Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – May 19, 2015
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT:  Diane Vayda, Sarah Allen & John Tivnan – Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Executive Secretary, Marie Arsenault – Town Accountant, Tom Long, Phil Landine, Brad Hibbard and Richard Gobi – Advisory Committee Members and Christine Long – Clerk to Advisory Committee.

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

Richard Gobi chaired the meeting.

The Board discussed the proposed school district budget with the Advisory Committee. The Board agreed to submit the following questions to legal counsel:

1. Does the Town have to use the above minimum amount requested in writing by the school district?

2. Can the Town mandate that the above minimum amount be funded by stabilization; forcing a 2/3rds vote? Would this be a 2/3rds vote on the entire omnibus budget? (The reason this question is posed is that if the school requests a substantial amount of money over minimum it will force stabilization funding (2/3rds votes) on needed capital articles specifically for the Town.)

3. Since the $300,000 override specifically for the above minimum amount failed at the Election, is the Town required to use an amount under $300,000 when funding the above minimum line item at the ATM?

4. Can the Moderator ask the Town to vote on budgets one at a time? or does there need to be a total omnibus funding vote?

After some discussion, John motioned to go with $200,000 over minimum. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

The Executive Secretary informed both Boards that in an effort to become more competitive for grants the Town should consider updating or creating the following: Master Plan – Community Development Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Local Natural Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan, an Inventory of Low Income Housing and updating their Community Action Statement. Both boards took the information under advisement.

The Advisory Committee questioned the Board of Health about the proposed water line on New Braintree Road. The BOH stated that they intended to install an 8” waterline just past the Sportsmen’s Club. The Town will pay to hook the Sportsmen’s Club up to the waterline; due to the recent well contamination found at the Club. The Advisory Committee asked the BOH if they had a “Tie In” policy for others along the waterline. The BOH stated that the Water Department will not waive the tie in costs for others along the line. They further stated that the tie in cost run approximately $1150 to $1650 per household. There are approximately 22-23 properties along the line. The BOH stated that they currently spend $18,400 per year testing wells in the area and that they are not sure how long this requirement will last. The BOH stated that they will be borrowing the entire funding; rather than raising a portion of the money. Those present briefly discussed Betterments.

The Board discussed proposed changes to the Towns health insurance.

The Board agreed to provide a ruling on Longevity Stipends at the next Selectmen’s meeting.

The Advisory Committee urged the Board to create benchmarks/milestones for the Treasurer and to meet with her monthly; in an effort to correct deficiencies noted in the FY14 Management Report. The Board took the recommendation under advisement.

The Board agreed to find some funding for the time clocks.

John motioned to adjourn at approximately 8:20pm. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman                                        Vice Chairman                                        Clerk