TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 25, 2009

Present:  Al Collings  Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
          Tom Schnare  David Eisenthal, Selectmen
          Roy Roberts  Marie Arsenault, Accountant
          Jack Tivnan  Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
          Diane Vayda  Ron Marchessault, Water Department
          Nicole Allen  Barry Nadon, Sr., Water Department
                       Bob Benson, Water Department
                       Lester Paquette, Water Department

Chair Al Collings called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of March 11, 2009 as presented. Roy Roberts seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to approve, one abstained.

Al Collings went through the budget and pointed out areas which may be questioned at town meeting. Budget #47: Local Access. Budget consists of salary only and no expenses. Level funded budget and did not reduce by 5% as requested. Jack Tivnan said he had watched the access channel and noted that there are a lot of shows on and he is doing a good job. 5% reduction was not an issue with the Advisory Committee.

#34 Municipal Lighting: 77% increase. Johanna will provide an analysis of where the electricity is used and then the Advisory Committee will do more work on this budget. She will also find out if there is a charge to turn off and/or turn on street lights.

#33 Highway: At last year’s Town Meeting, Jason Benoit’s raise in salary was voted to be eliminated. Question of whether this may happen again this year. Jack Tivnan made a motion that Jason Benoit should have a 2% raise in salary. Tom Schnare seconded the motion. Voted 1 disapprove, 5 approve.

#21 Fire Department: A revised budget was presented. The Committee will ask him to push back the unallocated expense item.

#17 Police Department: David Eisenthal stated that the selectmen have met with the Police Chief and will be meeting again. The concern is that he did not decrease his budget 5% as requested. Al Collings suggested that if this budget is approved that it be managed to 95%.

#6 Treasurer: Keith Arsenault was present to answer why his expense budget was up 18% ($1200.00). It was because of increased postage and payroll preparation increases.
Budget #51 Water Department: The Water Department was present to discuss their budget. The revenue estimate for 2009 is $328,600.00. When asked if 2009 budget was on track, the answer was that it will be “tight.” They were asked to revise the chemical figures and any other figures that are different and to use their best judgment and also look at 2010 and note any changes.

Well Project: Site #1 Well 1. Tests were conducted for a new well in this area and found that the iron is three times (3x) higher than in the present well and have abandoned this idea. Site #2 Well 2: A well here would be acceptable. Estimated 3-5 year project for $250,000.00. Well #1 will be used for a backup. Article #15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer $250,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account for New Source Development at Well #2, Leland Road.

Article 16: To see if the Town will vote to transfer $10,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for an unforeseen 6” CLA Valve Replacement at the plant and a test well.

Article 17: To see if the Town will vote to transfer $20,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account for continuation of work on East Main Street to Maple Street.

Marie Arsenault reviewed MTBE Settlements. $2,507,104.46 settlement: $2,372,008.46 placed in Water Stabilization Account. $63,250.00 and $135,076.00 Water Loans were paid. MTEB Settlements of $44,514.45 were placed in the General Fund. Notification of $108,305.16 will be forthcoming.

Article #13: Fleet Capital Account. Al Collings suggested that this article be removed until fall if needed.

Keith Arsenault discussed GIC Health Insurance versus Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the pros and cons of each. He stated that we have a verbal agreement with the School Department to purchase health insurance as a group with them.

Al Collings stated he had read the audit report for the school and noted that there were fifty (50) proposed adjustments.

Al Collings said the audit report for Quaboag Nursing Home noted negative equity. Keith Arsenault stated that they had not paid the pilot agreement payment for two years. He has been in contact with them and they will make a payment in April and catch up by December.
Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary