TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 22, 2009

Present: Al Collings, Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
         Phil Landine, David Eisenthal, Selectman
         Roy Roberts, Tom Long, Selectman
         Jack Tivnan, Barry Nadon, Selectman
         Diane Vayda, Marie Arsenault, Accountant
         Nicole Allen, Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
         Marie Arsenault, Planning Board
Mert Kenniston, Planning Board

The joint meeting between the Advisory Committee and the Selectmen was called to
order by Chair Al Collings at 7:01 p.m.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of March 25, 2009 as presented.
Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 5-1 abstain to accept the minutes.

Al Collings stated that figures last week from Boston looked like a $225,000.00 hit.
Since then, there may be a positive of $20,000.00. It is estimated that there will be
$111,218.00 plus an extra $20,000.00 free cash in October and does not recommend
doing any more with the budgets at this time.

Marie Arsenault said that this year is the first year that we have not been able to balance
the budget. She stated we need $148,000.00 to balance and that we will wait until the fall
to balance it.

Police Budget: Jack Tivnan asked the Selectmen if they are going to approve hiring of a
police officer or leave the budget as submitted. The selectmen responded that the Chief
had just given them a letter and they wish to review it before making a decision. They
will decide at the next Selectmen’s meeting. They may have to renegotiate the contract if
a shift is eliminated.

Marie Arsenault stated that state receipts will be $47,000.00 less. Johanna Barry said
there may be $50,000.00 turned back for the Elementary School roof. Also, Vocational
education enrollment is down and money left could be about $50,000.00. She will have
good numbers in a week or so. Marie Arsenault asked about the highway barn
completion as there is money left in that account. Marie will adjust the Budget
Worksheet for the next meeting in two weeks.

Barry Nadon asked about purchasing a dump truck for the Cemetery Commission. He
said they have a 1977 truck, which has failed inspection and has other issues as well. The
Advisory Committee suggested they get specs and estimates to them and consider buying
out of the Fleet Account. Johanna will call HQ and get prices for a used truck. Barry
will also talk with John Bartlett and see if the truck can be fixed. Barry also asked if they
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could fix the truck out of the Fleet Account. Marie stated that they do have trust funds. We will discuss at next meeting.

Water Department Budget: Final budget presented. Crossing Quaboag River Project: If the USDA money does not come in by June 30, 2009, it will be necessary to use either free cash or borrow for a short time. There was $20,000.00 of engineering fees that they did not anticipate. The Water Department has shut down spending for this year. Asked if they could delay the project and the answer was that the project has already been delayed. They will need a vote of the Selectmen to borrow the money.

Barry Nadon stated that we have joined regional procurement with Worcester in hopes of getting a better price on supplies especially chemicals for the Water Department.

Tom Long stated that the Selectmen have approved the appointment of Bob Benson to become Fire Chief in the interim until a replacement can be found. An advertisement has been put in the newspaper. Al Collings would like to see the Fire Chief’s vehicle parked in West Brookfield. The needs of a new fire truck should be assessed. We have $275,000.00 in the Fleet Account.

Keith Arsenault’s expense budget is up 18%. He would like to have line 7 in the amount of $450.00 for borrowing money removed because he does not borrow very often and it would reduce his budget to 11%.

Review Warrant for May Town Meeting:

Article #3: Vote to determine the compensation to be paid to elected Town Officers. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #4: Vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Report and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010, and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town’s assessment. Deferred to next meeting.

Article #5: Vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury $60,000.00 to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures. Tom Long asked if the Advisory Committee was comfortable with this
amount. The answer being that they may ask for $40,000.00 in the fall. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Diane seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #6: Raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to pay principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the West Brookfield Elementary School. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #7: Raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of money to pay West Brookfield’s share of the principal and interest payments owed on bonds for the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #8: Vote to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed $16,000.00. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Al Collings seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #9: Vote to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay Police Officer Detail Expenses, which shall be credited with receipts from various Details fees, such expenditures not to exceed $25,000.00 in fiscal year 2009/2010. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Al Collings seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #10: Vote to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed $25,000.00 in fiscal year 2009/2010. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Al Collings seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #11: Vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 ($10.19 per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2009/2010. Diane Vayda made a motion to approve. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #12: Vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sume of $4,500.00 to complete a Revaluation. Nicole Allen made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #13: Vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of $15,500.00 to make repairs to the Wigwam Landfill. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Nicole Allen seconded. Voted 6-0 to approve.
Article #14: Vote to transfer the sum of $250,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account for New Source Development at Well #2, Leland Road. Roy Roberts made a motion to approve. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #15: Vote to transfer the sum of $10,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account to the Water Expense Account to pay for unforeseen maintenance at the plant and a test well. Phil Landine made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #16: Vote to transfer the sum of $20,000.00 from the Water Stabilization Account for continuation of work on East Main Street to Maple Street. Phil Landine made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article 17: Vote to designate the Board of Selectmen as the means by which the Town shall designate the Board or Officer to issue permits for the purpose of creating a trench. Barry Nadon explained that it is a new law. Diane Vayda made a motion to approve. Nicole Allen seconded. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #18: Vote to transfer following parcels of land held as tax possessions to the care and custody of the Conservation Commission: 543 West Main St & 557 West Main street. Keith Arsenault explained where the parcels were located near Welcome Road/Route 9. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #19: Vote to amend Section 4.1 of the Zoning Bylaw (Dimensional Requirements-Basic Requirements) by adding the following phrase to the end of the sentence: “and except as provided in Section 9 of the Open Space Residential Bylaw.” Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #20: Vote to adopt a new zoning Bylaw being CHAPTER 11 Wind energy Systems. Mert Kenniston was present to explain the Bylaw and to answer all questions. When asked if public hearings had been held and had Town Counsel gone over the Bylaw, the answer to both questions was yes. Phil Landine made a motion to approve. Jack Tivnan seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Articles #21 through 25: Secretary to ask Gary Simeone, Zoning Officer and the ZBA Board to come to our next meeting at 7:30 to explain these articles. Secretary will ask the Board of Health if Article 25 was sponsored by them or a zoning article.
Article 26: Vote to amend Section 3.27 of the Town’s Zoning Bylaws as follows: “3.27 Energy Generating Equipment: Any equipment, system, design, assembly or device which is used to collect, store and distribute energy derived from solar, (delete the word wind and add) hydro power or other alternate energy source, but not wind energy facilities, which shall be governed by Chapter 11 of this Bylaw, shall be allowed in all districts provided that the energy derived from such equipment, system, design, assembly or device is primarily for on premise use and conforms to the minimum yard requirements of Section 4.2 and does not constitute a hazard.

Any such equipment, system, design, assembly or device in which the energy derived there from will be used primarily or wholly off premises and/or any such equipment, system, design, assembly or device which cannot reasonably be sited to conform to the minimum yard requirements of Section 4.2, shall be allowed in all districts by Special Permit, upon a determination that the proposed use is in harmony with.” Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

The next meeting will be on May 6, 2009 at 7 p.m. There will be a meeting posted prior to the Annual Town Meeting on May 12, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the West Brookfield Elementary School.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary