TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 5, 2010

Present: Al Collings   Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
       Tom Schnare   Marie Arsenault
       Phil Landine
       Jack Tivnan
       Diane Vayda
       Nicole Vongratsamy

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:30 p.m. Al said that Roy Roberts would not be attending meetings for a few weeks due to health issues.

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of April 14, 2010 as presented. Nicole Vongratsamy seconded. Voted 6-0 to approve the minutes as presented. Al Collings said he would draft minutes for the Informational Meeting held on April 28, 2010 at the Senior Center.

Al Collings said there would be a cost of living raise of 2% for all employees. Johanna Barry said that Chief O’Donnell will be meeting with Selectmen on Friday. He gets 3% cost of living but would be willing to do 2% and take an extra week vacation. Marie Arsenault says he has a 1% deferred from last year. Highway: Al Collings suggested leaving the budget as is until they sort out whether to replace Ryan Pontbriand. Diane Vayda asked about the highway position advertised. Johanna Barry said the advertisement will run for three weeks and the deadline is May 18, 2010. The starting date of the position is July 1, 2010.

Marie Arsenault said the draft FY11 Budget for Town Meeting will change. The MTBE Getty money of $19,106.07 will be taken off as it will not be in by then. Al Collings talked with Bret Kustigan and there is no new news with the school and we will be going with the amount of $45,806.00 discretionary. Al Collings suggested changing discretionary to “additional requested.” Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the budget of $5,811,196.96. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Town Meeting Articles:

Article #20: To transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of $37,340.00 to repair the heating system in the West Brookfield Elementary School. Johanna Barry has received a breakdown of the cost and will e-mail to committee members. A motion to approve was made by Jack Tivnan. Seconded by Phil Landine. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #30: Vote to amend the Town’s Zoning Bylaws by adding the following Section 8.4.1 under Town Common Overlay District: “5. Farmers’ market, fair or other temporary or seasonal sale of primarily agricultural and horticultural products, not to
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exceed 52 days in the course of a calendar year, provided that no permanent structures are
crafted or used for this purpose. Al Collings said that Selectmen will recommend
passing over this article. The Farmers’ Market sponsors will meet with selectmen with
details of their plan. A motion was made by Phil Landine to pass over Article #30.
Nicole Vongratsamy seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to pass over.

Article #31: Vote, as recommended by the town treasurer and auditor, to accept Section
20 of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 32B and to establish a separate fund known as the “Other
Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund” as authorized by said Sec. 30, which
would enable the town: (a) to create a funding schedule for such fund, and (b) to
appropriate a sum of money at a future town meeting to reduce the unfunded actuarial
liability of future retiree health benefit and other post-employment benefits, all in
accordance with said statute. Phil Landine questioned why is this article on the warrant if
it is not being funded. Marie Arsenault said it is required by State Law to set this up.
Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the article. Phil Landine seconded the motion.
Voted 6-0 to approve.

Article #32: Vote to transfer from available funds in the Treasury a sum of $4,000.00 to
provide some of the highway employees who worked on building a 50’ x 80’ expansion
of the highway facility an Outstanding Performance Stipend as outlined in the Employee
Handbook. Johanna Barry said that all three selectmen voted not to give Jason Benoit,
highway superintendent, a stipend. Jack Tivnan suggested as a committee to pass this by
town counsel. Tom Schnare made a motion to approve. Jack Tivnan seconded the
motion. Voted 6-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary

The remainder of the minutes of the meeting were taken by Executive Secretary, Johanna
Barry and e-mailed to me to be added on.

Tom motioned NOT to recommend Article 19 requesting to amend the Town’s General
Bylaws 13.13 regarding Public Consumption Or Use of Marijuana or
Tetrahydrocannabinol; as written. John seconded the motioned for the purpose of
discussion. Tom stated that he felt the language was ambiguous and could lead to
changing what the State of MA recently voted to be a non-criminal disposition to a
criminal complaint. The Board voted five (5) in favor; Nicole abstained. Tom stated that
he may reconsider the article should Counsel review and re-write the article to provide
clarity. The Board agreed.
Tom motioned to approve Article #29, placing money into the Water Stabilization Account, as written. Second John. The Board voted unanimously.

Al offered the following critique of the recent meeting held at the Council On Aging:

a) He was disappointed in the participation and felt that perhaps the Committee should make use of the signs at the Highway to inform the public better.

b) He felt the formal presentation needed to remain at under 45 minutes.

c) He felt that presentations should be made from prepared text; to eliminate some of the adlibbing.

Those present stated that they felt that the meeting was very well run and that the audience participation was better than last year. The group agreed that the meeting signs may assist in increasing the number of attendees.

John motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:30pm. Second Phil. The Board voted unanimously.