

BRUNSWICK TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

May 5, 2003

7:30 p.m.

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.

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

Others Present: Donald H. Gerrish, Town Manager; Patricia Harrington, Assistant Town Manager; Fran Smith, Town Clerk; John Eldridge, Finance Director; James Ashe, Superintendent of Schools; Greg Bartlett, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Jim Oikle, Business Manager School Department; Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development; Jerry Hinton, Police Chief; Gary Howard, Fire Chief; Clark Labbe, Deputy Fire Chief; Michael Robitaille, Deputy Fire Chief; Thomas Farrell, Parks and Recreation Director; Cathy Donovan, Town Assessor; John Foster, Public Works Director; Stanley Gerzofsky, State Representative District 50; several citizens, members of the press, and TV video crew.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: April 22, 2003

Hearing no objection from the Council, Chair Priest declared the minutes of April 22, 2003, accepted as written.

Correspondence:

Letter from Downeast Hot Dogs concerning carts on the Mall.

Manager Gerrish read a letter from Sandra Webber regarding her damaged vending cart and how she will be purchasing a new unit.

Manager's Report:

1. Financial Update

Manager Gerrish gave this update at the end of ten (10) months of the fiscal year. On the revenue side, things are good. Excise taxes for April were nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) less than projected, but they are forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) ahead of projection for the year. State revenue sharing was ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) ahead of last year.

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He believes they will be on target, if not ahead, for the year. The amount on investments is below what was projected. On the expenditure side, he hopes to end the year in the black.

2. Presentation of Award for Open Space and Recreation Plan

Theo Holtwijk, Director of Planning and Development, said last fall the Council approved The River to the Bay Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. The plan was entered into the Boston Society of Landscape Architects contest and received a Merit Award in the planning area. He presented the award to Chair Priest and Councilor Lowe.

3. Discussion of letter of support for completion of East Coast Greenway Project

Tom Farrell, Director of Parks and Recreation, said there is a draft of a letter the town would like to send to the President concerning continued Federal support for the East Coast Greenway Project, which Brunswick's Bike Path is part of. The letter summarizes the history of the bike path in Brunswick. He explained how there were two (2) bicyclists making their way to Washington D.C., with the letter of support being picked up on the way.

(A copy of the letter being proposed to be sent to the President will be attached to the official minutes.)

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to adopt the letter to the President of the United States supporting the East Coast Greenway. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

4. Update on Bike/Pedestrian Committee

Councilor Randolph reported on her and Councilor Galloupe's meeting with the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee to discuss ways to make the downtown more pedestrian friendly and the master plan they are developing. Public works suggested waiting until the fall to complete the downtown portion of the plan after the Downtown Master Plan has been completed. She is asking that the Council allow the Committee to leave out the downtown portion of their master plan.

Councilor Randolph moved, Councilor Galloupe seconded, to allow the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to submit their master plan without the downtown portion of it. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

5. (ADDED) MDEP Grant for New Meadows Watershed project.

Manager Gerrish discussed the town's need to support the grant for MDEP non-point source funding for the New Meadows River Watershed project.

(A copy of letter of support for the MDEP grant will be attached to the official minute.)

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Adjustments to Agenda:

Item 75 will not be taken up tonight.

- 68. The Town Council will hear public comments on the following requests for renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses and will take any appropriate action.**

Full-time Malt and Vinous

Asian Grill LLC d/b/a Asian Grill

164 Pleasant Street

Thisakorn Tatiyanunthaporn

Corner Pocket, Inc. d/b/a Jesse's Corner Pocket

4 Pleasant Street

Jesus A. Laurelez

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

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve requests for renewal of alcoholic beverage licenses from the Asian Grill and Corner Pocket, Inc. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

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

- 69. The Town Council will hear public comments on the Proposed 2003/2004 Budget and will take any appropriate action.**

Manager Gerrish explained that the proposed total budget has an increase of 3.32%. The school's budget is up 2.96% and the town is up 3.28%. There is eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) worth of new property valuation. The town is keeping things status quo and is proposing to privatize trash pick up.

