TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 21, 2010

Present:  Al Collings   Michael Frew, Selectman
          Tom Schnare   David Eisenthal, Selectman
          Jack Tivnan   Barry Nadon, Jr., Selectman
          Nicole Vongratsamy   Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
          Marie Arsenault, Accountant

The Advisory Committee met with the Selectmen in a joint session in the lower level meeting room. The Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:35 p.m.

Al Collings asked Johanna Barry if there were copies of the warrant available. She said it was not yet complete but printed out a draft.

**Highway Backhoe:** Highway superintendent Jim Daley was present. Jim Daley said the present backhoe was in a bad state of repair. It has no brakes and is at the end of its life cycle. He has received three bids for a new backhoe loader. John Deere 410 at $102,325.00 with $9,000 allowed on trade in; this does not include angle plow or angle broom. Volvo BL70 Backhoe Loader at $103,514.00 and this does not include an angle plow or angle broom. CAT 430E-IT Backhoe Loader at $98,000.00 and does not include angle plow or angle broom. Al Collings questioned whether there were any other options such as used or cheaper options available. Jim Daley said it requires that the whole package be put together. Barry Nadon said he would recommend new as opposed to used; most attachments will not be equipped and would probably cost the same. Al Collings noted that the present backhoe loader had been used only 40 days this year and would an option for leasing or renting be considered. Jim Daley stated that he is now using the backhoe loader every day and that it was underutilized in the past. Jim Daley said he wants to look further into each option and run them to see which one he would recommend. He came to the meeting for funding before going further. Jack Tivnan stated that a vote would have to be taken by next Wednesday. Al Collings said that we need to fund the account. As of today, we have $110,000.00 in the Fleet Account for the backhoe. Jim Daley said he would recommend purchasing a used mower to save money and to put off purchasing a sidewalk plow. Al Collings said we are proposing $100,000.00 to be put in the account at Town Meeting and we will need to fund the Fleet Account each year $100,000.00 to $150,000.00 to maintain our present schedule.

**Financial Management Policies:** Al Collings stated that he has been working on a leaflet of Financial Management Policies. The auditors said to present it to the selectmen for their approval. It is a guideline for policies and subject to review yearly. Barry Nadon made a motion to approve the Financial Management Polices as presented with correction on Page 4. Mike Frew seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
7 Cottage Street: Al Collings asked where are we going with the Safety Complex Issue. David Eisenthal said it is appropriate to discuss starting up a new Public Safety Needs Committee in the next two to four weeks. Jack Tivnan said there was a report that someone wanted to paint the house at 7 Cottage Street. Is it possibility to do a complex in that area? Barry Nadon said the building is now used for storage. Chief Tom O’Donnell said he could find storage elsewhere. Question what is the cost of demolition? Tom Schnare suggested a committee to look at 7 Cottage Street and see what could be done with it. Mike Frew asked why the initial committee was disbanded. The answer is that the committee was for a Police Station only and the committee could not come to a consensus.

Police Crusier: Chief Tom O’Donnell was present. The cost of replacing the 2006 cruiser with a new 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Police Sedan from MHO is $28,700.00 total including moving equipment to new cruiser. David Eisenthal asked the Advisory Committee what their position was on the cruiser. Al Collings stated that the Advisory Committee supports the purchase of the cruiser but wanted the selectmen to vote first. Barry Nadon made a motion to purchase the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Police Sedan for $28,700.00. Mike Frew second. The vote was unanimous to purchase the cruiser. Jack Tivnan made a motion to purchase the 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Police Sedan for $28,700.00. Tom Schnare second. The vote was unanimous to purchase the cruiser and both Boards signed the paperwork.

At 7:17 the Advisory Committee relocated to the Selectmen’s office to continue their meeting.

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2010 as presented. Nicole Vongratsamy seconded. Voted 4-0 to approve.

Warrant Articles: Al Collings said we would review the warrant articles at our next meeting when we have a full board. Article #12: Tom Schnare asked why voting when one member of the family was not in agreement. Question if this was an issue when put on the warrant, question of maybe passing over article. Tom Schnare said that he is in support of the article if there is public access. Marie Arsenault said that the wording needs to be cleared up and explained. Article #6: Marie Arsenault said there is a typographical error and the amount should be $15,000.00 not $5,000.00. Article #11: Transfer $30,000.00 from Water Surplus Account to Water Department Expense Account. Marie Arsenault will check to see how they want this to read.
Next Advisory Committee Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 29, 2010 and the October 6, 2010 meeting will be cancelled. Secretary will post a 6:30 meeting for October 14, 2010 prior to the Special Town Meeting.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Vongratsamy second. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary