

-- APPROVED --
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
June 2, 2003
Municipal Meeting Facility

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

Councilors Present: Chair Charles R. Priest, W. David Watson, Jacqueline A. Sartoris, Robert A. Galloupe, Douglas A. Rice, Nancy E. Randolph, Forrest Lowe, and Stephen H. McCausland.

Councilors Absent: None

School Board Present: Chair Allen L. Springer, P. Dennis Lucas, Jr., Dugan C. Slovenski, Eileen B. Murphy, Corinne A. Perreault, William J. Dana, Alan G. Yuodsnukis, and Rebecca A. Sheperd.

Others Present: Donald H. Gerrish, Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; Patricia Harrington, Assistant Town Manager; John Foster, Public Works Director; Jerry Hinton, Police Chief; Gary Howard, Fire Chief; Thomas Farrell, Parks and Recreation Director; Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development; Clark Labbe, Deputy Fire Chief; several citizens, members of the press, and TV video crew.

Manager's Report:

1. Financial Update

Manager Gerrish gave this update. With one (1) month left in the fiscal year, it looks like it is going to be a good year. On the revenue side, the excise tax for last month was two hundred forty three thousand dollars (\$243,000) and for the year it appears that this revenue will be eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to eighty five thousand dollars (\$85,000) over what was projected. State revenue sharing for last month was two hundred twelve thousand dollars (\$212,000), which was a little less than last year, but it is expected to exceed the estimated amount by eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) or so. Investments will come in lower at one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the year. It is expected on the revenue side to be over projected amounts by two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). There are expected savings on the expenditure side.

2. Report on DECD Grant

Manager Gerrish said Brunswick will receive a fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) Mature and Dominant Employer Retention Grant from the State of Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Brunswick will be the contract community. The Grant will be used by the NASB Task Force to prepare a position to support the retention of the Brunswick Naval Air Station in the 2005 Base Closure process.

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(A copy of the fiscal note will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to accept and to allow expenditure of the Mature and Dominant Employer Retention Grant in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000). The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

3. Legislative Report

No report given.

4. Review of Proposed 2003-04 Budget for Public Hearing

Manager Gerrish said he provided the council with the proposed budget reductions they requested from him and from the Superintendent of Schools, to reach different tax rate options for the upcoming public hearing.

Jim Ashe gave an overview of the School Department's proposed cuts.

(A copy of the proposed reductions will be attached to the official minutes.)

The Council discussed what they would support for a budget increase based on the proposal put forth by the Manager. Councilors McCausland, Randolph and Watson supported a 2.38% increase. Councilors Sartoris, Galloupe, Rice, Priest and Lowe supported the 2.86% increase. The Town Manager was going to bring in the budget at 2.86% increase for the public hearing.

5. Discuss letter from Brunswick Downtown Association on proposed parking changes on School Street and Federal Street

Manager Gerrish said this letter from the Brunswick Downtown Association proposes parking changes on School Street and Federal Street. Council action would be to send this to the Town Manager and the Police Department for review and to bring a recommendation back to the Council.

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

Councilor Randolph said it should be sent to the manager and staff to look at this issue. She was concerned about the change being permanent since those on Federal Street and other streets would not like it.

6. (ADDED) Trails Day – June 7, 2003

Tom Farrell, Parks and Recreation Director, discussed the schedule of events for Trails Day on June 7, 2003

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

7. (ADDED) Homeland Security Grant Application

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Manager Gerrish informed the Council that the town will be applying for a Homeland Security Grant to help with costs in this area.

(A copy of a memorandum from Jerry Hinton will be attached to the official minutes.)

Chair Priest thanked Mr. Holtwijk and Mr. Farrell for their work on the Chamberlain Dedication.

Councilor McCausland commented that the Memorial Day Parade was one of the best ever held.

Adjustments to Agenda: None

78. The Town Council will hear public comments on annual renewals of victualer's licenses (list attached) and will take any appropriate action.

Chair Priest opened the public hearing; hearing no comments, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Lowe seconded, to approve requests for annual renewals of Victualer Licenses on the attached list. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of the list of victualer licenses and the public hearing notice will be attached to the official minutes.)

79. The Town Council will consider disposition of Tax Acquired Property and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said this item will deal with the disposition of a Tax Acquired Property. The town has only one property to dispose of – it is located at 90 Maquoit Road. The attached tax map shows the location of the property. Back taxes on the property are thirteen thousand seven hundred seventeen dollars and twenty two cents (\$13,717.22). The Council has final say on what happens to the property – staff recommendation is to place the property out to bid.

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to bid out the property and to sell the property based on the Tax Acquired Properties Policy.

Councilor Sartoris said that Habitat for Humanity has been interested in this lot and would like to purchase it by making it town whole as far as back taxes owed.

Manager Gerrish said the town worked with Habitat for Humanity on another property off Harpswell Rd. It would be the Council's decision as to how to handle it.

Councilors Randolph and Rice said they wanted to make sure the property owner has first opportunity to purchase it back and then the town could work with Habitat of Humanity.

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Councilor McCausland said the Council has a policy and should follow it. They should offer it for sale and see what happens – making a decision then.

Chair Priest said, responding to Councilor Rice's concern about maintaining the location as a single family home, under the policy the Council can place any restriction they want on the use of the property.

Councilor Lowe said ultimately the Council can do what they wish to do. Absent a specific proposal from humanity, he will support the one last chance for the owner to pay the back taxes and then the bid process, with a decision to be made at the end.

Councilor Watson said the property should be offered to the current owner, and he is supportive of Habitat for Humanity, but the town has a policy it should follow.

Councilor Sartoris and Councilor Randolph wanted to see Habitat have an opportunity in the next two weeks to come up with a proposal.

Councilor McCausland moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to bid out the property and to sell the property based on the Tax Acquired Properties Policy. The motion carried with six (6) yeas. Councilors Sartoris and Randolph were opposed.

80. The Town Council will receive the proposed Road Acceptance Policy and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor Sartoris said that she and Councilor Rice served on the Road Acceptance Policy Committee, which worked on a road acceptance policy.

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development, discussed the proposed policy.

Councilor Randolph questioned how the Council could not accept a road if the developer followed the policy. She asked if there is anything similar in other ordinances.

Mr. Holtwijk said if the standards are followed, there is a 99% assurance the road will be accepted, but a 100% guarantee cannot be given since the Council has to ultimately vote on the acceptance of a road. The reason for the proposed language is the Council has a specific role that it does not in other project approvals.

Councilor Rice and Councilor Sartoris said they had the same concern as Councilor Randolph, but if the developer does all the work, the Council would be hard pressed not to accept the road.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Rice seconded, to send the proposed Road Acceptance Policy to the Planning Board for review. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

81. The Town Council will receive a report on proposed sites for the Fire/Police Station and will take any appropriate action.

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Pat Harrington, Assistant Town Manager, and John Foster, Public Works Director, made this presentation on seven (7) possible sites for the public safety building.

(A copy of the Public Safety Facility Analysis of Sites Report will be attached to the official minutes.)

Manager Gerrish said of the seven (7) sites, his three (3) recommendations would be Pleasant Street, Stanwood/Pleasant Street and Aubuchon Hardware sites. If staff had to recommend one site, it would be the Aubuchon site. Originally, they looked at eleven (11) sites.

Councilor Watson asked if the improvement to road ways on Stanwood and Union were reviewed.

Manager Gerrish said they looked at the roads and discussed the work done that needed to be done, but did not go into great detail.

Councilor Sartoris said she would like information from MDOT on the traffic issues on Pleasant Street and the Aubuchon site.

Councilor McCausland expressed concerns about traffic issues on Pleasant Street. The traffic in June, July and August is very bad. He also said the Stanwood site has a great deal of ledge and its removal could affect other properties there.

Councilor Randolph said the traffic issue on Maine Street is also not good.

82. The Town Council will consider a request from CMP to locate a pole on Purington Road and will take any appropriate action.

Councilor Rice moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve a request from CMP to locate a pole on Purington Road. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Randolph seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 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 6, 2003

June 26, 2003

Date of Approval

Charles R. Priest

Council Chair