TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 16, 2008

Present: Al Collings  Marie Arsenault, Accountant
         Phil Landine  Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
         Tom Schnare  Barry Nadon, Selectman
         Bev Potvin Kenniston
         Jeff Belanger

The meeting was called to order by Al Collings a 7 p.m.

Motion was made by Bev Potvin Kenniston to accept the minutes of April 2, 2008. Second by Phil Landine. Vote 4-0 to accept minutes.

Review #41 Library Budget: Library trustees were present. To reduce their budget as requested they would eliminate the additional Page hours, which would amount to approximately $5,000.00 and the remainder would be from utilities, materials, and supplies budgets. Projected municipal budget to maintain certification for 2009 is $164,924.00 and for 2010 would be $172,228.00.

Review #32 Education Budget: Five representatives for the Education budget were present to answer questions including Interim Superintendent, Ted Malvey, Business Manager, Joe Scanlon and the Principal of West Brookfield Elementary School. The issue of the Article for math books was discussed. Selectman Barry Nadon stated the Article has been put back on the Warrant because it is too late to add the monies to the School Budget as the budget was closed on March 15, 2008. When asked why it was not part of the School Budget, they responded that they felt the budget was too tight. Jeff Belanger stated that he felt it was “risky behavior” on the part of the School to put this on as an Article and not in their budget as it could be voted down. The response was that if the Article failed that they would find the monies and makes cuts elsewhere. It was stated to the School representatives that operational costs in the future should be included in the school budget and not in Article form. Consensus was to think about approval/disapproval of School Budget and Article and to vote at a later date.

Review # 33 Highway. Jason Benoit was present to discuss his budget reduction. He stated he would level fund his general highway expenses (-13,200.00) and the remainder to be taken from the Road Reconstruction Account. Drop Off Center: Jason stated the Center would be okay with reduction in budget as the cost of metal is up. Insect and Tree Removal Accounts would be left intact.

There will be no monies taken from the Stabilization Account to fund the budget: Monies will come from R&A, 50,000 free cash, $10,000 road reconstruction account, $20,000 from overlay account.
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#47 Local Access: Motion made by Jeff Belanger to support the purchase of a computer for Local Access funded from the Computer Technology Budget. Second by Bev Potvin Kenniston Vote 5-0 to support.

Al Collings presented a draft for the Town Budget Review Meeting on April 23, 2008 including a press release, a letter to Department Heads and Public Access Channel. A Fleet Account handout will be available.

A meeting will be scheduled on May 7, 2008 if necessary.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Belanger. Second by Bev Potvin Kenniston. Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary