

**APPROVED**  
**BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**June 1, 2006**  
**Public Hearing on Proposed Budget**

**7:00 P.M.** Chair King called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Councilors Present:** Chair Joanne T. King, W. David Watson, Jacqueline A. Sartoris, Hallie Daughtry, Jeffery A. Schneider, Louise V. Ansari, Ryan E. Ewing, Newell A. Augur, and Forrest Lowe.

**School Board Present:** Chair William J. Dana, Becky J. Martin, Dugan Slovenski, Eileen B. Murphy, Corinne A. Perreault, Gail K. Lowe, Janet C. Connors, and Malcolm Andrews.

**Town Staff Present:** Donald H. Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Patricia Harrington, Assistant Town Manager; James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools; Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; James Oikle, Business Manager for School Department; John Foster, Public Works Director; Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation; John Eldridge, Finance Director; Clark Labbe, Fire Chief; Scott McKernan, School Department Facilities Manager; several other School Department Administrators, and the TV video crew.

**Brief Presentation on School and Municipal 2006/07 Budgets and 2007/11 Capital Improvement Plan.**

Manager Gerrish gave an overview of the town budget. There will a 0% tax increase. He highlighted some changes on the municipal side. Two positions, an economic development specialist and a technology person have been added. The position of crime analyst was eliminated. The total municipal budget is up \$890,000. The major increases include the following expenditures: the cost of heating fuel and gas (up by \$150,000), the first full year of operational expense of the substation (up by \$150,000), regular salary adjustments, which are based on union contracts, the debt service for the Fire Department's new ladder truck (up by \$110,000), and health insurance increases (up by \$190,000.) The CIP is included with a tread water position to wait and see what might become available on the base. In the next year a plan to help with the space needs for the town and police facilities will be worked on. Manager Gerrish said the town is under the state property tax cap by \$25,000.

James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools, read a prepared statement. The School Department's budget is up 6.32%, but they are asking for less money from the town since they are receiving additional state assistance. He added that the many volunteer hours assist with reducing costs.

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*(A copy of Mr. Ashe's statement will be attached to the official minutes.)*

**Public Hearing on Budget.**

Chair King opened the public hearing.

**Pem Schaeffer**, Crestview Lane, said that Mr. Austin, who spoke on the EPS at the last Council meeting, said he had worked hard to defeat Palesky's tax cap and will do so for TABOR, but he failed to say he was a paid lobbyist for MMA and this makes his statement invalid due to lack of disclosure. The town has gone over the \$50 million mark in the budget. The tax rate may be at a 0% increase, but spending is up 6% or 3 million dollars. This increase is too much with the challenges facing the town and with a bad economy. The School Department's budget has gone up 14% in the last two years, with the average teacher's pay at \$50,000, and including benefits it is \$70,000. His property taxes are not going up, but taxes at the state level are higher since more money is being given by the state. The State increased funding by \$2.5 million; if that was used to reduce taxes there would be a major decrease in taxes. Shame on those responsible for this spending; overall, the taxpayer has lost out due to the increase in spending.

**Ann Hayden**, 6 Bowker Street, asked for continued support for the Mere Point Boat Launch. It is important to help the shellfish industry. It will bring businesses that cater to the boating folks. She thanked the Council and School Board for their good work on the budget.

**Jamie Kaplan**, 16 Larrabee Farm Road, spoke as a parent and President of the Curtis Memorial Library Board of Directors. Teachers could not be paid enough since the school system is wonderful at all levels. On behalf of the library staff's pay equity, he will argue with anyone that librarians are not overpaid.

**Colleen McKenna**, Pennellville Road and member of the Mere Point Boat Launch Committee, asked that the boat launch funding not be cut. The benefits outweigh the funding. She suggested removing the paving of Old Pennellville Road at over \$300,000 as a method to save funds.

Chair King closed the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.**

*Frances M. Smith*  
*Town Clerk*

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*June 23, 2006*

**July 10, 2006**

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*Date of Approval*

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*Council Chair*