

**TOWN OF BRUNSWICK**  
**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**April 10, 2025 7:00 P.M.**  
**TOWN HALL**

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

**Also Present:** Town Attorney, Dave Gruenberg 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 regular Town Board meeting on March 10, 2025 and Special Workshop Meeting on March 26, 2025. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved.

**REPORTS:**

Town Clerk: Rebecca Del Gaizo

Ms. Del Gaizo gave the report for the month of March. \$9,573.03 will be remitted to the Supervisor's office. Rounding numbers, recycling fees accounted for \$1,476.00, Community Center and pavilion rental fees for \$1,865.00, Dog License fees for \$494.00 and \$5,738.03 in miscellaneous fees making up the balance. The Community Center had 9 new reservations. Our share of \$1,315.68 in DEC sales was \$41.32. Ms. Del Gaizo spoke about recent training webinars she attended, summer camp registration is open until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the Community Yard Sale is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at the Town Hall. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Sullivan and seconded by Supervisor Herrington. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Highway Superintendent: Michael Bayly

Mr. Bayly gave the report for March. Work included: Recycling; Patching; Recycle pulls; Shop work; Roadside Mowing; Working on street signs; Cutting brush; Hauling snow sand; Carpenter work; Sweeping; Lawn repair; Gradall; Bags; Banners; Hauling Winter Sand; Training. Motion to accept the report was made by Supervisor Herrington and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Water & Sewer: Bill Bradley

Mr. Bradley was unable to attend the meeting. No report has been filed.

Code Enforcement: Kevin Mainello

Mr. Mainello presented the report for the month of March. The report showed \$7,432.70 was collected for Building Permits and Zoning and Planning Board Fees. 14 building permits were issued or renewed, 36 building/property inspections were performed and active permits totaled 368. The department had 0 code call outs, 4 code complaints, 11 code complaint inspections, 5 follow up complaint inspections and 1 fire inspection. 7 additional vacant/abandoned properties were identified. There are 2 Planning Board projects open or approved and 1 with the Zoning Board. 8 FOIL requests were received as well as zoning inquiries. 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.

Town Historian: Tracy Broderick

Ms. Broderick said she has been working on transferring historical data from tax books and an exhibit about Forest Park. She is also organizing a collection of online news clipping for better search ability. Ms. Broderick has started to document the contents of the Pittstown Centennial, a newspaper from the mid 1970's that covered Brunswick and nearby towns. Two teachers from Brittonkill School District reached out requesting information about the Garfield School and the Little Brick Schoolhouse in Clums Corners for an upcoming open house event. She ended her report with an article from the Troy Newspaper dated April 9, 1891 that spoke about a blizzard with 6" of snow. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Christian and seconded by Councilman Sullivan. Unanimously approved. No report has been filed with the clerk's office. A report was not filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Recycling Coordinator: Thomas Engster

Mr. Engster gave his report for the month of March. Revenues totaled \$1,599.20 and expenses \$3,529.44. 26.33 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

Brittany Dwyer, library trustee, presented the report for the month of March. Last month there were 3,465 physical checkouts, 2,194 walk in visitors, 3,541 digital checkouts, 166 Wi-Fi users (19/day average), assisted with 89 technical usages and 432 reference questions were addressed. 735 people participated in various programs, and 14 passports were processed. Motion to accept the report was made by Councilman Cipperly and seconded by Councilman Balistreri. Unanimously approved. A copy of the written report is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMENDED CERTIFIED LIST OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC., WHO HAVE EARNED AT LEAST FIFTY (50) POINTS DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024 UNDER THE LOSAP PROGRAM. 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. 34 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF T & C AUTO SALES & SERVICE INC., D/B/A CROSSROADS FORD TO PROVIDE A 2024- 2025 4 x 4 REGULAR CAB AND CHASSIS TRUCK. 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. 35 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF J & J EQUIPMENT, LLC TO PROVIDE A STREET SWEEPER TO THE TOWN. 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. 36 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW OF THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK. The foregoing Resolution, offered by Councilman Sullivan 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 Aye; Supervisor Herrington, Voting Aye. The foregoing Resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 37 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO FILL POSITION IN THE ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT. 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. 38 OF 2025**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CHANGE ORDER ON THE VANDERHEYDEN RESERVOIR DAM PROPERTY. 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.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Herrington said the town's hired auditors came in last week to review financial records and were finished in one day.

Councilman Balistreri said last month the Public Safety Committee had a few informational meetings with Dr. Hayashi regarding ambulance services. There was also a Special Workshop Meeting held at Keyes Lane that was well attended and very informative. The Public Safety Committee met on March 27th, 2025. Surveys were sent out to surrounding towns and two agencies with ambulance operating authority, to collect information about operating ambulance services to make better informed decisions on the next steps. Councilman Cipperly said the entire idea of ambulance services relies on mutual aid from surrounding areas. They want to know more about what the business model will look like so everyone can be satisfied with reciprocal help when needed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

### **WARRANTS:**

Warrants No. 250295 through 250410, No.32825001 through 32825009, No. 41125001 through 41125006 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	\$	221,803.67
Highway	\$	444,489.31
Water	\$	681,500.89
Sewer	\$	1,164.24
Special Sewer District #6	\$	774.60

### **VISITORS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:**

Mary Ellen Adams, Cooper Ave, gave her condolences to Supervisor Herrington for the sudden loss of his nephew Jason Herrington. Ms. Adams said she wanted to follow up on the Public Safety Committee work, reiterating that time is of the essence during emergencies. She urged the board and public to be willing to pay the extra tax amount for ambulance services since the public tends to take the service for granted thinking we already have dedicated ambulance services. Ms. Adams also mentioned an application discussed at the recent Zoning Board of Appeals meeting for an illuminated sign near Walgreens. She said the proposed sign is not conducive to the vision for the entrance to Brunswick according to the town's comprehensive plan. She reminded the board the comprehensive plan is outdated but provides a vision and once this type of sign goes up, it then opens it up to more and the town could eventually look like Las Vegas.

Mary Beth Bruno, Lumax Run, spoke about the gap in emergency services in town. She admitted she was unaware the town had no contracts for dedicated emergency services and believes most residents are also unaware. She said she was surprised ambulance services were not included in the town's comprehensive plan but is hopeful that will change in the near future. She said \$800,000.00 for a dedicated ambulance service is not a lot compared to the town's overall budget. She said she would be more than willing to pay the extra tax amount but she would like to see some creative ideas on how to fund this necessary service. Ms. Bruno suggested going out for a Request for Proposals (RFP) to get competitive operating costs. Ms. Bruno asked for an update on the road closure on North Lake Avenue, in place since March while contractors repair the Vanderheyden Reservoir Dam. Attorney Gruenberg said tonight's agenda includes a change-order resolution: a county-owned culvert sits inside the work zone. Although the county first declined to replace it, contractors believe it could be damaged during the repairs. The Town would therefore replace the culvert now, at a cost of approximately \$350,000.00, and later seek reimbursement from the county. The project began after NYSDEC "reg-tagged" the twin dams that sit on each side of the entrance to the town beach, citing risk of failure during extreme weather. NYSDEC was not satisfied with the culvert installation, demanding the dams be repaired or be subjected to fines. The total project costs are estimated at \$2 million, funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocations and Town reserve funds.

Jim Tkacik, Brunswick Road, began by applauding the Town's work on the Vanderheyden Dam project. He then raised concerns about the Town's informal purchasing practices, particularly its long-standing, exclusive relationship with AIT Computers. Over the past 7 years, the Town has paid AIT Computers more than \$300,000 (~\$40,000/year), including \$55,000 in 2024 and \$8,000 for the recent website redesign. Despite the Town's own procurement policy, which requires multiple bids as dollar amounts rise, no contracts or solicitations were issued. In 2024,

ten AIT Computers equipment purchases exceeded the bid threshold, yet none were sought. The procurement policy's ethics section calls for maximizing value and avoiding favoritism, but AIT appears to function as the Town's sole IT vendor. NY OGS (Office of General Services) offers IT services under an umbrella contract, similar to how the Town purchases trucks, called HBITS: Hourly-Based IT Services. The liaison between the Town and AIT Computers appears to be Pat Poleto, Assistant to the Supervisor. State purchasing alternatives such as NY OGS contractors or cooperative buying groups were never used. Mr. Tkacik noted that similar "handshake" arrangements have caused problems before, such as ambulance services. He asked the Town to put in writing whatever arrangement is made with Mohawk Ambulance Services and make it public, as the residents deserve it. Mr. Tkacik asked if the Town sought bids for trash removal services. Councilman Christian yelled that he sat down with two hauler companies to get the best price and there are contracts in place. Councilman Christian said Mr. Tkacik can see the previous amounts versus the new amounts when they pay the bills. Mr. Tkacik pointed out he was unable to find details to attend the ambulance services informational meetings hosted by the fire department and asked the Town to also post the meeting notifications.

Josh Briggs, Rensselaer County employee, said his son made a few trips to the Town Clerk's office for a certificate of residency for his son's enrollment at Hudson Valley Community College and found the office closed each time. Mr. Briggs spoke to the town's assessor and the County Clerk to find out about the Town Clerk's office hours. Mrs. Del Gaizo expressed genuine concern that Mr. Briggs and his son had been inconvenienced. She clarified that, on the day in question, the office happened to be closed only during her deputy's lunch break. Mrs. Del Gaizo also noted that she has a handful of upcoming medical appointments that may require brief absences and appreciates the public's understanding. Councilman Christian questioned Mrs. Del Gaizo on how she schedules appointments and lunch periods. She outlined staggering lunch breaks when possible. Mr. Briggs reiterated his frustration, while Mrs. Del Gaizo gently emphasized that she still has not received any direct communication from him and remains eager to resolve the matter as soon as he reaches out.

Mary Ellen Adams praised Mr. Tkacik for his extensive research and raising valid questions about how the town makes decisions and spends money. She urged officials to review, update, and fully follow existing policies to ensure maximum transparency. Citing the example that "\$300,000 is two wheels of an ambulance," she suggested the board clearly explain how it arrives at large-ticket spending choices and demonstrate that the process aligns with adopted policies.

Michael Bayly, Highway Superintendent, stated he is a non-resident and said Supervisor Herrington micromanages the town, calling him all hours of the night.

Supervisor Herrington said that he text messages his secretary Tracy Broderick almost every night after 8pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting Motion was seconded by Councilman Balistreri. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Del Gaizo, Town Clerk  
Town of Brunswick

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