Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – July 20, 2010

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

Call To Order: 6:15PM - The meeting was called to order by David at 6:15pm.
Barry motioned to recess until 6:30pm.  Second Mike.  The Board voted unanimously.

Barry motioned to reconvene at 6:30pm.  Second Mike.  The Board voted unanimously.

Accept Minutes:
Barry motioned to accept the Minutes of June 15, 2010 (Regular Session), June 15, 2010 (Executive Session), June 29, 2010 (Regular Session) and June 6, 2010 (Regular Session).  Second Mike.  The Board voted unanimously.

Ms. Lynda Plante and Ms. Jaclyn Von Bleicken, both of Lake Street, complained about speeding traffic on Lake Street. They stated that there is a day care and small children and elderly people who utilize a crosswalk midway down the street. They urged the Board to look into installing speed bumps, signage, installing lower speed limit signs or changing the entrance angle off of Wickaboag Valley Road; in an effort to slow down traffic. Ms. Von Bleicken stated that she had spoken with the police department and they agreed to monitor the situation; specifically by writing warnings or tickets as may be necessary. The Board asked the Highway Superintendent to look into changing the angle of the approach from Wickaboag Valley Road as a possible solution. The Board also agreed to ask the Police Chief for information regarding the process involved with speed limit signage.

Ms. Plante further stated that kids on bicycles had been utilizing the dirt pile at the end of Lake Street to perform bike tricks. She stated that she felt this was extremely dangerous due to the fact that on coming vehicles could not see them until they are were in the roadways backwards on their bicycles. The Board took the complaint under advisement.

Residents of Wigwam Road met with the Board to hear updates on their road paving project. Superintendent Daley stated that he was beginning the process of marking trees that will need to be removed, with the Tree Warden. A public hearing would be forthcoming from the Planning Board to address the trees by walking the roadway and having discussion with the Tree Warden, Superintendent and those members of the public in attendance. The Superintendent urged the residents of Wigwam Road to attend the public hearing.

David Harris asked the Board for an update on his request to gravel and grade Shoreline Drive. Superintendent Daley stated that he had researched the project and it would require approximately 3,500 yards of gravel and two (2) days of work. After some discussion, Barry motioned to approve Mr. Harris’s request to grade and gravel a portion of Shoreline Drive.  Second Mike.  The Board voted unanimously.

Tom Sokol met with the Board to inquire about placing chip seal on Lakeshore Drive Ext., Rockland road, Avalon Place and Atwater Avenue. The Board stated that chip seal was not presently available as the company would not come out to do such a small section of roads and the Town does not have any chip seal work to add to the project. Barry asked Mr. Sokol to consider crack seal. Mr. Sokol stated that he would re-approach the Association to see if they wanted to consider crack seal or a top coat of asphalt; and then come back to the Board.

Doreen Morris-Findlay asked the Board to consider graveling and grading Stagecoach Road. Superintendent Daley stated that the road was in deplorable condition and would require some type of drainage prior to repaving the way. The Board explained to Ms. Morris-Findlay that the Town can not under MGL perform and sub-drainage work on private ways. The Board asked Ms. Morris-Findlay to approach the Brookhaven Association to see if they could assist her with drainage work. Ms. Morris-Findlay agreed to contact Charlie Reim.

C. Whitman wrote the Board to complain about the condition of Pleasant Street. The Board agreed that Pleasant Street needs attention. They also noted that corrections to Pleasant Street would require drainage, sidewalks and High Street; which is connected to Pleasant. All of these would make the project extremely expensive. The Board took the request under advisement.

Superintendent Daley stated that he had been contact by Mass DOT with regards to the Church/School/North Main Street Intersection Project. Mass DOT asked the Town to consider funding engineering to bring the project to 75%; to make the Town eligible for Federal Funds. The Board discussed holding another Public Hearing to see if the Town wished to proceed with the project. The Board took the request under advisement until the next Selectmen’s meeting.
Superintendent Daley discussed the condition of Wheeler Road and stated that at minimum it will need a leveling course to get through the winter months.

The Board agreed to put together a Road Project Advisory Committee to review potential road projects for the next 5-7 years. The Board agreed to keep the number on the committee to five (5). The Board agreed to allow Mike and Supt. Daley and three (3) members at large. The Board noted that as Road Commissioners, the Board would have the final authority on all road projects.

Superintendent Daley asked the Board to re-consider filling the full time highway staff vacancy. The Board took his request under advisement.

After some discussion, Mike motioned to adopt a 2 hour call out minimum for the Highway Department. Second David. The Board voted Mike & David – yes, Barry – no.

The Board asked the Superintendent to review the DRAFT Private Road Repairs Policy and mark it up with comments, corrections and/or concerns.

Barry submitted an outline of the proposed Road and Intersection Beautification Program; to include Hunt Road, Ragged Hill Road area, Snow Road-Wickaboag Valley end, Lyons and Kennedy Road, Pierce Road both ends, Cutler Road both ends on Rte 9, Wickaboag Valley Rd by John Gilbert Road, Cutler Road and Hadley Path. Mike motioned to adopt the Program, as written. Second David. The Board voted David & Mike – yes, Barry – abstain.

**Resignations/Appointments:**
Barry motioned to appoint James N. DiMaio, 96 Hunt Road, as Tree Warden and Insect/Pest Control. Second Mike. The Board voted unanimously.

Mike motioned to accept Edward Perry’s resignation from the COA, with regret, and to appoint Irene White to the COA. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

**Thank You – Brookfield Board of Selectmen:**
The Brookfield Board of Selectmen sent a thank you letter to the Board, Executive Secretary and Police Chief for assisting them as they sought an Acting Chief of Police.

**Edwin P. Dow – Opinion on EQLT Land Acquisition:**
Atty. Dow sent a letter stating his objections to the recent land acquisition proposed by the EQLT. He also complained about a cut in the roadway in front of his home that causes trucks to make a loud noise when they speed over it. He asked if the highway could repair it with some type of patch. Highway Superintendent Daley noted that the highway had recently addressed and corrected the cut in the front of Atty. Dow’s home. The Board took his letter under advisement.

**American Legion – 911 Ceremony:**
Mike agreed to attend the 911 Ceremony to be held at the American Legion on 9/11 at 5:30pm. He questioned why the bell ringing was not taking place at the actual time of the 9-11 crash. Mike offered to ring the Town Hall bell at the exact time of the initial plane crash into the first tower. The Board agreed to allow Mike to ring the bell.

**Bulletin Board for Open Meeting Law:**
The Town Clerk has not yet submitted quotes to the Board for consideration.

**Lightning Damage at Town Hall:**
The Executive Secretary told the Board that the Town Hall had incurred damages from a recent lightning strike. Several modems, the sonic wall, fire frequency, fire vcr, local access modem and Selectmen’s computer had all been damaged. The Executive Secretary is in the process of having all of the equipment repaired and is assessing a potential insurance claim; based on the total loss value. The Board agreed to get a quote from Smoke Stack for lightning rods/protection.

The Board adjourned at approximately 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman     Vice Chairman    Clerk