TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 17, 2010

Present:  Al Collings  Marie Arsenault, Accountant
Tom Schnare  Police Chief Tom O’Connell
Phil Landine  Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
Roy Roberts  Officer Charles Laperle
Jack Tivnan  Fire Chief Paul Lupacchino
Diane Vayda
Nicole Vongratsamy

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

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2010. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 7-0 to accept the minutes as presented.

Budget #18 Police: Chief O’Donnell was present. He stated that there was not a lot of change in his budget since last year. The budget presented represents a snapshot of what he would need to run his department as of today. The contracts are up this year and his budget is pending until negotiations are completed. Al Collings asked about line items. Chief O’Donnell said that last year he had to take out some line items because of budget cuts and he replaced some of those this year. The deadline for budgets is April 7, 2010 and if contracts are not completed by then this budget may have to be corrected in the fall. Tom Schnare does not see the need for the police guns as a warrant article. He feels that this should be a line item in his budget. Al Collings suggested $1,000.00 a year and he would have his money in five years. Another meeting will be scheduled at the end of March.

Budget #28 Emergency Management: Chief O’Donnell said although he probably will not spend hardly any more than last year, he does need to have the monies available if a disaster should occur.

Budget: Harbormaster: Al Collings talked about summer issues on the lake. Doug Blood monitors Lake Lashway and Quaboag Pond at this time. Al Collings would like him to patrol the lake 8-10 weekends during the summer unannounced and be on call. Al Collings will review this at the March Lake Association meeting. Jack Tivnan asked about the cost. There is $1000.00 in the budget and Al said this would take care of weekends but extra work would cost more. He would not fall under the Police Department. He has the authority, training and a boat to do the job. Al Collings has not talked to the Selectmen about this but will.

Fire Department: Paul Lupacchino came in to give us an update. He had gotten an evaluation of the fire trucks from VFS, Co at a cost of $450.00 and reports the following.
Engine #4: The engine is in poor shape and has been since delivery. It appears that masking tape was used to block a leak and then painted over with red paint and is now leaking. Paul Lupacchino will be talking with International Company who manufactured the engine. This engine may have just passed the warranty. He needs the truck for brushfire season. There is also a problem with the driveshaft being off center. Engine #2 is what we anticipated and there are no major problems. Engine #1 is in worse shape than engine #2. He said the maintenance budget is not where it needs to be to keep the engines in shape after refurbishing. He does not have any costs; must be put out to bid. Paul is suggesting an evaluation should be done every 5-7 years. Paul feels that we are still looking at $40,000.00 to refurbish the trucks. This can be taken out of Fire Truck Stabilization Fund but needs a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting so need to get costs to do this.

**Budget Worksheet:** Al Collings suggests that we make one for May and one for the Fall. Fall: Shift $40,000.00 Reserve Fund, Chapter 90 and fire turnout gear. Tom Schnare feels that the turnout gear should not be on the warrant but a line item in his budget. Al Collings will talk to Paul Lupacchino about this. Phil Landine said that the Town of Warren just got them with a grant and this should be looked into. Tom Schnare said the guns should be a line item on the Police Budget. We will put this on the fall and talk to the Chief when he comes back in.

**Budget: School:** The educational foundation budget for this year is $2,241,186.00. An article in the newspaper stated that the school will be asking for $83,300.00 discretionary funds. Jack Tivnan suggested Al Collings ask the school for the numbers. A meeting is being set up between the Warren and West Brookfield Selectmen and Advisory Committees and the school. Al Collings will try to get a line item budget.

**Budgets:** #2 Selectmen, #3 Advisory Committee, #4 Accountant, #8 Legal Council, #13a Earth Removal Board. There were no problems noted on these budgets.

Al Collings stated that we have not received budgets from the Moderator, Zoning and Hazardous Waste.

Johanna Barry said that Ryan Pontbriand gave his notice from the Highway Department effective today.

Johanna Barry talked about the changes to the “Open Meeting Law”, which will require posting within 48 hours excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays as well as posting the agenda for the meeting. We will talk with Sarah Allen, Town Clerk about area needed to do this.
Phil Landine made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jack Tivnan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary