Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – June 10, 2014
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  TIME: 6:15PM
PRESENT:  Barry Nadon Jr. (arrived late), Diane Vayda & Sarah Allen – Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Executive Secretary and members of the press & cable tv.

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

The Board executed the Payroll & Expense Warrants.

Accept Minutes:
Diane asked to Passover the Minutes of March 18, 2014, pending her corrections.  Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of May 13, 2014 (Regular Session); as submitted.  Second Diane.  The Board voted unanimously.

Police Chief & Fire Chief – Impact from 7% Cuts:
Police Chief O'Donnell stated that he would need to eliminate dual coverage on the midnight shift and possibly reduce the part time patrolmen’s hours by about half; down to 400.  He further stated that he may layoff his secretary or a combination thereof.  He stated that it has become increasing difficult to maintain a 4 & 2 schedule.  He stated that he has spoken with Union Representative David Pierce to have conversations with the Police Union; as required (mandatory bargaining issues).  The Chief stated that residents need to understand that they will experience a lack of service in some way, shape or form.  He stated that there has been an up tick in calls and it will be difficult with the cuts to provide level services.  Residents may have to wait for non life threatening emergencies.  There may be delays in issuance of pistol permits, copies of accident reports and answering of non emergency telephone calls.

Brad Hibbard, Advisory Committee Member, provided the Board with a worksheet “Impact of Recommended 7% Reduction after Annual Town Meeting.”  Brad stated that the Committee felt that the impact to the Police Department would only be a 4.8% decrease and the Highway would realize a 1% increase; since decreases were made off of the FY15 initial recommendation figures.  He further stated that the Advisory Committee agreed to deplete the Town’s FREECASH but did not feel comfortable spending STABILIZATION money to cover operational expenses.

Highway Superintendent Daley stated that he would need to cut services such as limited mowing, painting crosswalks, centerlines and gutter lines would not be done.  He stated that many of the Town’s manhole covers are in bad shape and the department’s equipment and facility need maintenance.  The Supt stated that his preference would be to take the money out of his expense lines, rather than salary, but that either way the department would suffer.  Supt Daley provided the Board with an outline of cost savings accomplished by his department.

Diane stated that the Board would be meeting jointly with the Advisory Committee to further discuss the cuts.

Cindy Kowalczyk – Request to Plow Rockland Road (Private Way):
(*Patrick – resident from 49 Rockland also present)  Ms. Kowalczyk stated that she felt as though their road met the Town’s criteria under the Plowing of Private Ways policy.  Highway Superintendent, Jim Daley stated to the Board that they should consider not plowing and adding additional services due to the recent budget cuts.  Mary Hicks, real estate agent for the Kowalczyks stated that she lost a cash sale due to the fact that the road is not plowed by the Town.  Gregg Waterman, highway employee, stated that you need to consider the condition of the way.  Supt. Daley stated that Checkered Lane is private and have expressed interest in having the Town plow their way and it is in bad shape.  Diane stated that she believed that this issue should be taken up by the Road Projects Advisory Committee before making any decisions and possibly setting new precedents.  The Board agreed.  The Board stated that they would have the Road Projects Advisory Committee get in touch with Ms. Kowalczyk in the near future for further discussion.

Resignations/Appointments:
Sarah motioned to accept Ron Marchessault’s resignation from the War Memorial Committee.  Second Diane.  The Board voted unanimously.  The Board agreed to post the vacancy.
Sarah motioned to appoint Suzanne LePage to the Common Committee; until the next Annual Town Election. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Based on a vote by the Planning Board last night, Sarah motioned to appoint Wesley Slobody to the Planning Board. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Sarah motioned to nominate Leah Shattuck as Animal Inspector. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

The Board interviewed the following candidates for the Quaboag Regional School Committee vacancy: Gina M. Lavallee, Regina Morgan and Neal Stevens. After the interviews and a brief discussion, Sarah motioned to appoint Regina Morgan to the School Committee until the next Annual Town Election. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously. The Board thanked all of the candidates for their interest in the Town of West Brookfield.

Sarah motioned to adjourn at 7:35pm. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman     Vice Chairman    Clerk