

January 31, 2017

So how is Brunswick doing financially? It can't keep up with all the services, repairs, upkeep, and other governmental obligations, and it is weighed down by overwhelming educational costs, mostly for teacher and administration salaries and benefits. Little budgetary income is left to run the town. The municipal side of the budget stays essentially the same, while costs go up, and the education side increases year over year.

The only way out, in the minds of your Town Council / School Board is to raise taxes and increase debt. In the real world of business, that is the same as raising prices to the consumer, which contributes to inflation and loss of buying power. The Brunswick consumers income is stagnant and isn't keeping pace with the cost of living, a situation affecting both the employed and fixed income retirees.

So what happens in this scenario? Critical issues get ignored and the "irresponsible can" gets kicked down the road. A crisis develops due to lack of attention, planning, and foresight in the past, and the citizens are brainwashed into thinking there is no other choice than pushing the responsibility on them as dutiful taxpayers. The taxpayers, most of whom have no idea of what is going on, either pay their taxes or give up and move out of town. Those that are somewhat aware of what is happening feel they have no power to change anything, so they do nothing. The town government feeds off that lack of involvement and caters to the wishes of the biggest local lobbying groups. Little is done to educate the citizens and get them involved, beyond providing them with 3-minute sound bites at town hall meetings.

Well, at least there are a few of us, who aren't satisfied with the status quo, that are trying to do something that makes sense. And our motivation is the belief that as stockholders in the Brunswick Company, we have a say in how our money is spent and invested. Right now, the business is failing.