

Town Board
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK
336 Town Office Road
Troy, New York 12180

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AN AMBULANCE TAX DISTRICT FOR THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of Town of Brunswick shall hold a public hearing relating to the establishment of an ambulance tax district, which would constitute the entire town of Brunswick. The hearing will be held on July 9, 2025 at 7pm at the Center Brunswick Firehouse, located at 1045 Hoosick Road in the Town of Brunswick. All interested persons in this matter will have an opportunity to be heard at that time and place.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE of the following:

The Map, Plan and Report establishing this town-wide ambulance district, prepared in June, 2025, is on file in the Brunswick Town Clerk's office and available for inspection at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. The Plan may also be reviewed on the Brunswick Town website.

The purpose of establishing the ambulance district is to provide for certain services, including emergency medical and ambulance services, by providing for the establishment of a taxing district to supply a stable, tax-based stream of funding for the provision of such services within the Town of Brunswick. It is estimated that the amount to be expended for said proposed district in 2026 is \$875,000, and a similar amount would be expended annually thereafter. The report calculates that the tax rate for taxable parcels within the Town of Brunswick would increase by \$3.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value, resulting in an average tax increase of \$146 annually for the average home in Brunswick. The means for funding the proposed district is by means by an ad valorem tax levy on properties within the Town of Brunswick.

JUNE 20, 2025

Town of Brunswick Town Board
Philip Herrington, Supervisor

Town of Brunswick
Map, Plan and Report
for
Establishment of Ambulance Tax District



June 2025

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Town of Brunswick – Public Safety Committee

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Introduction

A primary function of government is to provide for the health and safety of the people that live and visit their respective municipality.

First responders represent one of the elements of this duty, whether Law Enforcement, Fire, or Ambulance services.

The Town of Brunswick currently has two (2) Law Enforcement Agencies, and five (5) Fire Company/Departments who provide first responder Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents and visitors in the Town.

For years the Town of Brunswick has not had dedicated Basic Life Support (BLS) and/or Advanced Life Support (ALS), and transportation services. The services have been provided by either Mohawk Ambulance or Empire Ambulance and have been at no cost to the Town of Brunswick.

These agencies are commercial agencies and are the only agencies that have operating authority, "Certificate of Need" (CON), (according to the New York State Department of Health), within the Town of Brunswick.

Over the last decade, ambulance services have changed.

Empire Ambulance, who were only able to provide limited services, eventually sold their CON to a company called Ambulanz, who provided primary services to the City of Cohoes and northern parts of New York State. As of May 1, 2025, Ambulanz no longer provides services to the City of Cohoes, with Mohawk Ambulance signing a five (5) year contract with the City to provided EMS services.

Mohawk Ambulance continued to provide these services, at no cost to the Town, with the Town of Brunswick providing leased space to house an ambulance and personnel, at minimal cost to the Town.

In 2019, Mohawk Ambulance built a new station on McChesney Avenue, the Town no longer needed to lease space and terminated the contract for the housing for ambulance and EMS personnel.

In late 2023, The Town of Brunswick, along with other Public Safety partners, reestablished the Town of Brunswick - Public Safety Committee.

Members of this committee include the following representatives:

- Fire (5) Fire Companies/Departments within the Town of Brunswick
- Two (2) Law Enforcement Agencies within the Town of Brunswick
- Mohawk Ambulance
- Rensselaer County Legislature
- Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety

- Town Officials
 - o Building Department
 - o Highway Department
 - o Water Department
 - o Assessor's Department
 - o Town Board (2 Representatives)
- Medical Director
- A Town Resident Representative

In 2024, the top priorities of this committee, identified, were Volunteer Recruitment & Retention in the Fire Service, Shared Information and Services between State, County and Local officials, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations within the Town of Brunswick.

During discussions regarding EMS operations within the Town of Brunswick, the Public Safety Committee identified the below concerns, some having been concerns for many years, some being more recent concerns, and some concerns that have gotten worse, of which, all were brought to the attention of the Town of Brunswick leadership.

- 1) EMS Services were inconsistent during the year, meaning sometimes services were good, and other times services were unavailable.
- 2) Sometimes there are lengthy delays in response due to responding from out of the area, in otherwards, not being physically in the Town of Brunswick.

(Note: The current public perception is that since there is an ambulance station in the Town, that ambulances are responding from this station, which, is sometimes, un-staffed.)

- 3) On occasion, other mutual aid ambulance agencies will not respond to the Town, as they have contracts to provide services to their municipality and need to keep their ambulance in their area, as well as they do not receive reciprocal mutual aid, when needed.
- 4) It has become more common for Rensselaer County to dispatch multiple mutual aid ambulance agencies, sometimes seven (7) different agencies, or more, for one call, before an ambulance responds.
- 5) There are times that residents transport themselves by private vehicle, rather than wait for an ambulance.

Town of Brunswick officials met with Mohawk Ambulance to discuss these concerns and broker a resolution that would help provide better EMS services to the residents and visitors in the Town.

These meetings were productive; however, the call volume within the Town of Brunswick does not appear to be enough to sustain an ambulance dedicated to the Town, per Mohawk, and Mohawk Ambulance requested a written contract, with suitable compensation to offset the limited billing revenue generated.

In January 2025, the Town Board provided information at the regular Board Meeting regarding the concerns, steps taken, that they would be exploring options, on how to improve EMS services within the Town, and would keep the residents updated.

In April 2025, an ambulance survey distributed to surrounding ambulance agencies, as well as, to Mohawk Ambulance and Ambulanz, solicited approximate costs and other associated information, on providing a dedicated ambulance to the Town of Brunswick. Based on the information provided, it has been determined that the Town of Brunswick should consider the formation of an Ambulance District, to provide the Town with the ability to maximize the ambulance and emergency medical services, specifically transportation services to the Town and its residents & visitors.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to give the Brunswick Town Board/Supervisor and the residents of the Town of Brunswick the information that they will need to make an informed decision about whether to move forward with an Ambulance District. An Ambulance District would allow the Town to levy municipal taxes to adequately fund these emergency services, as there is currently no line item in the Town budget for Ambulance services.

Emergency Medical Services Law and Statutes

Within the provisions of the New York State Public Health Law, Article 30, under the Department of Public Health, the New York State Emergency Medical Services Council and Regional Medical Services Councils were created to enact, amend, and repeal rules and regulations establishing minimum standards for ambulance services, ambulance service certification, advanced life support first response services, the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical care and training and examination of certified first responders.

The Town under General Municipal Law has the authority to provide and contract for emergency medical services for its residents and visitors. Further, the law states that emergency medical services funded in part with public funds shall not refuse an answer to a call or demand for services to provide service and any person neglecting or refusing to comply with this provision of this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

There is no law that requires the Town of Brunswick to provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS), however, General Municipal Law, Article 6, Section 122b outlines how municipalities can provide ambulance services.

About the Town of Brunswick (Wikipedia)

Brunswick is a Town in Rensselaer County, New York, United States. The municipality was originally settled in the early 18th century. During its history, it had been part of Albany County, Rensselaerswyck, and Troy, before its incorporation in 1807. It is bordered on the west by the City of Troy; on the north by Schaghticoke and Pittstown; on the east by Grafton; and on the south by Poestenkill and North Greenbush.

The population was 12,581 at the 2020 census. The Town of Brunswick has a total area of 44.63 square miles, with 44.35 square miles being land and .28 square miles being water.

The source of the town's name is not certain, though some claim it comes from the source of its first inhabitants from the province of Brunswick-Luneburg in Germany.

The town was historically agricultural but began experiencing suburban sprawl in the later decades of the 20th century, which continues currently. Historically, most of the developments have occurred around the town's two major thoroughfares: New York Route 7 and New York Route 2, known locally as Hoosick Road and Brunswick Road, respectively. Brunswick became a popular place to settle upon the completion of the local highway system in the Capital District, especially the upgrade of Route 7 into four-lane highway in the 1980s.

General Information

The Town has five (5) volunteer Fire Companies/Departments, as follows:

- Brunswick Fire Company No. 1
- Volunteer Fire Company of Center Brunswick
- Eagle Mills Fire District #1
- Mountain View Volunteer Fire Company
- Speigletown Fire District

The Town has two (2) ambulance agencies that have operating authority, within the Town, as follows:

- Mohawk Ambulance Service
- Ambulnz

The following bordering EMS agencies, on occasion, provide mutual aid ambulance service to the Town of Brunswick:

- Hoosic Valley Rescue Squad
- Pittstown Volunteer Emergency Corp
- Grafton EMS Services
- North Greenbush Ambulance

- City of Troy Ambulance
- RPI Ambulance

The Town has two (2) law enforcement agencies within the Town, as follows:

- New York State Police
- Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department

The Town has five (5) school districts, whose boundaries fall within the Town, as follows:

- Averill Park Central School District
- Brittonkill Central Schools
- Lansingburgh Central School District
- Enlarged City School District of Troy
- Wynantskill Union Free School District

Points to Consider

- Call Volume of over 1,200 EMS calls per year
- Shortened Response Times
- Simultaneous calls
- Consistent, Reliable Services for Residents and Visitors
- Hospital Turnaround Delays
- Scalability for Growth
- Mutual Aid
- Cost effectiveness

Town of Brunswick Ambulance - Consideration

The Town of Brunswick – Public Safety Committee, collected information on the potential costs associated with the creation of an ambulance service within the Town of Brunswick.

If the Town was to create their own ambulance, based on the (2 ALS Ambulances during the daytime hours, and 1 ALS Ambulance at nighttime theory, it would cost the Town of Brunswick approximately 2.5 million dollars in start-up costs, with an annual operating budget of approximately one million dollars.

