Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – January 26, 2010

LOCATION: Town Hall - Lower Level Conference Room TIME: 6:15PM
PRESENT: Tom Long, David Eisenthal, Barry Nadon, Jr., Johanna Barry - Executive Secretary and members of press.

Call To Order: 6:15PM - The meeting was called to order by Tom at 6:15pm.

Accept Minutes:
Barry motioned to accept the minutes of January 12, 2010 (Regular Session). Second David. The Board voted unanimously.

Cindy Larson – Ye Old Tavern: Request to Expand Entertainment License:
Ms. Larson asked the Board to consider expanding her entertainment license to include Sundays. Ms. Larson noted that the Tavern is scheduled to host several Sunday weddings; which would have disc jockeys or bands. After some discussion, Barry motioned to expand Ye Old Tavern’s Entertainment License to include Sundays; at no extra charge to the Tavern. Second David. The Board voted unanimously.

Special Use Permits:
David motioned to approve a Special Use Permit for the Northern Bass Association for 7-24-10. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

David motioned to approve a Special Use Permit for the Quaboag HS Football Committee for 2-13-10. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

Policies/Procedures:
David motioned to adopt the following revised meal break policy; in an effort to comply with C149 sections 100 & 101:

(a) MEAL BREAK POLICY

All Town employees shall take an unpaid 30 minute meal break after at least 6 hours of work without an interval during a calendar day, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 149, section 100. Further, each employee is entitled to one paid 15-minute break and one paid 10-minute break in an 8-hour workday. When a workday exceeds 8 hours, each employee is entitled to a paid 20-minute break every 4 hours that are worked. (Revised January 26, 2010)

Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

The Board briefly discussed their policies on bereavement leave; the Employee Handbook version and also Police Union policy. The Board agreed to re-draft the employee policy to incorporate the same individuals/family members; while leaving the allocations of 3 days and 5 days distinctly separate in each policy. The Board will revisit this issue at the next meeting. The Board noted that it is the responsibility of each Department Head to enforce the policies as written.

Appointments:
At the request of the Fire Chief, David motioned to appoint Brian Charron as Hazardous Waste Coordinator and Right-To-Know Officer. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

At the request of the Fire Chief, David motioned to appoint David Tebo as Assistant Hazardous Waste Coordinator. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

At the request of the Fire Chief, David motioned to appoint Nicholas Frank as an On Call Firefighter. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

Parking Issue:
Barry stated that the owner of Plantation Country Store complained to him that people were parking in the “15 Minute” parking spaces and appeared to be going to neighboring restaurants/bars for extended amounts of time. The owner asked the Board to consider installing larger signs. The Board agreed that they did not want to install larger signage but would ask the Police Chief to provide for stricter enforcement; in the way of written warnings and parking tickets.
Commuter Rail to Palmer:
Barry stated that Blake Lamothe, Steaming Tender Owner, had asked him to inquire if Board members were willing to execute a letter of support for the commuter rail to Palmer. The Board stated that they were in support of rail wherever it makes sense for the region; along with logical expansion. They further stated that they did not want to send a support letter which would infer that Palmer be the primary source of focus for the rail. The Board noted that communities such as Northampton should be considered along with Palmer. The Board felt that attending another rail meeting may be a good idea prior to issuing any support letters.

David motioned to go into Executive Session under reason #3 to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government’s litigating position. The Board will enter Executive Session with Town Treasurer, Keith Arsenault to discuss Rehab Loan Defaults and to adjourn directly thereafter. Second Barry. The Board voted David – yes, Barry – yes and Tom – yes. (*Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

The Board adjourned at approximately 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman ________________  Vice Chairman ________________  Clerk ________________