Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting-Regular Session – September 23, 2008

LOCATION: Town Hall - Lower Level Conference Room TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Barry Nadon, Jr., Tom Long, David Eisenthal, Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary and members of press.

Call To Order: 6:30PM - The meeting was called to order by Barry at 6:30pm.

Accept Minutes:
David motioned to accept the minutes of September 10, 2008 (Regular Session) and September 16, 2008 (Executive Session), as submitted. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.

6:30 pm POLE HEARING – East Main Street:
(Larry Skyler, National Grid) – No Abutters were present. David motioned to approve the Pole Hearing, as presented. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.

Highway Superintendent:
Supt. Benoit stated that Fountain Fuel had re-billed the Highway the full amount for fuel, resulting in about a six hundred ($600) increase from the original invoice – since Fountain had not been awarded the fuel bid. The Board explained that according to K&P Fountains bid was not in compliance with the bid package – as they submitted a variable price rather than a fixed price as required – and as a result the highway must pay the difference. The Board questioned why the Supt. had not yet gone back out to bid as requested. The Supt. stated that he wanted to get quotes instead due to the cost of advertising.

Supt. Benoit asked what his role would be in the upcoming highway union negotiations. The Board stated that he would have a role identical to the Police Chief; he would receive a copy of the proposal, make suggestions to the Board but would not sit in on the actual negotiations with the Union. The Board stated that they would consult with him as necessary.

Supt. Benoit stated that he had a request to remove a tree on Charmil Drive. Noting that the Drive was not listed on the Private nor Public Street Listing, the Supt. asked the Board for direction. The Board stated that since the Drive was recently paved using Chapter 90 Money they felt that a precedent had been set. The Board directed the Supt. to remove the tree.

The Supt. stated that he was short handed with an employee out on Workers Compensation and asked the Board if they wanted him to utilize overtime to accomplish brush & limb removal or other requested tasks. The Board stated that they did not want to use overtime for non-emergency related tasks. The Board asked the Supt. to use his best judgment to accomplish highway related tasks.

The Board set up a Road Commissioners meeting for Wednesday, October 1, 2008 at 6pm. Supt. Benoit stated that he would be able to meet with the Board and asked what the Agenda items would were. The Board stated that they would email him an Agenda in the next day or so.

STM Warrant:
The Board received a draft Worksheet outlining potential warrant articles from the Executive Secretary. The Board took the worksheet under advisement.

John McCarthy – Handicapped Parking Issue:
Mr. McCarthy stated that his letter submitted earlier in the week outlined clearly his concerns over the recent adjustment to the Handicapped Parking spaces on Cottage Street. After some discussion, David motioned to have the Highway Supt. check to see if the Handicap space nearest Rte 9 could be moved closer to Rte 9 to allow ample room for an automobile – as currently it does not. If not, the “No Parking from Here to the Corner” signage should be moved back from Rte 9 to eliminate the partial space. The space between the other Handicapped space and McCarthy’s driveway should be label with painted lines – designating it as “No Parking”. Mr. McCarthy thanked the Board for their cooperation with his concerns.

Fire Department – Great American Fire Drill:
The West Brookfield Fire Department will be hosting a “Great American Fire Drill” on October 8th at 6pm and also an Open House on Saturday, October 11th from 9am to 1pm.

Quaboag Historical Society – 10/15/08 BBQ:
The Quaboag Historical Society requested one (1) member of the Board attend a BBQ to celebrate “The Planters of Brookfield, Mass”. The Board agreed that Tom would attend.
Residential Student Summary:
The Board held a brief discussion with regards to resolving the missing forty-five (45) students on the Town’s Residential Student Summary. The Board agreed to allow David to contact the DOE on their behalf.

QVBAC – Update:
David stated that he had recently attended a Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation meeting. David noted that one of the functions of the QVBAC is to provide loans to businesses/individuals that would have problems qualifying through a regular bank loan process; with reduced associated costs.

TRIAD Signing:
Barry and Tom noted that they had attended a luncheon with Sheriff Guy Glodis at the Senior Center earlier in the day to sign a TRIAD Agreement. The TRIAD Agreement with provide the Town access to many programs including Reverse 911, the “Are You OK” Program, Free Signage Programs, Cell Phone Banks, Safety Education Programs for the Elderly and Disabled and many more. The Board thanked the staff at the Senior Center, the Friends of the Council, the Sheriff, Police Chief and all those who participated in the event.

Police Union – Proposed Language Change:
David motioned to go into Executive Session under Reason Number Three (3) Collective Bargaining; specifically the Police Department and to include Union Steward Officer Charles Laperle and to adjourn directly thereafter. Second Tom. The Board voted Tom – yes, David – yes and Barry – yes. (Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman  Vice Chairman  Clerk