Town of West Brookfield - Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – July 24, 2012

LOCATION: Town Hall – Lower Level Conference Meeting Room TIME: 6:15PM
PRESENT: Mike Frew, Mark Long, Barry Nadon Jr. – Selectmen, Johanna Barry – Executive Secretary and members of the press and cable t.v.

Call To Order: 6:15PM - The meeting was called to order by Mike at 6:15pm

The Board executed the Payroll & Expense Warrants.

Upon recommendation from the Town Accountant, Mark motioned to approve the year end transfers, as submitted.  Second Barry.  The Board voted unanimously.

6:31 PM Executive Session – Police Chief:
At the request of the Police Chief, Mark motioned to go into Executive Session under #1 to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against an employee.  The Board will reconvene into open session directly thereafter.  Second Barry.  The Board voted Mark – yes, Barry – yes and Mike – yes.

Police Chief O’Donnell – Asparagus Festival Parking:
Police Chief O’Donnell suggested that the Town create no parking areas near the intersections on the Common, along with parking on one side of the roadway only during large gatherings on the Common.  The Selectmen agreed.

Upon the recommendation of the Police Chief, Mark motioned to insert into Section 11 of the Lake Wickaboag Boating Rules after the work “piers” and before the word “or”: docks, boat houses.  Second Barry.  The Board voted unanimously.

Pole Petition – New Braintree Road:
Diane Clowes was available from Nationalgrid.  No abutters were present.  Mark motioned to approve the Pole Hearing #11610081.  Second Barry.  The Board voted unanimously.

Appointments/Resignations:
Barry motioned to accept Gary Simeone’s resignation from the Technology Committee.  Second Mark.  The Board voted unanimously.

Barry motioned to appoint Arthur Tatro as Constable for a three year term.  Second Mark.  The Board voted unanimously.

Meredith Laughlin, Lily Potvin and Hart Waz wrote thank you letters to commend Officer S. Patrick Swain for his assistance at a bicycle collision during the Town Triathlon.  The Board also commended Officer Swain.

Hardwick Police Chief Ayotte wrote a letter of commendation for Officer Mathew Letendre for his assistance during a missing persons search on July 14th.  The Board also commended Officer Letendre.

Peter O’Connell wrote a thank you letter to the Highway Department for their assistance with cleaning up asphalt at his mother in laws house and for cleaning a culvert pipe.  He stated that he appreciated “…the speed with which you got the job done!”  The Board also commended the Highway Department.

The Board wrote a letter of commendation to Officer Edwin Ward for locating the missing town owned generator.

Melissa Adley – Request for Memorial for Remizewski’s:
Seven grandchildren of Stanley & Marion Remizewski wrote the Board to request a memorial be erected near the Fire Station to honor them.  The Board took the request under advisement and will revisit the request in six months.

Cynthia Norden, COA Director – Vandalism:
Ms. Norden wrote the Board to make them aware of the recent increase in vandalism at the Senior Center.  The Board noted that they had passed along the request to the Police Chief.

DOG HEARING – Levite – Info from ACO & Vet:
The Board reviewed a written report from the ACO along with a letter from Mr. Levite’s vet.  Mark motioned to take no action at this time.  Second Barry.  The Board voted unanimously.
Letter of Complaint from Kevin Paquette Regarding Fire Chief:
The Board reviewed a letter of complaint from Kevin Paquette and also an email from Fran Knapik, Project Manager for Brookhaven’s addition to Kevin. Jason Paquette (brother to Kevin) stated that the apartment was present when they moved there in 1974. (Apt #25 in Building 3) Initially there were two apartments and now there is only one. Currently there are two walkout doors in the apartment, as well as an emergency egress in the bedroom.

Fire Chief Lupacchino stated that when Darren Paquette sold out to his brother Kevin it triggered an inspection. He stated that during his inspection he observed Kevin dismantling the apartments in the basement and that Kevin told the Fire Chief that there would be NO apartments in the basement. The Chief stated that during his inspection he noted that there was a padlock on the door. Kevin stated that he did not have the key to the padlock and that it was just storage for his nephew. The Fire Chief had Kevin address out of date fire extinguishers and lights out in exit signage. Once corrected, the Fire Chief issued a letter of compliance. Sometime later the Fire Chief was on a medical call and noticed a decorative wreath and mat in front of the basement storage area. He contacted the Building Inspector in an effort to find out if there was in fact an apartment in the basement, noting that three stories would call for pole stations to be installed in the building. The Building Inspector stated that he allowed Kevin to install a replacement window without pulling a building permit. The Inspector was under the impression from Kevin that there would be no structural changes made to the window. The Inspector also stated that he had no knowledge of the status of the basement of the building. The Fire Chief observed a larger window with rails located outside of the basement room. The Fire Chief stated that he had to go to the building for several alarm calls one evening and became aware of a woman living in the basement apartment. The Chief stated that he had confirmed with the Fire Marshall’s office that pole station should be installed if the basement has an apartment.

Jason questioned how much the Fire Chief had wasted on legal fees.

Douglas Aspinall questioned if a refinance would trigger an inspection?

Jason Paquette stated that the Fire Chief is not required to inspect structures upon a sale/refinance, he had recently gone through this process with his bank, and that the bank suggests that purchasers have an inspection performed for self protection.

The Fire Chief stated that an inspection is triggered with the sale or refinance.

Jason disagreed.

The Board agreed to contact Town Counsel to get a ruling on whether or not a sale/refinance triggered an inspection by the Fire Department. The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, July 31, 2012 to discuss complaints from Ye Olde Tavern, Kevin Paquette and Fran Knapik – Brookhaven RH relating to the Fire Chief.

Paul Lupacchino – Creation of Rescue Squad:
Rescue President Paul Lupacchino gave a slide presentation overview of the creation of the Rescue Squad. The Board asked the Executive Secretary to notify Paul to stake out where he would propose to put up the temporary structure by the Fire Station; to house the second ambulance and other equipment.

The Board adjourned at approximately 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Clerk