(A copy of the Town of Brunswick Revenue, Expenditures and Tax Comparison summary sheet will be attached to the official minutes)

John Eldridge gave an overview of the last ten years' tax rates.

(A copy of the Town of Brunswick Tax Rate and Values Sheet will be attached to the official minutes.)

Chair Priest opened the public hearing on the proposed budget.

Robert Morrison, 20 McKeen Street, spoke in support of the School Budget. It is a good example of budgetary restraint. Citizens have an obligation to pay for the students' education. Good schools attract home buyers and businesses. He urged the Council to

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pass the budget as presented. He would like to see parents get out of fund raising and paying for services.

Sarah Laurence, 6 Longfellow Avenue, spoke in support of the school budget and that it should be passed as presented. She discussed the loss of state funding and how the burden has been shifted to towns. There is not padding in the budget and no new programs. With inflation cost, there is actually a decrease in the budget.

Laura Brann, 25 River Road, spoke in support of the municipal and school budget. She could not see where additional cuts in the school budget could be made.

Sheri Clark Nadell, 4 Blue Heron Drive, spoke in support of the school budget. Relative to the rest of the state, the town is spending less than the majority of schools per student. Brunswick needs to look at other towns with the smaller class size and figure out how they are able to do this. She said not doing maintenance will cost more in the long run.

Maria Padian, 16 Juniper Road, spoke in support of the budget and discussed the amount spent on education per student. Brunswick is currently ninety first (91st) out of over one hundred twenty (120) schools for spending per student. Spending more money does not make it better, but the school is working on the edge. She asked all those in support of the current budget, to please stand up. (The majority of the audience stood up.)

Ted Crooker, 44 Storer Road, spoke about future consolidation of elementary schools, with a junior high school at the old high school.

Bob Vilas, 11 Baxter Lane, discussed the importance of guidance counselors and that there should be a higher ratio of them to the number of students. Emotional support is especially important at the junior high school level.

Jennifer Scanlon, 5 McLellan Street, spoke in support of the school budget and expressed concern about the under funding of the schools. She asked the Council to be more visionary about the future of the schools. She was concerned there was no after school care.

Story Graves, 10 Colonial Drive, spoke in support of the school budget and discussed the students' needs. She would support additional funds. She discussed similar districts and how others have increased spending much more. She discussed Brunswick's lower starting salary for teachers. She also supported the town budget.

Brian O'Connor, 23 Kimberley Circle, spoke in support of the school budget. He questioned if taxes are comparable to other towns, why is Brunswick so low on the per student spending. He asked where the money is going and said a harder look at the municipal operation is needed. For example, the town could look at a per bag fee, put off the fire substation, or not repair roads. Funding good schools benefits the whole town.

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Janet Brand, Bunganuc Road, read a prepared statement and said the Council has not educated the public on the budget. The budget is too complicated as it is written. The budget is more than appropriate.

(A copy of Mrs. Brand's statement will be attached to the official minutes.)

Ron Dumont, 10 Hemlock Rd, spoke about the tax burden on retired persons taxes have. He supported trash pick-up to continue as it is currently done and did not support its privatization. The number of town employees since 1992 has grown. For example, the Police have fifty (50) people working there – twelve (12) more than 1992.

Richard Dowling, Woodside Road, spoke in favor of additional budget cuts since it is difficult on those on fixed income to pay increases in taxes. His taxes have increased by sixty seven percent (67%) over the last five (5) years. He is not against schools, but he is on a fixed income and has limited resources.

Pem Schaeffer, 90 Crestview Lane, read a prepared statement. He thanked the Council for holding two (2) public hearings. He discussed the Brunswick Taxpayers Association and their purpose. He was happy to see the five (5) year Capital Improvement Plan. He cautioned that the current increase to the budget does not reflect what may happen with the Capital Improvement Program and what is funded there.

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

Peter Lowe, 11 Thompson Street, spoke in support of the school budget.

Chair Priest closed the public hearing.

70. The Town Council will receive public comments on a proposed combination Fire/Police Station and on proposed locations and will take any appropriate action.

Manager Gerrish said this item will allow the Council to hear public comments on two (2) issues. The first is the proposal to combine the Fire and Police Departments into one facility. The second is to hear comments on the three (3) proposed locations for the station: Maine Street Station, Fox Lumber property and the Armory/Stanwood/McKeen Street property. If there is a combined facility on the Maine Street site, the town would not have room for the train station there.

(A copy of Mr. Gerrish's memo on proposed costs, the state's expectation for a train station, and a memo from Dennis Ross will be attached to the official minutes.)

Manager Gerrish, responding to Councilor Sartoris' question about the Stanwood Street site, said it does not propose to take any of the football field.

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Manager Gerrish, responding to Councilor Galloupe's question about needing a fiscal note, said at the time the Council wishes to get bonds, they will have an ordinance, which includes a fiscal note with the operational and debt service cost.

Manager Gerrish, responding to Councilor Randolph's question, said he believes that there are six (6) rental units and a business that would be displaced at the Union and Weymouth area.

Councilor Sartoris said she would like to work to get more information on the combined site.

Councilor Rice said he was concerned about the football field since he thought the report recommended cutting across the field.

Chair Priest opened the floor for public comments.

Laura Brann agreed with Councilor McCausland that the Stanwood Street site is a bad location for a fire station. She supports the Maine Street Station location. She did not care about where the train station goes or with having the police included. There needs to be a fire station in both East Brunswick and at the Maine Street Station site.

Rev. Lilian Warner, 74 McKeen Street, was concerned about taking part of the football field and needs to know if that is or is not part of the project. Plus, she asked what direction the fire trucks come out on - Stanwood or McKeen Street. She asked about displacement of people if property is taken, along with the cost to relocate them and tear down buildings.

Gail Richardson, 110 Harpswell Road and the Midcoast Credit Union, spoke against the Maine Street Station site for the combined facility since the Credit Union has invested a great deal at this location and has no other suitable location to move. The Credit Union has been part of town for over fifty (50) years.

Bill Torrey, Vice President of Bowdoin College, spoke against the Maine Street Station site as currently proposed. The college has invested five million dollars (\$5,000,000) at that site. He would encourage the town to do further study. Their building is tucked in the corner to allow the maximum use of site. Bowdoin College does not support a combined facility at this site in absence of a larger plan for the area.

Jennifer Ouellette, 10 Wadsworth Road, discussed the Cooks Corner Master Plan that said East Brunswick needed a substation. She is involved with the East Brunswick Business Group, which is looking out for the interest of that part of town.

Ted Crooker, 44 Storer Road, said he does not like any of the proposed sites. He suggested a location on Pleasant Street by using the old Grossman's site and extending Baribeau Drive. He said a substation is needed - even if it is done first.

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Ben Swan, 4 Page Street, said people need to remember that residential development raises taxes. It also causes a need for a substation, new fire station, and an additional school. If a station is built, there should be a master plan for the downtown area.

Colleen Congdon, 56 Boody Street, said if the train comes back to Brunswick, the town needs to think about how the fire trucks are going to get around the train. The Grossman area and a Water Street site are possible locations.

Bob Frizzle, 37 Weymouth Street, said he is against the Stanwood Street site. The fire station should be in-town.

Mike Austin, 57 McKeen Street, said the fields on McKeen Street are being used seven (7) days a week. He supported Mr. Crooker's suggestion.

Harry Hopcroft, 21 Potter Street, said the streets are too narrow for fire trucks. Of the (3) three sites, the Maine Street Station is the only one that makes sense.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Rice seconded, to establish and build a public safety building.

Councilor Sartoris expressed concern about not looking at other sites. Over the next two weeks, there needs to be an open talk about additional sites.

Councilor Lowe said there appears to be savings with a combined site. He asked the Council to defer a decision until after the CIP meeting on May 10.

Councilor Galloupe said it is more expensive to do a combined facility now, but the police will need one in the future.

Manager Gerrish suggested having a vote on the concept.

Councilor Watson amended his motion and Councilor Rice agreed as the seconder.

Councilor Watson moved, Councilor Rice seconded, to support in concept having a combined fire and police station. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

Councilor McCausland said this has been studied for the last year and a half. The Fire Station Committee has suggested the Maine Street Station site with a combined facility. Now, the Council needs to make some decisions.

Manager Gerrish, responding to Councilor Watson's question about a substation, said the town has not proposed the Cook's Corner station.

Councilor Watson suggested that the town needs to look at that.

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Councilor Galloupe said he is willing to support a substation, with a central station included.

Manager Gerrish said there will be an additional cost to the town.

Councilor Sartoris said the Council needs to look at all priorities and make decisions on capital and operational costs.

- 71. The Town Council will receive an update on the proposed MDOT rehabilitation of the railroad crossing on Maine Street and will take any appropriate action.**

This item was tabled with eight (8) yeas.

- 72. The Town Council will consider accepting the services of Gavin Consulting (pro bono) for a consulting/strategic planning session with the entire Town Council and will take any appropriate action.**

This item was tabled with eight (8) yeas.

- 73. The Town Council will consider approving Voter Registration Hours for the June 10, 2003 Special State and Municipal Election and will take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to approve the Voter Registration Hours for the June 10, 2003 Special State and Municipal Election. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

(A copy of the Registrar's hours will be attached to the official minutes.)

- 74. The Town Council will consider approving the Election Clerks, Wardens and Deputy Wardens for the June 10, 2003 Special State and Municipal Election and will take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Lowe moved, Councilor Sartoris seconded, to approve the Election Clerks, Wardens, and Deputy Wardens for the June 10, 2003 Special State and Municipal Election. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas

(A list of the election workers will be attached to the official minutes.)

- 75. The Town Council will discuss a request for a Poverty Abatement and will take any appropriate action.**

This item had been withdrawn.

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- 76. The Town Council will consider appointments to the Mere Point Boat Launch Citizens Advisory Committee and will take any appropriate action.**

Councilor Sartoris explained that an error was made in an appointment at the last meeting regarding the Trust Fund Advisory Committee.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to reconsider the motion from April 22, 2003, to appoint Ashton Johnson to the Trust Fund Advisory Committee. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Councilor Randolph was opposed.

Councilor Sartoris moved, Councilor Watson seconded, to appoint Thomas Hastings to the Trust Fund Advisory Committee. The motion carried with seven (7) yeas. Councilor Randolph was opposed.

Mere Point Boat Launch Advisory Committee appointments were made.

Councilor Galloupe nominated John Blood to serve as the commercial user member, and asked the Chair to cease nominations and to cast one vote for Mr. Blood.

Since there were no other nominations, Mr. Blood was appointed as the commercial user member.

Councilor Galloupe nominated Charles Wallace as the Mere Point resident member.

Councilor McCausland nominated Brad Johanson as the Mere Point resident member, and then he withdrew his nomination.

With no other nominations, Mr. Wallace was appointed as the Mere Point Resident member.

Councilor Galloupe nominated Nancy Sherin as the abutter member.

Councilor McCausland nominated Charles White as the abutter member.

VOTE

Nancy Sherin – Councilors Sartoris, Galloupe, Rice, Priest, Lowe and Randolph

Charles White – Councilors McCausland and Watson

Ms. Sherin was appointed as the abutter member.

Councilor Galloupe moved, Councilor Randolph seconded, to nominate Mark Snow as the Birch Island Corporation representative, and to ask the Chair to cease

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nominations and to cast one vote for Mr. Snow. The motion carried with eight (8) yeas.

Councilor Galloupe nominated Anthony Yuodsnukis as the recreational/at large member.

Councilor Rice nominated Roger Howell as the recreational/at large member.

Councilor Watson nominated Scott Worthing as the recreational/at large member.

VOTE

Mr. Yuodsnukis – Councilors Watson, Sartoris, Galloupe, Rice, Priest, Randolph, Lowe and McCausland.

Mr. Howell – Councilors Sartoris, Rice, Randolph, Lowe, McCausland and Priest

Scott Worthing – Councilors Watson and Galloupe

Mr. Yuodsnukis and Mr. Howell were appointed as the two recreational/at large members.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 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

May 13, 2003

May 19, 2003

Date of Approval

Council Chair