Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting-Regular Session – June 13, 2007

LOCATION: Town Hall - Lower Level Conference Room TIME: 7:00PM
PRESENT: John Tivnan, Barry Nadon, Jr., Tom Long, Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary, Jason Benoit – Highway Superintendent and Jeremy Maclachlan of 20 Clearview Drive.

Call To Order: 7:00PM
The meeting was called to order by John at 7:00pm.

The Board met with Mr. Jeremy Maclachlan, 20 Clearview Drive, to discuss concerns by the Highway Superintendent regarding roadside excavation. Supt. Benoit stated that he had safety concerns about the electrical trench dug adjacent to Clearview Drive. Supt. Benoit stated that the electrical trench line appeared to be on Town property and that he believed that the placement of electrical conduit would pose safety issues in the future. Supt. Benoit felt that the homeowner should investigate other alternatives; particularly finding the most direct route from the house to the electric pole. Barry asked the Board to consider hiring a surveyor to determine if in fact the line was on Town property. The Supt. stated that it is the homeowners financial responsibility, not the Town’s. The Supt. noted that the homeowner was upgrading his service. Mr. Maclachlan stated that he felt that he did not receive direction from the Town about the placement of his electrical conduit until after the trench line had been dug and the conduit had be laid. Mr. Maclachlan stated that Mr. Benoit was not helpful in assisting him with placement of the conduit. Supt. Benoit stated that Mr. Maclachlan had inquired about cutting through Clearview Drive for conduit placement. He also stated that he explained to the homeowner that he could not cut through the roadway because the Town had adopted a two (2) year not cut rule and that Clearview Drive had just been resurfaced. The Supt. further stated that he did not receive any further inquiries from the homeowner with regards to the conduit placement. The Supt. stated that he did talk to the homeowner regarding his job application for an open position on the Highway Department. The Supt. stated that he felt that the placement of the conduit was unusual and that the electrician should have inquired on the homeowners behalf. The Supt. further stated that neither the homeowner, nor the electrician had inquired about placing the conduit adjacent to Clearview Drive. The Board discussed moving the conduit away from the roadway. The homeowner stated that it would be difficult as the conduit was already in pipe, which was not flexible and would need to be re-cut. The Board asked that homeowner to consider covering the conduit with concrete. The homeowner stated that generally concrete coverage is used for commercial jobs and that this was residential. The Board talked about trying to provide for a compromise, considering cost and safety. After much discussion, Barry motioned to have the homeowner cover the conduit with concrete and to have the Electrical Inspector re-inspect the job. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously. The homeowner agreed to cover the conduit with concrete, as requested. Supt. Benoit further stated that he felt that the current situation was an absolute safety concern.

The Board briefly talked about the current status of the School Street/67 Intersection Redesign Project. The Board asked the Supt. to inquire with SEA about the probability of losing the funding for the water line replacement in the event the Route 9 intersection re-design was extracted from the project.

The Board met jointly with the Advisory Committee to discuss the proposals submitted to perform a building survey of the Library. Both groups agreed to move forward with the low bidder to conduct the building survey.

The Board adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.
Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman Vice Chairman Clerk