TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 10, 2009

Present: Al Collings  Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
Tom Schnare  Marie Arsenault, Accountant
Phil Landine  Tom Long, Selectman
Roy Roberts  Barry Nadon, Selectman
Jack Tivnan  David Eisenthal, Selectman
Diane Vayda  Officer Pat Swain
Nicole Allen  Officer Charles Laperle.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Jack Tivnan to approve the minutes of May 6, 2009 as presented. Roy Roberts seconded the motion. A vote to approve 6-1 abstained. A motion was made by Jack Tivnan to approve the minutes of June 2, 2009 as presented. Roy Roberts seconded the motion. A vote to approve 6-1 abstained.

Review FY 2009 & FY 2010 budget issues:
#18 Police Department: Tom Long and Barry Nadon gave a presentation of a recent meeting with the Police Department and Chief O’Donnell and came up with a plan to reduce the Police Budget by $20,000.00 less $475.63. This demonstrated that they had met us half-way to reduce the budget by $40,000.00. This included adding a sixth police officer. Officer Laperle explained that open shifts without a sixth officer creates overtime and it is not feasible to have single man coverage particularly on weekends and this solution made sense. Officer Pat Swain stated that at one time he left the force because he was going to be laid off and how difficult this situation was for him. He did not want this to happen to another officer. Jack Tivnan wanted to go on record that he is not in favor of the new budget and felt that the selectmen should have checked with Town Counsel. However, he will vote to approve it. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the amended Police Budget. Phil Landine seconded the motion. It was voted 7-0 to approve the amended Police Budget of $462,365.40.

Al Collings went over the Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2010. It is expected that we may have $942,131.00 of free cash for October. Marie Arsenault said we have already received $225,000.00 of Chapter 90 money, some being from last year. There may be changes in the School Budget depending upon State money. Tom Long asked do we want to look at the reserve account and are there any articles that the monies have not all been spent. Marie said there are a few. Al Collings said to post an Advisory Committee meeting for next Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.to meet with the Selectmen. Marie will go through her accounts. We should have the school numbers by then. Barry will ask them when he goes to the school meeting this evening. We will not vote on the budget until next week after we hear the school’s final figures. We are short $148,457.00
for the May meeting. Marie has a way to approve the figures through R&A and she will make a presentation. Al Collings asked that for next week we have the answers on the Exxon monies, revised free cash and the revised police budget.

Review Articles for Town Meeting Warrant:
Al Collings stated that the Advisory Committee and Selectmen met with the Zoning Officer and members of the ZBA. Listed below are the articles with changes to be amended on the floor at Town Meeting.

Article #21: I move the Town vote to change the Town’s Zoning Bylaw-Section 1.52a to read “Any nonconforming use of a structure may be changed to another nonconforming use provided that the change use is not a substantially different use, and approval for change is granted by a Special Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals. For the purpose of this section a substantially different use is a use which by reason of its normal operation would cause readily observable differences in patronage, service, sight, noise, employment or similar characteristics from the existing nonconforming use or from any permitted use in the district under question.” Tom Schnare made a motion not to recommend this article. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 not to recommend this article. Al Collings said he would like them to engage in some kind of a procedure such as Tom Schnare suggested a Request for Determination.

Article #22: I move the Town vote to add a new Section 1.52.1 to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw-to read “ALTERATION AND EXTENSION: Any nonconforming structure may be altered or extended and the conforming use extended throughout the altered or extended portions provided that any resultant alteration or extension shall not cause the structure to violate the applicable provisions of Section 3 and 4 of this bylaw relative to the district in which the structure is located.” A motion was made by Jack Tivnan not to recommend this article. Tom Schnare seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 not to recommend this article. Al Collings said he would like them to engage in some kind of a procedure such as Tom Schnare suggested a Request for Determination.

Article #23: I move the Town vote to add a new Section 1.6 to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw-to read: “ACCESSORY BUILDINGS: No accessory building shall be located in any side or rear yard nearer to the lot line than 50% of the side or rear yard setback for the district in which the residence or lot is located, or nearer to another principal or accessory building than (20) feet.” Tom Schnare made a motion to recommend this article as amended on the floor. Jack Tivnan seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 to recommend this article as amended on the floor.

Article #24: I move the Town vote to add a new Section 1.6.2 to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw-to read “1.62 SWIMMING POOLS: Swimming pools will be considered as an
accessory use for the purpose of this bylaw and all dimensional requirements will come under this section.” Phil Landine made a motion not to recommend this article. Tom Schnare seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 not to recommend this article. The concern being the definition of a swimming pool.

**Article 25:** I move the Town vote to add the following language to Section 5.4 to the Town’s Zoning Bylaw: “The keeping of a trailer on any lot within the Town for use as a dwelling is prohibited, except during reconstruction of a residence on the property and then with a time limit of one (1) year and must be in compliance with Massachusetts Health Codes by being connected to water, sewer and electricity. This time may be extended for (1) year periods under conditions by Special Permit, Section 6.44.” Tom Schnare made a motion to recommend the article. Jack Tivnan seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 to recommend the motion as amended on the floor.

Roy Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long.
Secretary