Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – March 5, 2013  
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  
TIME: 6:15PM  
PRESENT: Mike Frew, Mark Long and Barry J. Nadon, Jr. - Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Exec Sec and members of the press & cable tv.  

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

The Board executed the Payroll & Expense Warrants.  

Accept Minutes:  
Barry motioned to accept the minutes of February 5, 2013 (Regular Session), February 19, 2013 (Regular Session) and February 20, 2013 (Regular Session).  Second Mark.  The Board voted unanimously.  

Fire Chief, Paul Lupacchino:  
The Fire Chief reviewed his FY14 proposed budget request with the Board.  He stated that he was still interested in pursuing a Recruitment & Retention Program.  The Fire Chief gave the Board information relating costs for a new storage structure for the department.  The Board questioned the Chief on the storage of the Town’s tanker in Gerald Martin’s building behind ACE True Value.  Jim Boos, President of the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, stated that the Rescue had executed a month to month lease with G. Martin ($700 monthly) and that they were allowing the Town to utilize the space at no cost, at this time.  He further stated that the Rescue had allocated $10,000 for storage needs and that the Rescue would be willing to partner with the Town, if the Town were willing.  When questioned, Jim stated that the Rescue had approximately 560 calls last year with an average of 8 minutes to mobilize.  Paul stated that over 80% of calls were transported at the basic level.  Mike asked the Fire Chief if the tanker would fit in the Fire Station were the current ambulance is being housed.  The Fire Chief stated that it would not fit.  The Fire Chief stated that he had recently confirmed that the Town appears to be eligible for an 8B ISO Rating which would convert to a 7/8 Residential rating.  This would save those in that area approximately $35-$40 on their fire insurance.  This number town wide would be around $32,000 yearly.  

After the Board reviewed a legal opinion from Petrini & Associates, Barry motioned to allow the Fire Chief to pursue the following option:  

“In this case, I am informed that notice of the order was delivered to Mr. Aspinall on September 9, 2011. Under c. 148, §30, the town could pursue either of the following alternatives:”  

"Seek a criminal fine by filing an application for a complaint at the District Court. The Fire Chief, who is charged with enforcing c. 148, §26G, in my opinion would be the proper person to apply for a criminal complaint. Each day is a separate violation, but realistically, only recent violations should be sought.”  

Second Mark.  The Board voted unanimously.  

Highway Superintendent, Jim Daley:  
The Superintendent reviewed his FY14 budget request and proposed articles with the Board.  Jim noted that fuel & uniform costs were increasing for FY14.  The Superintendent asked permission to replace the Drop Off Center Monitor, who recently resigned.  The Board agreed to allow the Superintendent to advertise for a replacement Monitor.  The Superintendent noted that the Advisory Committee was asking him to consider raising fees at the Drop Off Center to insure that they are covering the costs incurred.  The Superintendent is in the process of reviewing the fees. He further stated that he is considering creating a new fee for brush/leaves or perhaps a dump sticker for a flat rate.  He will keep the Board informed of his progress.  

Gregg Waterman, Steve Pilch, Duane Cassavant (Laborers/Drivers) and Tammi Melanson (Highway Clerk) approached the Personnel Board to inquire about possible raises, based on revaluations of their job descriptions.  Jim stated that the State average for a highway worker is $21.75.  The Laborers/Drivers are asking the Board to consider moving them from Grade 8s to Grade 10s and the Clerk from a Grade 5 to a Grade 7.  The department provided a bullet list of cost savings achieved by the department.  They also turned in updated job descriptions and stated that
they believe that their job descriptions had not been reassessed since 1987. Gregg canvassed the Board – with members stating that they were no opposed to providing raises to those due; however they would need an opportunity to assess the information just provided to them. The Board stated that they would get back to the highway employees by mid-April with a decision.

**Town Clerk, Sarah Allen – Combine Elections:**
The Clerk told the Board that she felt that there would not be any significant savings by combining the upcoming Elections. The Board took no action.

**Appointments:**
Upon the request of Eric Von Bleicken, Mark motioned to appoint Lisa Durkee to the Music Committee. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

**Disclosure of Financial Interest:**
Barry provided the Board with a Disclosure of Financial Interest specifically for a Contract with the Water Department from January 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013. Mark motioned to provide an exemption under s20(d). Second Mike. The Board voted Mark & Mike – yes. Barry – abstain.

**Executive Sessions:**
Barry motioned to go into Executive Session (7:23pm) under reason number six (6) to consider the exchange of real estate with the Town Treasurer, Keith Arsenault; and also under reason #3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – specifically with the Police Department with the Town Accountant, Marie Arsenault and to adjourn directly thereafter. Second Mark. The Board voted Mark – yes, Barry – yes and Mike – yes. (Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman     Vice Chairman    Clerk