

BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1996
1996-97 Budget Public Hearing
Municipal Meeting Room
Old Brunswick High School

7:00 P.M.

Chair McCausland called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

Councilors Present: Chair Stephen McCausland, Michael Feldman, Eleanor Swanson, Robert Galloupe, Leon Laffely, Clement Wilson, Faith Moll, Ervin Snyder, and David Gleason.

School Board Members Present: Joanne Olson, Jeffrey Morse, James Grant, Robyn McCausland, and Ralph Tucker.

Others Present: Donald Gerrish, Town Manager; James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools; Deborah Cabana, Town Clerk; several members of the public; and Casco Cable T.V.

Town Manger Donald Gerrish gave an overview of the Municipal Budget. He explained that the original budget proposed included a 6.9%increase in taxes. The revised budget has been reduced by \$672,000 which reflects a 3.17%increase in taxes. Mr. Gerrish said this budget was basically a maintenance budget in order to maintain the services he felt the community was looking for. A copy of the budget summary will be attached to the official minutes.

Superintendent of Schools Jim Ashe gave an overview of the school budget. A copy of his comments and a revised School Department budget will be attached to the official minutes.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:25 p.m.

Jim Grant of Jordan Ave - asked the Council to reconsider two capital improvement issues which had been cut from this fiscal budget. As Co-Chair of the Cable TV Committee - he was concerned with the cut made for that committee. His second concern was the Charles Court sidewalk project. He felt this was an issue of safety and asked the Council to please reconsider replacing this project into the budget.

David Chaplin of 92 Raymond Road - is a volunteer for the Cable TV Committee. He spoke of the need of funds to establish a public access program. It was Mr. Chaplin's opinion that it was unfair that the Town uses the monies received from franchise fees for their operating budget, Instead, he felt that those monies should be given to the Cable TV Committee to make capital investments.

Charles White of 37 Webb Field Road - spoke against the new position of Director of Natural Resources.

Jim MacLeod of Jordan Avenue - spoke in favor of the new position of Director of Natural Resources, stating this was needed for the clam harvesting industry.

Dana Wallace of Mere Point Road - encouraged the Council to consider carefully the future of Brunswick if they choose not to employ well-trained personnel to take care of it. Brunswick is currently the leader in the State as far as managing natural resources. It is important that Brunswick maintain a management program.

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Dick Lancaster of 6 Katherine Street - spoke in favor of the Charles Court sidewalk project and asked the Council to reconsider putting it back into the budget.

Jennifer Favreau of 3 Rossner Road - wanted a safe way for her children to walk to school and asked the Council to reconsider the Charles Court project.

John Smith of Osprey Lane - thanked the Council for keeping the budget to a 3.17% increase. He was, however, concerned with the proliferation of local government and asked the Council not to be blinded by technology and curriculum.

John Lemont of 21 Maple Street - is a shellfish harvester and a member of the Brunswick Marine Resource Committee. Mr. Lemont spoke in favor of the new position of Director of Natural Resources because one person cannot do the job that the current Marine Warden is responsible for.

Paul Labbe of Portland Road - was not for added government. He felt that people cannot afford to pay an increase in taxes. A reduction in the budget is spending less than last year.

Laura Brann of 11 School Street - is tired of added government. However, she felt that the Charles Court area is dangerous and suggested that the Council re-juggle the figures.

Arthur Lane of 1001 River Road - felt that Brunswick did not need more government and suggested down-sizing.

Eddie Palmer of 2 Durham Road - asked several questions regarding the school and municipal budget. He stated that he was trying to clarify his understanding of the proposed budgets.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:45 p.m.

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

Deborah S. Cabana Town Clerk June 24, 1996

Date of approval

Council Chair

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