TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 30, 2011

Present: Al Collings          Marie Arsenault, Accountant
          Tom Schnare           Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
          Jack Tivnan           Barry Nadon, Jr., Selectman
          Diane Vayda           Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
          Nicole Vongratsamy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011. Al Collings noted the following corrections to the minutes: Budget #38 Council on Aging: Third line: Change “over” to “through.” Budget #41 Library: Stipend: after excellent performance add: Funding would be either from library endowments or library budget. Budget #20 Parking Clerk: Al Collings talked with Teresa Barrett after last meeting about $100 salary reduction and told her we would restore it. Budget #33 Highway: Strike sentence: “We would have to approve $60,000.00 at the Fall Town Meeting.” Page 4 Three lines above Budget 32: After Option C was good add “for 2012 and we will revisit the bond issue next year.” Nicole Vongratsamy second. Voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011 with corrections.

Al Collings received a note from the Library Trustees withdrawing $1,500.00 stipend for Lisa Careau.

Keith Arsenault said the final price to add the tax collector to Vadar would be $12,753.00 with maintenance of $3,070.00. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve transferring $12,753.00 from the Reserve Fund. Tom Schnare second. Voted 5-0 to approve Reserve Fund Transfer.

Fleet Account: Al Collings reviewed the Fleet Account. Fiscal 2012 Fiscal Year Actions are to replace the Police Crown Vic for $29,000.00 and replace the 1974 Bombardier sidewalk plow/blower for $60,000.00. A vehicle inventory and replacement schedule was reviewed.

Al Collings reported that Town Moderator says it is an ethical question to use the McRevey money for balancing the budget because it took a 2/3 vote to put into stabilization and now majority to spend. Discussion suggested an obligation to tell the people, using discretionary school money to balance the budget, using McRevey money and putting it back into stabilization in the fall, using stabilization money to balance the omnibus budget or looking at budgets to see where we can pare down. It was felt that we have time to think about this and will wait until Phil Landine comes back.
Barry Nadon said that the Town of Warren has changed their Town Meeting date and it will be on the same evening as ours. Johanna Barry said that the Warren Selectmen want to meet with the West Brookfield Selectmen at their next meeting on April 5, 2011 to discuss proposed FY12 School Budget/Articles. Tom Schnare felt we should not give any discretionary money to the school. Town Clerk, Sarah Allen noted that the Superintendent’s raise is the same as her yearly paycheck. Barry Nadon asked how much the raises totaled and Al Collings said about $75,000.00. Al Collings said that at last week’s meeting with the school when we asked about going forward, there was no commitment from them. Discussed if we put the discretionary funds at zero and there was a motion for another amount where would the money come from and who decides. Johanna Barry will check on this. Town Clerk, Sarah Allen said that the school cannot put out any information about the ballot questions. The ballot questions would require a majority vote and the Article a 2/3 vote.

**Budget #47 Local Access:** Barry Gillogly was not present to discuss his budget due to a death in his family.

**Budget #5 Assessors Office:** Assessor Peggy Walker was present to discuss her budget and to answer questions. The question was asked to why there was an addition of a non-graded salary for a third assessor. Peggy said that she never received the $1,200.00 salary because she was paid for being the clerk. This year she chose not to run for election but will continue to keep the clerk’s job. Therefore, the incoming third assessor will receive $1,200.00. She said she has been on the job for 23 years and she may choose to retire before the three-year term was up so she decided not to run. There were no other issues.

**Budget #13 ZBA:** Gary Simeone was asked to attend to discuss the ZBA budget in error. Gary Simeone is the Zoning Officer and not on the ZBA. Secretary should have contacted Joan Venoit. Secretary will contact ZBA and ask for an explanation of the increase in their budget or invite them to come to a meeting. Al Collings asked Gary about building trends and Gary said there was not much building going on and it was mostly remodeling.

**Budget #17 Computer Tech:** Changes: Al Collings said that the Library said they did not ask Computer Tech to purchase two computers for the library. Gary Simeone said he has a letter from them to put it in his budget. The software maintenance is paid for 2012 for the treasurer, accountant and tax collector. Gary will redo his budget to reflect these changes.
Warrant Articles: Al Collings said to review and if there are any changes to e-mail Johanna Barry as it will go to print tomorrow.

Article #3: Water Commissioners Salary raise of $50 for FY12. Motion made by Jack Tivnan to bring back the Water Commissioners Salary to $350 (FY11) provided we revisit in the fall. Tom Schnare seconded. Voted 5-0 to reduce FY12 Water Commissioners Salary of $400 to $350 (FY11) and revisit in the fall.

Article #16: $10,000.00 Mobile Storage Trailer for Emergency Management. Sarah Allen suggested passing over this article until fall.

Article #18: $10,000.00 for Consultant for Restoration of Rice Fountain. Sarah Allen said that the fountain is rusting out; the Common Committee has no money. Maybe the Historical Committee would help but does not know what funding they have. They need to have someone come out to see how much it would cost to fix. Sarah Allen said she would support cutting back to $5,000.00.

Article #20 Fire Department Cost Recovery Program: Barry Nadon was concerned with collection costs. He has looked into sharing a Hearings Officer with Warren. Johanna Barry will ask Town Counsel.

Article #22: Gift of Property 43 Forest Drive. The question was asked where is this property and the answer was that it is located in Brookhaven.

Article 27: Back Lot Zoning Bylaw: Barry Nadon hopes the Advisory Committee would not support this bylaw. It has been rewritten after Public Hearing. Town Counsel said procedure wrong. It should be passed over.

Al Collings said that it will not be necessary for the Brian Charron, Hazardous Waste Coordinator to come to a meeting. Secretary will notify him.

Barry Nadon said the Billboard for the Town Clerk is all set and he is waiting for the ground to thaw to install.

It is the consensus of the Advisory Committee to support the School Bond but not to support excess funds over foundation.

Voting on the omnibus budget will be at the next meeting, April 6, 2011.
Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane Vayda second. Voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary