TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 28, 2009

Present:
- Al Collings
- Tom Long, Selectman
- Phil Landine
- Marie Arsenault, Accountant
- Roy Roberts
- Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
- Jack Tivnan
- Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
- Diane Vayda
- Lisa Careau, Library Director
- Nicole Vongratsamy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:30 p.m.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2009. Nicole Vongratsamy seconded the motion. Voted 4 to accept, 2 abstain.

Johanna Barry was asked if she has heard anything from the School with reference to the transportation money and computers and she stated that she has not.

Review of 2010-2013 Financial Projections: Al Collings presented a Preliminary Budget Forecast 2010-2013 Planning Assumptions. After the October Town Meeting, free cash will be about $575,593.00. Looking at FY 2011 Budget, the bottom line will be a deficit of $85,844.00, FY2012 Budget a deficit of $819,821.00 and FY2013 Budget a deficit of $1,615,424.00. Al said we must be careful of our spending. State Aid will be less. We still have stabilization, Fire Department stabilization and MBTE monies.

Water Department: Water Department Loan is for $136,589.00 and not $100,000.00 as previously noted. Al Collings would not like MBTE monies to go below 1.5 million dollars. Jack Tivnan said that this is Water Department money and they should have money for litigation even though it went to the Town. Jack Tivnan said that the Town at Town Meeting voted to put the money in Water Stabilization. We can talk about new monies received since the Town Meeting. Tom Long said the MBTE money belongs to the Town and not the Water Department. The Water Department should have been raising their rates to run their department. Al Collings said the Water Department removed a couple of smaller articles from the Warrant at the last meeting and discussed the rationale for the East Main Street project. Al Collings stated there has been no vote taken to do anything with the monies. Jack Tivnan said the Selectmen could put an Article on the Warrant for the new monies received. Jack Tivnan asked do we have rates for other Towns (usage x rate) and the answer was no. Al Collings will send a note to the Water Department not to go below 1.5 million dollars, compare rates from other towns and request a record of rate increases. A motion was made by Jack Tivnan to send the above note to the Water Department. Second by Diane Vayda. Voted 6-0 to send note.
Highway Uniforms $4035.00: Johanna Barry stated that at one time the Highway Department did have uniforms but does not at this time. The Highway Department has gotten quotes on what they want. Johanna says this is a safety issue. Phil Landine stated they should all wear safety vests. Selectmen will discuss at next meeting.

Highway Plow: Highway Superintendent said he needs two plows. We do not have a timeframe. Al Collings suggested Selectmen review with the Highway Superintendent.

Fire Truck: Al Collings has talked with the Fire Chief and he would like to refurbish the present fire truck and not buy a new one at this time. Al Collings suggested he get quotes.

Library: Al Collings said he sent Lisa Careau, Library Director, a note suggesting as a first cut typical rates. He also suggested at a meeting he attended that the State reduce the growth factor overall.

Review Town Meeting Warrant Items: Selectmen will finalize the warrant at their next meeting and we will review at our next meeting on October 14, 2009.

GIC Heath Insurance: Treasurer Keith Arsenault was present to explain and answer questions about the plan. He said that Tom Schnare had questions and that they had been discussing by e-mail. Keith stated that the GIC Health Insurance Commission is a State organization. There are about 20,000 participants. He said that GIC has worked for many communities but in West Brookfield it would not make sense because even if it did cost the same, the level of coverage would not be the same as we have now. The GIC has 10 choices of plans, which would take a lot more administrative time than the two plans that we offer. Keith is currently trying to transfer the remaining person to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan thus having only one plan and this would be a substantial savings to the Town. A family plan costs $1,261.00 a month for Blue Cross compared to $2,052 for the other plan. We are in a bigger pool with Blue Cross and they tend to suppress rates. Blue Cross does have another plan, which is about 18-20% less but would have higher co-payments et cetera. Jack Tivnan stated that if you are out of state continuously for three months some insurance plans do not cover.

Jack Tivnan asked about Lynda Plante. Johanna Barry said she had spoken to her and she will rewrite and submit an article for the annual town meeting.

Names at this time of a potential replacement for Nicole Vongratsamy, who is moving and unable to serve on the Committee, are Bill King, Jeff Belanger and Chris Lucia.
Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Vongratsamy seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary