

--APPROVED--
BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2001
7:30 P.M.
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; Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation; several citizens, members of the press, and the TV video crew.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: May 21, 2001

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Priest seconded, to approve the minutes of May 21, 2001. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

Correspondence: None

Manager's Report:

1) Financial Update

Mr. Gerrish gave the Council a financial update. On the revenue side, excise tax should meet projection, state revenue is still below expectation, and other revenues are above projections. The end result is the town should be between two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) above its projection. On the expenditure side, the town is hoping to break even.

2) Budget Public Hearing (June 7)

The Budget Public Hearing will be held on June 7 at 7:00 p.m.

3) Special Council Meeting – Budget Adoption (June 11)

The Special Council Meeting to adopt the budget will be held on June 11 at 7:30 p.m.

4) Excellence Award: Public Works

The Public Works department received the 2000 Excellence in Public Works Award, presented by the American Public Works Association and the Institute for Municipal Engineering.

Adjustments to the Agenda None

- 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.**

Councilor Dotts moved, Councilor Feldman seconded, to table this item until June 11. The motion carried with nine (9) yeas.

- 82. The Town Council will receive a report from the Town Manager and the Superintendent of School on preliminary budget items for the 2001/2002 budget.**

Mr. Gerrish discussed what cuts would have to be made in the municipal budget to bring it to a nine percent (9%), an eight and a half percent (8.5%) and an eight percent (8%) increase over the current year's budget.

(A copy of Mr. Gerrish's memo outlining the proposed cuts will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Feldman asked that Harding Road improvements be put high on the list of road projects for FY 2002-03.

Councilor Gleason commented that the town added additional revenues of one hundred twenty two thousand dollars (\$122,000), which offsets the reductions, so the actual reduction in the budget reflects a ten percent (10%) increase rather than what is being presented as a nine to eight percent (9 to 8%) increase.

Mr. Gerrish said that without the additional revenue, the town would have had to cut an additional seventy five thousand dollars (\$75,000) and the school an additional forty thousand dollars (\$40,000). In past budgets, additional revenues such as this have been handled in the same manner.

Mr. Ashe discussed what cuts would have to be made in the school budget to bring it to a nine percent (9%), an eight and a half percent (8.5%) and an eight percent (8%) increase. He asked the Council to support a percentage higher than a nine percent (9%) increase. With what is being cut, the school department is not moving forward, or even maintaining where they are.

Town Council Minutes

June 4, 2001

Page 3

(A copy of Mr. Ashe's memo outlining the proposed cuts will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Galloupe suggested the School Department cut four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) out of their surplus fund, which is seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000). If the school did this, they would not have to cut any programs or staff.

Mr. Ashe and Mr. Gerrish explained how the surplus works. By law, any extra revenues or unexpended funds have to be carried forward. If it is reduced, the school will have to take out expenditures in their budget.

The Council discussed what percent increase they would support and how they felt about the particular cuts. Councilors Feldman, Sartoris, Dotts, Moll, and Lowe supported an increase of nine percent (9%). Councilor Galloupe supported an increase under nine percent (9%). Councilor Priest supported an increase of eight and a half percent (8.5%) to nine percent (9%). Councilors Gleason and McCausland supported an increase of seven percent (7%).

Councilor Feldman said the budget increases are due to things beyond the town's control such as increases in health insurance, heating fuel, and electricity, and decreases in state revenue sharing.

83. The Town Council will consider making appointments to the following Boards and Committees:

Cable Television Committee

2 Citizen Members

Three year term to expire 9/6/03

Marine Resource Committee

1 Full Member

(Commercial Shellfish Harvester)

Balance of three year term,

To expire 5/1/03

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

84. The Town Council will consider a poverty tax abatement and will take whatever action is necessary.

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to approve a poverty tax abatement with interest. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas. Opposed Chair McCausland.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Town Council Minutes

June 4, 2001

Page 4

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 5, 2001

June 11, 2001

Date of Approval

Stephen McCausland

Council Chair