Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – August 16, 2016
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room, Town Hall – Town Hall TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Sarah Allen, John Tivnan & Diane Vayda – Selectmen.

Call To Order: 6:30PM - The meeting was called to order by Sarah at 6:30pm

John motioned to accept the Minutes of May 24, 2016 (Regular Session), June 20, 2016 (Regular Session), June 28, 2016 (Regular Session), July 13, 2016 (Regular Session), August 1, 2016 (Work Session) and August 2, 2016 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of July 19, 2016 (Regular Session) and July 21, 2016 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted John and Diane – yes, Sarah – abstain.

Order of Taking – Sucker Brook MassDOT Project #604739:
John motioned that the Board of Selectmen take the interests in real estate as shown on the Order of Taking dated July 19, 2016 and award damages a shown thereon, and further that the Board order a representative of the Town to record the Order and plans referred to therein with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Pole Hearing – Maple Street:
John motioned to open the Hearing at 6:45pm and to recess for a few minutes; in an effort to finish current business. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Vote to Establish STM:
John motioned to hold a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:00pm at the West Brookfield Elementary School, 89 North Main Street. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to open the Warrant. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Pole Hearing – Maple Street (Continued):
Steve Soucy, Nationalgrid Distribution Designer, explained the proposed work as outlined in Petition #21425395 for Maple Street. No abutters were present. After some discussion, John motioned to approve the petition, as submitted. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Request for “Hidden Drive” Sign – 178 Ragged Hill Road (Molleur):
Police Chief, C. Thomas O’Donnell stated that he had spoken with the Highway Superintendent and that they agree that signage should be placed between 163 and 178 Ragged Hill Road. Upon the recommendation of the Chief, John motioned to install signage between 163 and 178 Ragged Hill Road. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Police Chief, C. Thomas O’Donnell -- Vehicle Lease Request/FT Vacancy:
The Police Chief asked that Board to consider leasing a police cruiser for the department. Officer Letendre showed the Board an image of “check engine” lights that are on periodically in the proposed replacement cruiser which sports about 150,000 +/- miles. Officer Letendre stated that the odometer has not been functioning correctly. John stated that the DOR representative recently stated that out right purchasing appears to be a better option than leasing. The Board took the Chief’s request under advisement.

The Chief asked permission from the Board to deficit spend to purchase body cameras, noting an award letter from the Commonwealth of MA for $7,400 grant. The Board agreed to allow the Chief to deficit spend.

Upon recommendation from the Police Chief as a replacement for Officer J. Bonnayer, Diane motioned to appoint John Bell as a FT (Cadet) Police Officer – with the proviso that he execute an employment contract. Second Jack. The Board voted unanimously.

The Chief asked the Board to allow him to advertise and compile a list of potential appointees pending the retirement of the Sergeant. The Board asked the Chief to wait until the next meeting pending more information from PERAC.

Tim Morrell – Master Plan:
Mr. Morrell, Planning Board Chair, provided the Board with an overview of the current activities relating to the updating/creation of a Master Plan for the Town.
Appointments/Resignations:
John motioned to accept Officer J. Bonnayers resignation, with regret. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint James Earley as a Constable and FT Police Officer both until 2017. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint Lauren Kostantin to the White Christmas Committee. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.


The Board agreed to place information on the Town’s WEB for vacancies on the Master Plan Committee. The Board agreed to list all of the Chapters involved in the creation of the Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman  Vice Chairman  Clerk