For annual operational costs an estimated billing revenue of approximately \$500,000 was used, based on an average call volume of 1,200 calls per year, would leave a remaining balance of approximately \$500,000, which would have to be generated through an ambulance tax district.

Contract - *Recommended*

Recommendation is for the Town of Brunswick draft and sign a contract with an appropriate ambulance agency, which can provide a dedicated ambulance service to the Town of Brunswick, at a reasonable cost, for its resident and visitors in the Town.

It is recommended that the contract period be for multiple years.

Municipal Certificate of Need (CON)/Billing

If the Town of Brunswick was to contract with an agency that does not have operating authority in the Town, they would need to apply for a Municipal Certificate of Need (CON), with the New York State Department of Health (DOH), to have Municipal Operating Authority.

In doing so, the Town of Brunswick would be responsible for billing.

If this occurs, it is recommended that the Town of Brunswick hire a billing agency to provide services for collection of all billing revenue generated by the residents and visitors' usage of the ambulance service, and will pay, in addition to the already contracted annual fee, the billing revenue generated, to the contracted ambulance service.

If the contracted ambulance agency has a billing agency, it is recommended that the Town utilize the same billing agency to simplify the process or create a separate agreement on payment of billing revenue to the contracted ambulance agency.

If the Town of Brunswick contracts with an agency that already has Operating Authority in the Town, then that agency would handle the collection of all billing revenue, generated by the residents and visitors' usage of ambulance services, and keep said revenue in addition to the agreed upon annual contract pricing paid by the Town.

Housing

If necessary, the Town of Brunswick will provide suitable quarters for the contracted ambulance agency within the Town of Brunswick, at a reasonable cost to the Town.

Mutual Aid

The Town of Brunswick will draft and sign a mutual aid agreement with surrounding ambulance agencies, to provide a suitable back-up in case the ambulance assigned to the Town of Brunswick is already on a call for service, within the Town.

This will require that the Town of Brunswick ambulance provide reciprocal mutual aid to our surrounding partners, as part of the agreement.

The need for Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) should be a consideration, when developing the mutual aid plan and based on the type of call dispatched (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, or Echo), which indicates the severity of the call.

Example: Alpha or Bravo call may only require a BLS ambulance, thereby, leaving the ALS ambulance, dedicated to the Town of Brunswick, in-service, for additional calls, specifically that may require ALS.

Ambulance District Boundaries

The ambulance district boundaries will be the municipal boundaries of the Town of Brunswick, New York and includes all tax parcels within the Town.

Appendix A, attached, provides a municipal boundary map.

Proposed Anticipated Tax Rate

1) Proposed Funds raised by taxes.

The proposed funds, raised by taxes in FY2026, are \$875,000.

2) Calculated Proposed Tax Rate

The proposed tax rate calculated by dividing the amount of funds raised in taxes to fund the ambulance district (the Ambulance District) by the taxable value of the benefit area (All properties in the Town)

- Tax Rate including ALL taxable parcels is \$3.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value

(Note: Average assessed value of Brunswick homes \$48,535 x \$3.00 = average increase of \$146 per parcel (Town & County tax bill))

3) Usage of funds

The funds raised are for an annual fee to a contracted ambulance agency (as determined by the Town Board), quarters for said ambulance (if necessary), and any other costs associated with ambulance services within the Town of Brunswick only.

It is recommended that any funding that remain in the Town Budget line item for the Ambulance District, at the end of each fiscal year, be incumbered, by the Town Accountant, and rolled into the next fiscal years' budget, thereby creating a surplus for potential unanticipated expenses or future expansion of ambulance services, and associated costs, within the Town of Brunswick.

Summary

- 1) This Map, Plan and Report recommends that the Town of Brunswick establish an Ambulance District, following the provisions of Article 12-A of Town Law.
- 2) This Map, Plan and Report recommends that the Town of Brunswick contract with an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency to provide the following:
 - a. Two (2) Advance Life Support (ALS) Ambulances during the daytime (6:00 AM – 6:00 PM), seven (7) days a week.
 - b. One (1) Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance during the nighttime (6:00 PM to 6:00 AM), seven (7) days a week.

Contract should include, but not limited to, the following elements and considerations:

- Response Times
- Simultaneous Calls
- Consistent and reliable services
- Allowance for scalability for growth
- Mutual Aid considerations
- Cost effectiveness
- Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Improvement (QI) Plan

Contract should be for multiple years, preferably a minimum of three (3) years.

- 3) This Map, Plan and Report recommends that the Town of Brunswick enter into a mutual aid agreement with surrounding municipalities, to provide better services to not only the residents and visitors in the Town of Brunswick, but residents and visitors in the entire area.

(Note: The mutual aid plan should also take into consideration the type of call (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, and Echo), what is needed (ALS or BLS), and devise a plan that helps to keep ALS units in-service for ALS calls, and BLS units utilized for BLS calls.)

Appendix A

Town of Brunswick Street Map

