TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 12, 2008

Present:
Al Collings
Tom Schnare
Phil Landine
Jack Tivnan
Diane Vayda
Nicole Allen

Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
Marie Arsenault, Accountant
Barry Nadon, Selectman

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

Diane Vayda made a correction to the October 8, 2008 minutes in that she said she would attend the School Budget Subcommittee Meetings and not all of the School Meetings. A motion was made by John Tivnan to accept the minutes of October 8, 2008 with corrections by Diane Vayda. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve the minutes of October 8, 2008. Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of October 21, 2008 as presented. Nicole Allen seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to accept the minutes.

Fleet Account next steps: Al Collings said we need to look at Mass General Laws and meet with Selectmen and the Auditor probably some time in January. Fleet account now down to $187,000.00 and should not be a problem. Could give a list of vehicles to purchase and a dollar value but may be a problem if we do not want to or cannot purchase the vehicles. Johanna has talked with the Fire Chief about his vehicle.

Town Meeting Actions: Al said the meeting was quick and he was surprised there were no questions pertaining to the stabilization and/or fleet account.

FY 2009 & FY 2010 budget issues & guidelines: Discussion held. First budget cut will be in January and serious cuts may be made in March or April. Would like departments to return 5% or more of this year’s budget. Jack Tivnan made a motion: Guidelines: As a starting point, 2% salary increases, with level funding of this year’s budget to 5% turnback for everyone. Request that selectmen address current year budget of Police, Highway, Library. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to approve. Al will prepare worksheets for the budget packet.

MBTE pollution settlement: Al was at a meeting with the Water Department and Selectmen to discuss the 2.5 million dollar settlement. Water priority items were an additional well adjacent to Well #1 for $250,000 and well contamination and development Well #2 for $421,671, replace water pipe on School Street of approximately 1000 feet using a 12” main at $130,000 and pay off loans outstanding of $198,000 (estimated interest savings of $98,000). Jack Tivnan suggested keeping this money for awhile and put in stabilization and use the interest to give Water Department $120,000
every year. Question asked in the future who is liable for any law suits; does the Town take over this liability? Johanna will look into this. Al suggested having a joint meeting on December 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. with Selectmen, Water Department and Treasurer and ask Water Department to have their engineer present. Secretary will notify Water Department.

**School Count Status:** The status is 81 students missing. A Police officer in plain clothes will be accompanying registrar, Sarah Allen, on November 17, 2008 to go house to house. The deadline is the end of the year.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Nicole Allen seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary