

**-- APPROVED--**  
**BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**JUNE 11, 2001**  
**MUNICIPAL MEETING FACILITY**

**7:30 P.M.** Chair McCausland called the meeting to order and asked for the Pledge to the Flag.

**Councilors Present:** Chair McCausland, Michael Feldman, Jacqueline Sartoris, Timothy Dotts, Robert Galloupe, Charles Priest, Faith Moll, Forrest Lowe, and David Gleason.

**Councilors Absent:** None.

**Others Present:** Don Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; School Board members; Jim Ashe, Superintendent of Schools; Jerry Hinton, Police Chief; John Eldridge, Finance Director; several citizens, members of the press, and the TV video crew.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting: June 4, 2001**

**Councilor Dotts moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2001. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.**

**Correspondence:**

Councilor Moll read a letter from First Parish Church regarding the "Walk With The One(s) You Love" to be held on Sunday, June 17 at 4:00p.m.

*(A copy of the letter will be attached to official minutes.)*

Mr. Gerrish announced the petitions to overrule the Coastal Protection Zone amendments enacted on May 21, 2001, were submitted to the Town Clerk's Office. Her office has certified that there are enough valid signatures to require the Council to set and hold a public hearing on this matter. After the public hearing, the Council can either repeal the ordinance or set a special election to place this item on the ballot.

**79. The Town Council will hear a request from the Town Manager to transfer funds to the Old High School account for necessary work to the building and take any appropriate action.**

Mr. Gerrish asked that this item be tabled until June 18.

**Councilor Priest moved, Councilor Moll seconded, to table this item until June 18. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.**

**85. The Town Council will consider adopting the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Town and will take any appropriate action.**

Mr. Gerrish said both the town's and school's budget resolution, if passed, represents an increase of nine percent (9%). In addition, the town's resolution sets the due dates for property taxes as October 15 and April 16, and sets the interest rate at eleven and a half percent (11.5%) for delinquent taxes.

Dennis Lucas, School Board Chair, said he was speaking as a private citizen, not a School Board member. The proposed budget is a good one. He suggested the town could use some of its undesignated fund balance of three million nine hundred seventy-seven thousand two hundred thirteen dollars (\$3,977,213) to reduce the budget increase.

Mr. Gerrish and Councilor Lowe both explained the need to have this fund balance in order to borrow bond monies at a lower rate and to be in strong financial standing.

Councilor Gleason said he is not going to vote for this budget with its nine percent (9%) increase. He discussed how those one hundred (100) who signed the petition for a two percent (2%) increase may not have spoken at the public hearing because they did not want to appear against the schools, police and others – which is not the case at all. He is very much for the school department and police, but the problem for him is measurability. He cannot tell if twenty-two (22) police reduce crime that much more than twenty-one (21) do. How much different is the education with twenty-two (22) students to a classroom versus twenty-eight (28) per room? No one has presented him with a way to measure the difference. He would have supported a seven percent (7%) increase. The two percent (2%) difference would add up to forty percent (40%) over twenty (20) years, which would equal millions of dollars.

Councilor Feldman will support the nine percent (9%) increase. The school budget is a maintenance one. In the last six (6) years, this budget has had the highest increase, while providing the least to the community.

Councilor Galloupe discussed how he represented two thousand (2,000) residents. For some people even the two percent (2%) is too much because they are working two jobs or are on fixed incomes. He is not against the schools, but he needs to come to a decision for all of his constituents. He will not support the nine percent (9%).

Councilor Priest said this is an unusual year and hopes this increase will occur for just this one (1) year. There are very few new programs that are being proposed. He has been hearing from residents that the town needs to come up with other ways to reduce taxes. One way is to increase business valuation. The Council is ready to do that. He will propose something on June 18 that will set in motion a process by which the Council will come up with a new business park in a reasonable time period.

Councilor Moll supported the nine percent (9%) increase. She agreed that the town needed to broaden its tax base.

Chair McCausland will not support the nine percent (9%) increase. This is the largest budget increase since 1987. He would have supported it then with a booming economy, but the economy is different now and the increase is coming on the heels of a revaluation.

**Councilor Priest moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to adopt the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Town. The motion carried with six (6) yeas. Opposed Councilors McCausland, Galloupe, and Gleason.**

*(A copy of the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Town will be attached to the official minutes.)*

**86. The Town Council will consider adopting the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Schools and will take any appropriate action.**

**Councilor Priest moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to adopt the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Schools. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Opposed Councilors McCausland and Gleason.**

*(A copy of the 2001-02 Budget Resolution for the Schools will be attached to the official minutes.)*

**87. The Town Council will consider authorizing the Town Manager to exercise the option on the Goodwin/Davis property and will take any appropriate action.**

Mr. Gerrish discussed this property and how last September the Council gave him the authority to exercise the option for this land abutting the Town Commons. The Council appropriated two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) toward this project and asked that an equal amount be raised outside of town funds to help pay for this property. The Friends of the Commons was formed and have been fund raising. In addition, an application was made to the Land for Maine's Future for one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to help with this project. Mr. Gerrish is coming back to the Council to have them reconfirm that he should exercise the option since he felt the funds would be raised. He thanked the town staff for their hard work on this project, including Alan Houston, Tom Farrell and Theo Holtwijk.

Councilor Sartoris and Councilor Lowe commended the Friends of the Commons for their hard work.

**Brunswick Town Council**

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**Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Moll seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to exercise the option on the Goodwin/Davis property. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 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.**

*Frances M. Smith*  
*Town Clerk*  
*June 12, 2001*

**June 18, 2001**

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*Date of Approval*

*Stephen McCausland*

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*Council Chair*