Town of West Brookfield- Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting-Regular Session – Wednesday, June 4, 2008

LOCATION: Town Hall - Lower Level Conference Room  TIME: 7:00PM
PRESENT: Al Collings, Tom Schnare, Phil Landine, Diane Vayda, Nicole Allen, John Tivnan, Executive Secretary - Johanna Barry & Town Accountant - Marie Arsenault, Selectman - Barry Nadon Jr., Treasurer – Keith Arsenault and a member of the press.

Call To Order: 7:00PM
The meeting was called to order by Al at 7:00pm.

Phil motioned to approve the Minutes of May 7, 2008 and May 13, 2008, as submitted. Second Tom. The Committee voted Al, Tom & Phil –yes, John, Nicole & Diane – abstain.

John motioned to elect Al as Chairman. Second Tom. The Board voted unanimously.

Marie provided a revenue projection of approximately $486,000 for the Fall. She then outlined several overspent areas of the budget including Legal Counsel, Salt & Sand, Municipal Lighting & Fire Wages. The Board agreed to address these shortfalls in the beginning of July; either through the Reserve Fund or through inter-departmental joint transfers.

The Committee discussed the Quaboag School Districts request to revisit the $15,096 in discretionary money recently voted down at the ATM, via a STM. Several questions arose with regards to the legalities of the process involved. (i.e. adequate notice, ability to increase discretionary value, inclusion of text book article, process involved & deadlines) Noting that the Selectmen were in the process of contacting Town Counsel, the Committee agreed to suspend the discussion until the next meeting.

John stated that the Committee should write to their legislators requesting assistance with school funding and perhaps an rehab of the process involved in determining foundation baselines. The Committee agreed to have John draft a letter on their behalf.

The Committee briefly discussed that fact that forty-five (45) students were still unaccounted for on the district enrollment roster. The Committee asked Johanna to have Selectmen Eisenthal call his contact at the DOR to obtain information on what action would be taken by the DOR in the event the forty-five (45) unaccounted for students on the Quaboag School District Enrollment List could NOT be certified.

Selectmen Nadon noted that the Police Chief had submitted a letter to the Board requesting permission to hire a sixth police officer and also to promote from within to the vacant Sergeant’s post. Barry asked the Committee if they had any input. John stated that he thought the Committee should impose a hiring freeze based on the current economic conditions in the State and locally. The Committee noted that they would be working on FY10 budgets soon and would have a better idea of the financial outlook in the fall. Al asked if the Chief could possibly wait until the fall for an answer. Barry stated that the hiring, or not hiring, of the sixth officer would affect the shifts – which is a negotiated item within the Union Contract. The Committee took the request under advisement.

The Committee will meet next on June 11, 2008.

Phil motioned to adjourn. Second John. The Board adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman