

Town of Brunswick, Maine

**Finance Committee Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Meeting via electronic devices**

Meeting Minutes (Approved 5/10/21)

Elected Officials: Councilors Dan Ankeles, Stephen Walker, Daniel Jenkins

Staff: Julia Henze, John Eldridge

1. Acknowledgement that meeting was properly noticed

DA called meeting to order. JH confirmed the meeting was properly noticed.

2. Adjustments to agenda / Public comment

No adjustments to the agenda. No public comment.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from 3/8/2021

SW moved to approve, seconded by DJ, unanimously approved.

4. Review Tax Acquired Real Property Policy and suggested amendments

JH explained that the suggested amendments are to incorporate the State of Maine LD1629, by adding MRS Title 36, Section 943-C as Appendix A. This law relates to the sale of homesteads formerly owned by persons 65 years of age or older, and mandates that if a town forecloses on one of these properties, the town must use a realtor to sell the property (instead of by auction), and the town must return proceeds (less realtor fees, closing costs, taxes, other costs, etc) back to the previous owner to make them whole. JH pointed out that Brunswick has not been in this situation, and staff does everything possible to work with taxpayers to return foreclosed properties to the original property owners.

DA made motion, seconded by SW, to recommend to the TC that the policy be adopted with amendments as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Review list of tax-acquired properties

Three properties for review. Two were foreclosed in 2019 and one in 2020. Town Manager recommends selling/auctioning 129 Harpswell Road and 279 Bath Road and to keep the parcel located on Route 1.

SW moved for FC to recommend the TC keep Route 1 property and work on clearing titles on 129 Harpswell Road and 279 Bath Road properties so that they may be sold via the market instead of an auction. Seconded by DJ. Motion passed unanimously.

6. COVID-19 grant funding

a. Funding received as of 3/31/21

JH presented a list of the COVID-19-related funding received to date. Committee reviewed and discussed - including municipal departments and school department.

b. Report on American Rescue Plan

JH provided the section of the ARP legislation related to Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Brunswick is projected to receive approximately \$2 million in funding, which must be expended by December 31, 2024. At this time, the eligible uses of the funds, as outlined in the federal legislation, are extremely broad and need clarification. The law was enacted on March 11, and guidance must be provided within 60 days. Town hopes clarification will come in the near future.

7. Adjourn