving funds for ten years and also used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds we received from the federal government. The town has continued to use Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) from New York State to pave our roads.

Supervisor Herrington asked about sales tax revenue. Assistant to the Supervisor Poleto said that the sales tax went up about \$20,000. he then explained how sales taxes are collected and divvied up in Rensselaer County. Supervisor Herrington asked what the total sales tax revenue for the town was and Assistant to the Supervisor Poleto said that it's about \$2,000,000. Supervisor Herrington then asked what the total town budget is and Assistant to the Supervisor Poleto said that it's about \$10,000,000. Assistant to the Supervisor Poleto then pointed out that last year was the first time the town collected sales tax that included the marijuana dispensaries, and their tax revenue was initially around \$90,000, but this year it dropped to about \$45,000 because the state opened more dispensaries around the area.

Supervisor Herrington said that the reason he asked about sales taxes is because of the challenges around Route 7, but that it's also a large source of revenue that helps keep all the other taxes lower.

Assistant to the Supervisor Poleto then mentioned the town's investment fund with New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS). Supervisor Herrington asked the town's Bookkeeper Legacy to explain in more detail how the town makes its investments. Bookkeeper Legacy explained that she looks at the interest rates between NYCLASS and the town's bank Pioneer Bank. She said that in the past she moved a large amount out of Pioneer and into NYCLASS, but since then has convinced Pioneer to raise the town's interest rates so now they're more comparable and she hasn't had to move as much between the two. Supervisor Herrington then pointed out that the town moves money and invests like the residents, just with more limitations on what the town can invest in. Bookkeeper Legacy said that's also what the town did with COVID funds. Supervisor Herrington pointed out that while other towns in the area used the money to pave roads, Brunswick invested the money to make it go further. It also helped the town finance the dam project.

VISITORS WHO WISHED TO SPEAK:

Supervisor Herrington then opened up the hearing for public hearing. No one stood up. Supervisor Herrington asked if any board members wanted to make a comment, but no one did. He then thanked everyone for coming out.

ADJOURNMENT:

Supervisor Herrington then motioned to close this hearing. Councilman Sullivan seconded. Everyone voted "Aye" to close the hearing. The public hearing closed at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vinny DamaPoleto
Deputy Town Clerk