Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting-Regular Session – August 28, 2007  

LOCATION: Town Hall - Lower Level Conference Room  
TIME: 6:30PM  

PRESENT: John Tivnan, Barry Nadon, Jr., Tom Long, Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary and members of press.  

Call To Order: 6:30PM - The meeting was called to order by John at 6:30pm.  

Accept Minutes:  
Tom motioned to accept the minutes of August 22, 2007 (Regular Session), as presented. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.  

Tom motioned to accept the minutes of August 23, 2007 (Regular Session), as presented. Second John. The Board voted Tom & John – yes, Barry - abstain.  

Keith Arsenault, Treasurer – Health Care Reform:  
After some discussion, Barry motioned to adopt the Health Care Reform Plan (consisting of the Adoption Agreement, including all Schedules and Section 125 Cafeteria Plan). Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.  

Mortgage Discharge – Brown:  
At the request of the Treasurer, Barry motioned to approve a Mortgage Discharge for Cecil W. and Mary Y. Brown. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.  

Highway Superintendent Jason Benoit – Replacing Employee:  
Superintendent Benoit asked the Board to consider replacing the recently lost full time employee and proceeded to provide supportive dialogue towards the rehire. Barry stated that he felt the position should not be filled and questioned the Superintendent about various work strategies now being utilized. Supt. Benoit addressed Barry concerns stating that the new employment strategies being utilized are extremely cost effective and would be willing to provide documented cost savings to the Board at their request. Supt. Benoit stated asked why his department was being targeted for substantial budget cuts of around $100,000 including this position. Barry stated that he was not targeting the department and was only addressing the position cost savings due to the recent resignation of Mr. Charron. After some discussion, Tom voted to allow the Superintendent to fill the FT vacancy. Second John. The Board voted Tom & John – yes, Barry – No.  

Clay Takorian – Request for Tree Removal on New Braintree Road:  
After some discussion, the Board decided to refer the tree removal request to the Planning Board for a Scenic Road Hearing in accordance with MGL C40 s15C.  

Terri Kramarz – Horse & Pedestrian Traffic on New Braintree Road:  
The Board discussed a letter from Ms. Kramarz outlining her concerns about speeding cars on New Braintree Road. John noted that he had personally spoken with Ms. Kramarz who suggested that the Academy was responsible for most of the speeding traffic. John noted that he had asked Ms. Kramarz to send an additional letter to the Commandant, which she agreed to do. John expressed his frustration with the New Braintree Academy and suggested that perhaps the Board write to Senator Brewer and Rep. Gobi to have the Academy moved. The other two Selectmen did not concur. Tom motioned to have the Police Chief and Highway Superintendent look into the placement of signage and also for the Chief to speak to Ms. Kramarz and possibly the Commandant. Second Barry. Initially John did not wish to take a vote, but after some discussion moved to a vote. The Board voted unanimously.  

Road Commissioners Meeting:  
The Board and the Highway Superintendent agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 11th to assign ranks to the current FY08 Road Projects.  

Madeline Arn, Festival Chair – Harvest Festival September 22, 2007:  
Barry motioned to approve Ms. Arn’s request to close a small section of road in front of Sacred Hear of Jesus Roman Catholic Church on the day of the Harvest Festival. Noting the Police Chief did not have a problem with this request, Tom seconded the request. The Board voted unanimously.
Roger Slobody – Letter Regarding Fire Department Response Time:
Noting that he had watched the last Selectmen’s meeting on Local Access, Mr. Slobody wrote to inform the Board that he felt that a response time of 15 or 16 minutes was very reasonable. He went on to state that he doubted very much if the Town had a regional fire department located somewhere in the Brookfield’s that it could have responded any faster. The Board took the time to clarify their position that they felt that the response time was in fact very reasonable, but wished to address the availability of fire personnel under the current system.

Police Chief C. Thomas O’Donnell – Increase in Hours for Administrative Assistant:
Tom motioned to support the Chief’s request for five (5) additional hours per week for his Administrative Assistant. Barry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously.

Replacement of Police Crown Victoria 2001:
The Board took the Chief’s request under advisement, pending a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

Fall STM:
Tom motioned to tentatively set the Fall STM for Tuesday, October 2, 2007 at 7:30pm in the WBES. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

Barry motioned to close the Warrant. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.

Police Union Negotiations – Preparation Meeting:
Barry motioned to go into Executive Session with the Police Chief under reason number three (3) for the purposed of discussing Collective Bargaining Strategies for the Patrolmen and to adjourn directly thereafter. Second Tom. The Board voted John – yes, Tom – yes and Barry – yes. (Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

The Board adjourned at approximately 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman ____________________________ Vice Chairman ____________________________ Clerk ____________________________